WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2013

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

City Cllr Brain Staley
County Cllr Michael Northey

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 Cllr Martin Twyman and Cllr Linda Lodge.

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

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2012**
The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with one amendment – adding the price of the Chubb Fire Safety cheque as £165.60.

4. **INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING**
There is no information from matters arising which are not taken later on in the Agenda.

5. **PLANNING**

CA//13/00023/FUL Stodmarsh Nature Reserve, Grove Road – The Parish Council considered the proposed erection of a workshop and equipment storage building and have no objections.

CA//10/00285/R1,R11,R12,R13,R23 & R24 Plots D and E, Lakesview Business Park, 12Hersden – The Parish Council objected to a number of points of the proposal to abolish some of the conditions imposed on the planning application, in particular the Parish Council have always asked for screening to be put in place. The importance of the view from across the valley, from Stodmarsh, must not be overlooked. Additionally the Parish Council have always sought to minimize the signage along the main road the A28 so would support minimal signage.

Trees –
Little Green – The Parish Council had no objection to the felling of a horse chestnut with extensive fungal fruiting bodies to the right hand side on health and safety grounds.

Walnut Cottage, The Street – The Parish Council have no objection to a Goat Willow, located in the front garden, to be pollarded.

Stodmarsh Green – The Birt brothers have kindly removed the self seeded Ash tree on Stodmarsh Green free of charge. The Clerk was asked to thank them for their generosity. They also asked if the Parish Council could get the remaining stump removed. Cllr Wright agreed to contact Mark Jones who is already contracted to grind a remaining stump on the Little Green to extend his work to Stodmarsh on the same day.

6. **SEATON MEADOW VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION**

Further to the resolution passed at the extraordinary meeting on November 7 2012 to try to negotiate buying approximately six acres of the land, a figure well in excess of £100,000 was stated as the purchase price. The Parish Council do not have funds available to purchase the land. Cllr Le Jeune offered to write a letter to residents informing them of the date the Inquiry will resume and also of the current position about purchasing the land. Councillors agreed that a permissive path did not offer an acceptable permanent solution.

7. **HIGHWAYS**

(i) Cllr Le Jeune reported that the kerb at the junction of Wickham Court Lane and Grove Road has been repaired and the street name in the same location which was knocked down has been repaired. However the adjacent kerb to the part just repaired has now fallen away. The Clerk was asked to report the new problems to Kent Highways.

(ii) Cllr Le Jeune reported that the drain cover in the middle of Wickham Road outside Chapel House and the pot hole in The Street had been repaired. The pot holes in The List have been marked up in preparation for a repair.

(iii) Cllr Le Jeune reported that the grass behind the kerb by the entrance of Mill Close and Spicers Place has been churned up by a large vehicle. The kerb needs to be moved back so there is more space for large vehicles to use the road without the need to mount the kerb to manoeuvre round parked cars. The Clark was asked to email a request to County Cllr Northey to speak on the council's behalf to Kent Highways to ask if moving the kerb would be possible.

(iv) Cllr O'Sullivan offered to take on inspecting the fire hydrants in the village and report to Kent Fire and Rescue any that become damaged or buried, on the condition that a better map could be obtained from Kent Fire and Rescue so he would have a better understanding of the locations. The Clerk was asked to request a better map.

(v) Cllr O'Sullivan reported a pot hole on a road going out of Stodmarsh towards Grove Road. The Clerk was asked to report the pot hole to Kent Highways. Cllr O'Sullivan would give more precise details as to its location.

(vi) Cllr O'Sullivan also reported he had attended the A257 meeting on behalf of Cllr Tywman who was unable to attend. The main points raised include a possible lorry watch scheme to track the movement of all heavy freight vehicles with a joint letter on behalf of all members having been sent to Kent County Council. The proposed Sat Navs in lorries has not had much progress since the last meeting but the Salvatori planning application to expand its fleet of large vehicles has. Some would use a depot in Hersden rather than Preston. Vosa is currently investigating issues and will submit its findings to the Traffic Commissioners. A new system of reporting accidents and incidents has been proposed, especially at a local level where a representative can take note of incidents such as accidents, dangerous driving, speeding, etc. Lastly a speed watch was undertaken in Littlebourne and Stodmarsh, nobody was caught speeding in Littlebourne but one ticket was issued in Stodmarsh.

(vii) Cllr Le Jeune reported a proposal to increase the speed limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads from 40mph to 50mph. The Parish Council do not support the proposal, believing that large HGVs travel fast enough on often narrow roads in and around the village. The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation with the Parish Councils objections.

