

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 20th November 2017 at 7.30 pm

Minutes of meeting

Present: Councillors de Graft-Johnson (Chair), S Hipkin, K Richards, L Shouls, K Tatman, G Wyant; P Heath (clerk)

Public: 1 member of the public present.

2017/114: Apologies

Councillor Walker (Canterbury CC) and Councillor Northey (KCC)

2017/115: Declarations of interest

There were none.

2017/116: Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16th October

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

2017/117: Matters arising

There were none.

2017/118 Co-option of a new Councillor

After being advertised locally, one response had been received so far although applications can be submitted up to the end of November for consideration.

2017/119: Correspondence

There had been none.

2017/120: Planning Applications

120/01: 17/02514 Rose Cottage, Wickham Lane – side extension and other alterations. It was thought that the property was not in the parish of Ickham & Well but more likely in Wickhambreaux and the clerk was asked to check and talk to the planners.

120/02: 17/02515 Beech Cottage, School Lane – the proximity of the proposed extension to the adjoining property was highlighted but apparently the neighbour had no objections, so the councillors similarly did not object.

2017/121: Finance

121/01: Councillor Hipkin reported that the budget for the following year showed a possible surplus of £1,800 and that the 3% increase in precept, which was in line with inflation and had been proposed at the last meeting, would meet the Council's needs for 2018/9 and would maintain a safe reserve.

121/02: It was not possible to predict the costs that might be incurred to implement outputs from the Parish Plan, currently in draft form. If high costs were involved, these could be raised the following year as there was currently no restriction on the amount of increase in precept requested by parish councils, (although a limit was being considered and Councillor Hipkin was opposed to this possible restriction).

121/03: Councillor Hipkin mentioned in passing that we currently received £33.91 in council tax support grant but that this was being phased out.

2017/122: Highways

122/01: **A257: Pavement from Duckpitt Cottages to Littlebourne:** No further progress

122/02: **Potholes at Port Rill, Wingham Lane.** Some work and improvement had been done but Councillor Tatman remarked that only time would tell if the fixes could survive the winter.

122/03: **Pothole in Drill Lane passing place:** Similarly, Councillor Tatman felt that highways had made a very amateurish in-fill which, again, only time would tell if it could survive the cold weather.

122/04: **Interactive Sign opposite Bramling House:** There had been no further progress in this matter and Councillor Tatman was awaiting the next meeting with MPs, (January?), and progress on the A257 Plan.

122/05: **Accidents:** None within the parish had been reported to Councillor Tatman since the last meeting.

122/06: **A257 Plan:** The Plan is the documentation and summation of all the issues on the A257 from Warwick Road, near the old Howe Barracks, to the Ash by-pass. This identifies hotspots along the road, principally involving:

- areas where speeding traffic causes a lot of accidents and make life difficult for pedestrians, and

- areas where there are congestion pinch- points

The document also provides information on the uncoordinated developments springing up along the A257, or near enough to adversely affect it.

Councillor Tatman has been preparing the first complete draft for some months and it should be issued to the A257 Group members for final review within a fortnight and discussed at the next meeting in January. Following this, the plan will be presented to the various Parish Councils along the route, seeking buy-in. Afterwards, it should be published more widely – KCC Highways, local press etc.

122/07: **Kent Highways Parish Seminar** was held at the Ramada Hotel on the 17th October. Councillor Tatman had issued an email highlighting important information which was, principally:

- an emphasis placed on the lack of money available to Kent Highways. This is not new, but it was stated that, over the years of government cuts to their budget, they have been able to reduce the impact by making savings. Now they say that there are no more savings that can be made so they can only meet their budget by making cuts to services.
- an example quoted was roadside drains. Known hotspots will be inspected and cleared (if necessary) twice a year. Major roads will have drains inspected/cleared once a year. (Councillor Tatman was not even sure if the A257 counted as major). Minor roads, presumably every other road / lane in our parish, will not be inspected or cleared at all unless a complaint is made about a particular blockage.
- some discussion about community bus services, and how prohibitively expensive they are to operate, due in part to the cost of the special driver's licence required.

122/08: Councillor Richards mentioned a drain near her property that had been blocked for 3 years and was solid but had not been cleared during the annual main drain clearance. Councillor Tatman suggested using a broom handle to dislodge the blockage else reporting it. Councillor Wyant remarked on the need to keep the drains in School Lane clear as the fields drained into them en route for the village pond etc.

2017/123: River Management

123/01: Councillor Wyant reported that the water level in the Little Stour was extremely low. The weeds at the centre had been cleared but the sides ones left to increase the water flow down the central channel.

123/02: Martin Thomas, from Kent CC, had inspected the village pond again and confirmed that the tree branches overhanging the pond should be cut back

to prevent the leaves from clogging it but that he did not think that the pond needed dredging. Councillor Wyant offered to talk to the new owners of the property about cutting back the trees, as well as the beech hedge alongside School Lane which is obscuring the signpost.

123/03: Councillor Wyant confirmed that she had given the parish clerk a map of the drainage into the village pond.

2017/124: Debris left after rubbish collection

124/01: A parishioner had raised this issue and it was confirmed by a councillor that debris had been seen in the street that week.

124/02: It was mentioned that Serco would send a litter picker or lorry as appropriate to deal with any issues reported to them but that they would require details of what had been left.

124/03: It was also reported that fly tipping had occurred again, this time both in Cherville Lane, where Serco had dealt speedily with the matter, and also in Wingham Lane, where it had been left uncollected for several weeks.

124/04: Councillor deGraft-Johnson will circulate a message on Facebook and will ask Ms Grimsley to circulate an email requesting that the public report to Canterbury City Council if any rubbish is left after the dustbin collection or if they see any fly tipping.

2017/125: Inconsiderate parking

125/01: It was again reported that cars parking at the entrance to Ickham Court Farm and by the flats were making it extremely dangerous for residents attempting to enter The Street.

125/02: It was also noted that cars booked at right angles to the wall near the green caused an extreme narrowing of the roadway and very limited visibility and measures should be taken to prevent this before an accident occurred.

125/03: Bar staff regularly go outside the pub to access the cellar and they could well use that opportunity to look for dangerously parked vehicles and then ask clientele to move them.

125/03: There is to be a meeting with The Duke owners in December at which these points will be raised.

2017/126: Parish Plan

Changes to the survey had not yet been completed.

2017/127: KALC

After the resignation of Councillor Hodges, there was currently no representative at KALC. It was suggested that the cop-opted member should take up the role but that this should first be discussed during the interview (s).

2017/128: AOB

128/01: Councillor Richards reported that the annual meeting for Kent Rights of Way Volunteers was on 30th November. Neil Barnes, KCC IT Manager will be giving a presentation on getting the best use from the latest edition of CAMS, (KCCs interactive online fault reporting system). There will also be a presentation on 'The ten-year review of CAIP (Countryside Access Improvement Plan)' from Graham Rusling, KCC's Public Rights of Way and Access Manager. Councillor Richards will report outcome of meeting at the next parish meeting and will also check if the rights of way in the parish had been correctly shown on the OS map of the area.

128/02: It was reported that a resident had been dumping leaves from the sycamore trees overhanging her garden onto the village green just after it had been mowed, thus spoiling its appearance and creating extra work. It was suggested that the resident be asked to retain the leaves in sacks, as now, and, instead of dumping them over the fence, allow the gardener to collect them from her for disposal as they will kill the grass in the churchyard if not cleared. Councillor deGraft-Johnson will relay this suggestion to the resident.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

The next parish meeting will be on Monday 18th December at 7.30 pm.