WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2013

Present: Parish Cllr Christine Le Jeune
Parish Cllr Martin Twyman
Parish Cllr Angela Hamilton
Parish Cllr John Joice
Parish Cllr Anthony O'Sullivan
Parish Cllr Linda Lodge
Parish Cllr Faith Wright

Miss Chenice Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllr Le Jeune welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from County Cllr Michael Northey and City Cllr Brian Staley.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2013**
The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. **INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING**
5. Cllr Wright reported that she hadn't managed to get into contact with Mark Jones regarding the stump left on Stodmarsh Green before he removed the contracted stump on Wickhambreaux Green.
5. Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the Birt brothers had received their letter of thanks from the Parish Council and were very grateful to have their efforts recognised.
7(i) Cllr Le Jeune reported that the kerb at the junction of Wickham Court Lane and Grove Road had been repaired.
7(ii) Cllr Le Jeune reported that the pot holes in The List that were marked up before the last meeting have not been repaired. The Clerk was asked to enquire when the work is due to be carried out.
7(iii) The Clerk reported that a site visit would take place before any decision would be made whether or not to move the kerb back by the entrance of Mill Close and Spicers Place to accommodate larger vehicles.
7(iv) The Clerk reported that she hadn't had a reply to her email asking for a more detailed map and job specification for the inspection of the fire hydrants.
7(v) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that only one pot hole along a stretch of road going out of Stodmarsh on the bend before Hollybush Lane has been repaired out of five. The Clerk was asked to enquire whether the other pot holes reported are going to be fixed.
7(viii) Cllr Wright reported that the tree that had fallen on some telephone lines has been removed but the wires haven't been tightened.
7(vix) The Clerk reported that she had received a response from Kent Highways and in agreement with the resident who reported the camber change at the junction of The List and The Street, no remedial work will be carried out until the new financial year starting April 2013.
12. Cllr Le Jeine reported that Ickham Parish Council have thanked the Parish Council for writing in support against the continued use of the poly tunnels on New Place Farm.

5. **PLANNING**

CA//13/00061/FUL Millbourne, Wickham Road – The Parish Council considered the proposed changes to the existing dwelling and have no objections except they would prefer timber to Marley Eternit Cedral weatherboarding.

Trees –
Millbourne, Wickham Road – The Parish Council had no objection to the removal of a Cyprus tree.

The Old Rectory, The Green, Wickham Court Lane – The Parish Council have no objection to the pruning of two Tulip trees, removal of a Conifer, trimming of two Hollys and the removal of a variegated laurel.

6. **SEATON MEADOW VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION**
The Parish Council had received an e-mail from Mr Perkins informing the Council that any sale of a part of Seaton Meadow was dependent upon the withdrawal of the application to register the meadow as a village green.

7. **ROSE INN AGREEMENT**
The Parish Council received a letter from the owners of The Rose Inn requesting use of the smaller Village Green to place some tables on. The Parish Council will consider their request once re-turfing as taken place and the turf has taken. The request will be reconsidered at a future meeting once action has been taken.

8. **HIGHWAYS**
(i) Cllr Twyman reported that he has repeatedly called Kent Highways to report a number of major pot holes over the last four to six weeks and no work has been carried out. He reported he has marked the worst ones with cones to make it easier for all road users to see them. The Clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways and ask why no representative has taken note of the reporting and the cones and why no action has been taken.
(ii) Cllr Twyman also reported that a document produced by Kent Highways suggesting improvements to Grove Road had been very misleading – the improvements were being carried out in Grove Road Preston not Grove Road Wickhambreaux but signs were put up in Wickhambreaux informing road users the road was closed. The Clerk was asked to inform Kent Highways of their error.
(iii) Cllr Twyman reported that Nargate Street from the A257 to Church Road is going to be surfaced at the end of March/ beginning of April. However it is unclear whether this will be extended to the 30mph signs along the same stretch. The Clerk was asked to speak to Kent Highways and enquire if it is possible to extend the works to the 30mph signs.
(iv) Cllr Lodge reported that she has given an enlarged photograph of the original signage at the junction of Grove Road and Wickham Court Lane to Roger Bodimede.
(v) Cllr Joice reported that the area around a drain at the corner of Bell House at the junction of The Street and The Green has disintegrated leaving two plastic pipes exposed. The Clerk was asked to inform Kent Highways and ask for it to be fixed.

9. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS**
None present.

10. **CLLRS' REPORTS**

Police Liaison – Cllr Lodge reported that Kent County Council Community Warden Jon Lodge sent a letter listing all his activities so far this year since his employment.

Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Lodge reported that the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting is organised for Saturday 2 March 2013. The new Police Commissioner Ann Barnes will be present as will Chief Inspector Steve Barlow who will be taking questions.

KALC – Cllr Lodge reported that the Chairman of KALC is to meet with the new Police Commissioner Ann Barnes to raise the main concerns of its members including fly tipping and hare-coursing.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Joice reported that he had received a response to his Single Grants Gateway application. He requested £2220 for the financial year 2013-2014 and £1250 for the financial year 2014-2015. For the first year the £2220 amount included £1000 for outside decorating which was not accepted and instead the award was £1054. For the second year the full £1250 amount has been awarded.

He also reported that the Village Hall caretaker Diane Moore has retired after 25 years of service. A good response was received after an advertisement was placed in Church and Village and a new caretaker has been appointed.

Village Greens – Cllr Le Jeune reported that it may not be possible to replace a Horse-Chestnut tree that has to be felled on the small Green due to a honey fungus infection because of certain regulations. It is a condition of felling a tree in a Conservation Area to replace it but there are certain rules in place when planting any trees near an area where honey fungus existed including a length of time before planting and a certain distance from the original infected tree/trees. Cllr Le Jeune agreed to make some enquires.

Flood Protection – Cllr Twyman reported that the Nailbourne started flowing three weeks ago and reached its height in Wickhambreaux last week. The Flood Relief Channel was opened on Thursday 14 February 2013 and is working well, draining 50% of the Nailbourne water out of The Little Stour at Littlebourne to ensure the smooth running of the river.

In regards to the pollution effect, he reported that Wickhambreaux has not had much impact, only slight effects have been noticed but nowhere near levels to be concerned about. Tests are being carried out every other day and four lorries are pumping the water out 24 hours a day.

On Saturday 16 February 2013 the Little Stour Management Group met at Bekesbourne attended by representatives from the Environment Agency and Southern Water which was very productive. With regards to possible flooding in Wickhambreaux the water levels shouldn't get any higher so there is no immediate danger from flooding.

11. **FINANCE**

The expenditure totalling £658.77 was authorised made up of:

- Wickhambreaux Parochial Church – Village Green maintenance - £159.78
- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk Salary December - £166.33
- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk Salary January - £166.33
- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk Salary February - £166.33

12. **CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) The Clerk reported she had received a revised draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Plan. The Plan was handed to Cllr O'Sullivan to have a closer look as he worked very hard on a response to the previous plan on behalf of the Parish Council.

(ii) The Clerk also reported she had received a letter informing the Parish Council of a public meeting in response to planning application KCC/CA/0426/2012 Change of use to continue present uses together with a facility handling domestic ("black bag") waste and source-separated food waste at plots D and E, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden. It will be held on Monday 25 February 2013 at 6:00pm, no Cllrs were able to attend.

(iii) The Clerk also reported she had received an email update regarding a taxi firm in the village.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllrs O'Sullivan and Twyman reported they had attended a meeting of the Stodmarsh Community Group, Chaired by Joanne Carter a Natural England representative. A number of items were discussed including the need for better signage of the Nature Reserve, no large signs in the Conservation Area but small discreet brown tourist signs with a general feeling that more needed to be done to advertise Stodmarsh Nature Reserve.

It was felt that more events needed to be hosted, possible dates for an open day include Saturday 3 August 2013 and Saturday 28 September 2013 with possible boat trips along the river. Cllrs O'Sullivan and Twyman agreed they would speak to residents about this at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Joice reported that Brian Maxted who made a DVD of the Diamond Jubilee Presentation has sold 27 copies so far and raised £270. He has kindly donated £100 each to the Village Hall and to the Church.

The meeting closed at 9:25 p.m.

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....