(viii) Cllr Wright reported that a tree has uprooted in Seaton Road between the bend at Wickhambreaux and the lay by near the playing field has fallen on some electricity lines which are bowing. The Clerk was asked to report the incident to EDF Energy so they can come and ensure the lines don't snap.

(ix) Cllr Wright also reported that although Kent Highways did a good job repairing the junction of The List and The Street which was full of potholes, a section of road that was repaired is slightly lower than the rest of the road and is now collecting large quantities of water when it rains. The matter has already been raised with Kent Highways by a

concerned resident but the Clerk was asked to write to County Cllr Northey and ask him to chase up any action.

8. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS**

City Cllr Brain Staley reported that there is a plan to reduce the number of district councillors after the next general and local elections in 2015. This will mean that each district councillor will have a larger area to cover and more electorate to serve. He also reported that an excellent presentation was given on Rural Fuel Poverty at the Rural Area Member Panel meeting on January 14 2013. In the Little Stour area there is a comparatively high proportion of hyperthermia deaths. The best way to lower this figure and combat these deaths is to encourage neighbours to look out for one another. There are also a number of groups available to look at loft installation and costs involved which can offer help.

County Cllr Michael Northey reported that currently 222,000 over 60's own a free bus pass which are due to expire in March. Kent County Council have taken over the running of the scheme from Canterbury City Council since April 2011. Bus pass owners do not need to phone in or write to get their bus pass renewed, Kent County Council will send a new bus pass three weeks before the expiry date. He also reported that eligibility for new people wishing to sign up has changed. If anyone would like to see the criteria they should visit Kent County Council's website and search for bus passes.

Cllr Northey also wished to highlight a website petition for the Dilnot Commission concerning the proposed changes for care of the elderly, allowing elderly people to stay in their homes for longer rather than going into care and allowing the elderly to maintain their independence whilst lowering the cost of care for the County Council, with the money instead being spent on more social and care workers to visit the elderly in their own homes.

In addition he reported that Kent County Council has 330,000 drains under its ownership and since September 2011 180,000 drains have been inspected and repaired if necessary.

9. **CLLRS' REPORTS**

Police Liaison – Cllr O'Sullivan reported that he had attended PCSO Elaine Cannadine's surgery in Stodmarsh. Although not hugely attended it was very useful.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Joice reported that the usual jazz fundraiser is being held on the 2 March 2013.

Playing Field Committee – Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the temporary white painted wooden stakes placed around the Green in Stodmarsh have stopped cars driving over it.

Flood Protection – 2012 was one of the wettest years on records and ground water levels are high. There is however no current danger of flooding in the local area.

10. **FINANCE**

The expenditure totalling £4760.00 was authorised made up of:

- Tim Gallant – Grass cutting from 21 March 2012 to 20 Oct 2012 - £560.00
- Mr Cain Ormondroyd – Legal fees - £4200.00

The Clerk presented the Parish Council with the latest development regarding the Precept. The Precept figure has been cut by 10% and the method of calculating band D property tax has changed. This results in residents paying the same but for less money being awarded to the Parish Council. This year Canterbury City Council are hoping to fund the short fall but the figures are yet to be confirmed. There is also a very probable possibility of Parish Council Precepts being capped in two years time.

With this new information, to allow for any future cuts in the Concurrent Grant funding and incase any projects arise in the future, the Parish Council have agreed to raise the Precept by a further 10% to a new figure of £9773.00.

11. **CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported that she had received an invitation to the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Annual Civic Service on Tuesday 12 March 2013. No Cllrs wished to attend. The Clerk also reported she had received a copy of the agenda for the Rural Area Members Panel on 14 November 2013, and a letter from Clague developers thanking the Parish Council for allowing them to speak on behalf of the owners of the Red Lion Public House in Stodmarsh. Cllr O'Sullivan also reported he had received a copy of a letter sent in response to the presentation by the owners of the neighbouring property Ivy House. They wrote the letter to express their concerns as to the difficulty of legally tying the proposed separate three bedroomed cottage to the pub and the potential overshadowing of their property. They indicated an extension to the rear of the pub could possibly be a better solution.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Wright reported that she had received a request from Ickham Parish Council asking if Wickhambreaux Parish Council would write a letter to Canterbury City Council in objection to the continued use of poly tunnels on New Place Farm when they are due to be removed. The Clerk was asked to write a letter detailing the Parish Councils objections to their continued use in a Conservation Area.

The meeting closed at 10:00 p.m.

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....