

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 15th January 2018 at 7.30 pm

Minutes of meeting

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

Councillor Walker (Canterbury CC).

2017/143: Apologies

Councillor Northey (KCC); Councillor Lynn Shouls

2017/144: New Councillor

On behalf of the whole Council, Councillor deGraft-Johnson welcomed Dan Morse who had been co-opted to replace Councillor Hodges.

2017/145: Declarations of interest

Councillor Hipkin declared an interest in the discussion, (under AOB), of planning application 17/02595/6 Ickham Court, The Street, (considered favourably at December's parish meeting), and now due to be considered by Canterbury CC Planning Committee on 6th February.

2017/146: Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18th December

The minutes were signed as a true record.

2017/147 Matters arising

There were none that would not be discussed via items in the current agenda.

2017/148 GDPR

148/01: Councillor deGraft-Johnson brought this item forward due to its importance and the fact that Councillor Walker had to leave to attend another parish meeting. The revised Act is due to come into force in May and the council needs to be aware of its impact on retention of correspondence, parish plan questionnaires etc.

148/02: The question of the objectivity of the clerk or a councillor being appointed as Data Protection Officer was discussed briefly as was the task of

reviewing data held and drawing up a suitable policy. Further discussions will follow in due course.

2017/149: Correspondence

149/01: Mrs Preston had informed the council, as a courtesy, that clearance of the allotments was due to start that week and that a digger would be driving up the track on the village green.

149/02: Mr Bradburn had emailed Councillor deGraft-Johnson to inform him of a bus which had been unable to go down The Street due to cars parked on both sides. The matter was resolved by asking patrons at The Duke to move their vehicles but Mr Bradburn felt that this was an ongoing problem which was becoming intolerable. Councillor deGraft-Johnson responded that the Parish Plan questionnaire would be seeking the community's views on this and other matters.

2017/150 Planning Applications

There were none.

2017/151: Finance

151/01: Councillor Hipkin queried when the trees on the green protected by TPOs had last been crowned and it was confirmed that this was three years previously, (financial year 2014-5). It was agreed that contractors, (Dave Gurney and John Gilbert), be asked to assess the trees and provide a quotation.

151/02: Councillor Hipkin commented that the expenditure on grass cutting was £500 although £850 had been budgeted. Councillor Wyant explained that Gary only cut when necessary and was also less expensive than the previous contractor.

151/03: The parish will be paying for the cutting of the churchyard grass this year, but it would be necessary to discuss future arrangements at the next meeting due to the cessation of CCF funding for this function.

151/04: Councillor Hipkin also mentioned that the Admin budget for 2017-8 was £200 and for Miscellaneous expenditure was £500 and from these two, only £8.19 had been spent so far. He suggested that they could be used to fund costs incurred in producing the Parish Plan, but Councillor deGraft-Johnson offered to print the plan free of charge.

151/05: The finances were healthy and Councillor Hipkin said that, over and above the necessary reserves, there would be approximately £2.5 - £3k available for projects and about £4k was in the special reserve fund for the trees under TPOs.

151/06: Councillor deGraft-Johnson stated that some provision should be made within the 2018-9 budget for any projects emanating from the Parish Plan.

2017/152 Highways

152/01: **Accidents:** Councillor Tatman stated that no accidents had been reported to him in the Parish since the last meeting, except the Bramling Road sign was demolished during the day last week – no known reason.

152/02: **20mph limit in rural villages:** Following Wingham and Littlebourne's success at getting their motion through KALC's AGM in November, Wingham has agreed to conduct a costing and feasibility pilot study to see what would be required and how much it would cost to introduce a 20mph speed limit in Wingham. Clearly every village is different in size and road architecture, but it would give some indication for, say, Ickham. Councillor Tatman emphasised that, if approved at County and / or national level, it could only be implemented if "it's what the village want" and was at no cost to Kent Highways.

