

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) – 23rd April 2018 at 7.30pm

Minutes of meeting

Present: Councillors J deGraft-Johnson (Chair), S Hipkin, D Morse, K Richards, K Tatman, G Wyant.

In the absence of a parish clerk, the minutes were taken by Mrs S. deGraft-Johnson.

2018/001: Apologies
Councillor Shouls.

2018/002: Declarations of Interest
Councillor Hipkin is a near neighbour to the Black Barn, Ickham, re Agenda Item 13 Planning.

2018/003: Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 19th March 2018

003/01: re 2017/172: At the time of the meeting there were 11 caravans in place to house seasonal strawberry pickers. Some are due to be replaced. Councillor Wyant advised that all will be painted dark green within one month of installation. Placements are further apart than previously because of new fire regulations.

003/02: re 2017/179: Advertisements have been placed for a Parish Clerk. There has been one enquiry but no application. A further effort will try to make the job seem more user friendly while still explaining the skills needed.

003/03: re 2017/180 CCC and East Kent Housing Trust have been contacted by a resident of Forge House so PC needs to consult both of these parties. A meeting with the management of the Duke William is scheduled for 3rd May.

003/04: re 2017/181 Discussion of the Parish Plan will be deferred until after the presentation during the Annual Parish meeting on 21st May

003/05: re 2017/182 Councillor Morse has completed the KALC survey questionnaire

003/06: re 2017/183 The Emergency Plan has still to be done. Councillor deGraft-Johnson noted that new Data Protection laws come into force on 24th May and will impact on the data held.

03/07: The minutes were signed by Councillor deGraft-Johnson as a true record.

2018/004: Minutes of the previous APCM on 24th April 2017

004/01: Signs to discourage speeding cars have not been installed. Instead, Friends of Ickham paid for a new notice board.

004/02: re 2017/012 The owner of the Barns was contacted and safety issues have been addressed.

04/03: The minutes were signed by Councillor deGraft-Johnson as a true record.

2018/005: Treasurer's report

Councillor Hipkin reported that the accounts were in reasonable condition with a surplus of £1500 to £1800 a year and reserves standing at approximately 1 year's income. The accounts were approved.

2018/006: Highways

Councillor Tatman said there was little new to report. Some potholes have been filled following various reports to KCC. The road through Bramling is in a poor state. It is not known when it was last resurfaced. Some resurfacing will take place in the next 12 months

2018/007: River Management

Councillor Wyant reported that the water table remains low. Weed cutting has been done. The drain alongside the ditch in Drill Lane is blocked. This will be checked.

2018/008: Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Chairman: Councillor deGraft-Johnson was nominated by Councillor Hipkin and seconded by Councillor Richards.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Tatman was nominated by Councillor Richards and seconded by Councillor Hipkin.

2018/009: Other appointments

Treasurer: Councillor Hipkin was nominated by Councillor Wyant and seconded by Councillor Richards.

Footpaths Officer: Councillor Richards was nominated by Councillor Tatman and seconded by Councillor Morse.

Highways Officer: Councillor Tatman was nominated by Councillor deGraft-Johnson and seconded by Councillor Richards.

KALC representative: Councillor Morse was nominated by Councillor Hipkinn and seconded by Councillor Tatman.

Little Stour & NG representative: Councillor Wyant was nominated by Councillor deGraft-Johnson and seconded by Councillor Hipkin.

Planning & Conservation: All councillors

IVH Committee Representative: Councillor Shouls, (in her absence), was nominated by Councillor Hipkin and seconded by Councillor Tatman.

First Aider: Councillor Richards was nominated by Councillor Hipkin and seconded by Councillor Tatman.

2018/010: Appointment of Parish Clerk

The post will be re-advertised.

2018/011: Budget approval for 2018-19

The Treasurer's proposed figures are appended to these minutes.

Cutting grass in the churchyard, (the area beyond the Lychgate), was highlighted as the most pressing item for discussion. The PC has been cutting the grass but, if it continues to do so, will not be reimbursed by CCC. The question of the Church Commissioners paying was raised, but Councillor Wyant pointed out that they have nothing to do with local churches. She noted that other Parish Councils fund grass cutting in churchyards which are an amenity for the whole community. She hopes Ickham can follow suit. Councillor Tatman proposed that the Church authorities should be approached for funding since the PC must be seen to be spending money responsibly. Other councillors felt that the churchyard should not be left untidy or the grass uncut. Volunteers could contribute and the Chairman confirmed that they would be covered by insurance if they are named. Councillor Wyant reminded councillors that there will be a call for volunteers to help tidy the churchyard and clear debris from the former allotments.

The Chairman confirmed that the Church authorities will be approached and costs explored.

2018/012: Planning

The owners of the Black Barn confirmed that the proposals are for a car barn and an annex and could not be sold separately.

Both applications were approved.

2018/013: Forge House/ Duke William - Rights of Way etc

Councillor Shouls has been charged with pursuing the issue. The Chairman confirmed that matters are progressing, money has been spent, but progress is slow. The PC is trying to maintain peaceful relationships. Discussions will continue at the next meeting.

2018/014: Parish Plan

In response to a question from a member of the public, Councillor Hipkin explained that the purpose of the Parish Plan is to inform the discussions of the Parish Council by highlighting issues of interest to those who live and work within the Parish. There have been 74 responses to the recent questionnaire, and he considers these to be a fairly good representation of the parish. More details and analysis will be presented at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 21st May which all members of the Parish will be encouraged to attend. Written invitations will be delivered to all households and notices placed.

Councillor Hipkin said that he would like to publish the full responses to the questionnaire online rather than a distilled version which is open to interpretation. Jacque Grimsley confirmed that this had been done by the previous Parish Plan committee. Councillor Tatman commented that publication in full would lead to a very large document. There followed discussion on whether individuals could be identified by their comments, even though the returns were anonymous. The chairman said that the outcome of the questionnaire should be presented as honestly as possible but, in view of the differing opinions expressed, the Annual Parish meeting should be asked for a decision.

2018/015: KALC Survey:

Councillor Morse said the survey had been completed. There followed discussions on the value of training for individual councillors and whether this was worthwhile expenditure.

2018/016: Emergency Community Plan:

This has not yet been started. Councillor Morse confirmed that he is aware of new data protection laws.

2018/017: Welcome to the Mansfield workers.

Workers are not due until the end of May. Discussion deferred.

2018/018: Plan Annual Public Meeting 21st May:

A letter of invitation, together with an agenda, will be delivered to all households. The meeting will be advertised on notice boards, in Church & Village, on the website, Facebook and by email.

Councillor Hipkin will present the Parish Plan and be the main speaker.

The following will be invited:

Councillors Northey and Walker

Community Liaison Officer PCSO Gavin Dodwell

Representatives of Wickhambreaux school and other local groups.

2018/019: AOB

Councillor Wyant explained that efforts were being made to clear land at the back of the church. This is consecrated ground which had been used for allotments but is needed for burials. A large skip will be needed to take away rubbish, (and will cost up to £1500), but must wait until after harvest around the end of August. Meanwhile the land has been rotavated but needs to be further cleared by hand. Parishioners are needed to help with this on 16th June.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

The next parish meeting is on Monday 21st May 2018 at 7.00pm