152/03: **Drains:** Four drains in Bramling have been cleared but the one in Ickham remains blocked. KCC have 28 working days to clear the drain so, with Christmas and New Year, it will be the end of the month before the issue can be escalated.

152/04: **Speed watch:** With two grants available, the net cost of Speed watch equipment is now relatively cheap - £600 plus VAT. At present in our Parish it would only be suitable to use in the Street, Ickham, and then only with police approval of the exact location and we would need volunteers to operate it. The topic is included in the forthcoming Parish Plan so this will show whether residents want this.

152/05: **A257 Plan:** The Plan, compiled by Councils along the route and written up by Councillor Tatman, is near completion and will be presented to the parish council for formal approval in February. Some changes will be presented to the March A257 committee meeting. Councillor Wyant expressed her appreciation of the excellent section relating to Ickham. The question of whether Cherville Lane could be made into a no-through road with no egress onto the A257, which was dangerous, was discussed and it was decided to add this to the Parish Plan questionnaire and to discuss at the next parish meeting.

2017/153: River Management

153/01: Councillor Wyant reported that the recent rain had partially replenished the aquifers but had caused surface flooding at Bekesbourne, which, despite various attempts previously, could not be prevented.

153/02: Councillor Wyant had spoken to the new residents neighbouring the village pond and said that they did not object to the bushes by the pond being cut back. They would do this on their side of the bush and the parish council would arrange and pay for a contractor to trim the other side. This would involve the contractor standing in the pond and Councillor Wyant will ask Gary if he was willing, and able, to do this or else would seek a tree surgeon. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

153/03: Councillor Wyant also mentioned the necessity of clearing the grass from the pond to help restore it to its natural beauty.

2017/154: Parish Plan

The questionnaire proposed by the Parish Plan Committee was tabled for approval by the Parish Council. After acceptance of a number of minor wording changes, the revised parish plan questionnaire as a whole was approved for distribution to all members of the parish. It was agreed that Councillor Hipkin would forward the final text to the parish clerk for reformatting and distribution by hard copy and email. The Plan will be advertised on the web site and distributed in hard copy to all households as well as being distributed as widely as possible via email. Councillor deGraft-Johnson congratulated the team, Councillors Hipkin and Richards and Mr Dwyer, for their work.

2017/155: Meeting with the owners of The Duke

Councillor deGraft-Johnson reported that he and Councillor Wyant had met Josh DeHaan and Jack Nimmons that day and had reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. All agreed that there had been improvements generally with the village although the relationship with the residents of Forge House was still tense. The owners and staff of The Duke were invited to take part in the Parish Plan questionnaire.

2017/156: AOB

156/01: Councillor Stuart Walker explained that the application, (17/02595/6), to erect boarded gates at Ickham Court, which had been initially refused by the planning officer at Canterbury, is proposed to be discussed at the Planning Committee meeting on 6th February. Councillor Hipkin felt that this would not be in keeping with the village and had expressed this opinion at the PC meeting where the application was first discussed, but did not oppose the iron gates that had been proposed as a compromise, but all agreed that a five-bar wooden gate would be suitable and would preserve the view. Councillor

Walker thanked everyone for their views and that he would update them accordingly.

156/02: Councillor Walker mentioned the late collection of rubbish bins and explained that this was due to KCC changing depot opening hours.

156/03: Councillor Walker shared that he had received comments from residents regarding the potential planning application for Highland Court Farm mostly affecting residents in Adisham and Bekesbourne.

156/04: Councillor Richards reported that the hedge overhanging the path alongside the church and leading to the field had been cleared back.

156/05: Councillor Richards also reported that she had applied to get the stile near the gravel pit at Seaton changed to a kissing gate eighteen months ago. The cost would be approximately £160, of which the owners would pay £30 and KCC the balance. Dr Mike Vaile, the Wingham footpath officer, Avril Brice of the Ramblers Association, Councillor Wright of Wickhambreaux Council etc supported this.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The next parish meeting will be on Monday 19th February at 7.30 pm.