WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2013

Present: Parish Cllr Anthony O'Sullivan (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Martin Twyman
Parish Cllr Christine Le Jeune
Parish Cllr Angela Hamilton
Parish Cllr John Joice
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 O'Sullivan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from City Councillor Brian Staley.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Cllr Le Jeune and Cllr Joice declared an interest in the CA//13/00944/FUL Hooden Horse House planning application as they both have neighbouring properties.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2013**
The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with one amendment. Under number 19 the paragraph is to be rephrased to "The Parish Council agreed that Parish only events (Wickhambreaux, Stodmarsh and Grove) should be advertised on its website. The Clerk is to contact the Chairman for his approval."

4. **INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING**
4(11iii) The Clerk reported she had received a consultation document from Southern Water in addition to the Water Strategy Plan. It was decided the document is to be circulated to all members and all comments arising to be discussed at the next meeting.
6(7i) The Clerk reported that she had still not received a reply to the letter asking for changes to be made to the Public Rights of Way (PROW) vegetation clearance schedule. The Clerk was asked to chase for a response.
9(i) Cllr Le Jeune reported that the kerb stone on the corner of Wickham Court Lane and Grove Road has been repaired.
11. Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the Tree Warden Sheila Hickling has stood down from her post after over a decade of service.
20(vi) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that he had looked over the correspondence from the Shared Taxi Scheme and although Cllr Staley's and other volunteers efforts are recognised, the Parish Council is not currently in any financial position to give support at this time but may consider again in the future.

5. **PLANNING**

CA//13/00945/TPO The Village Green – The Parish Council had no objections to the pruning and reduction of the canopy of the Lime tree, subject to TPO number 2 1962.

CA//13/00944/FUL Hooden Horse House, The Street – The Parish Council had no objections to a new roof to replace the existing lean-to roof, new porch to the rear of the property and folding back doors to the rear.

CA//13/00305/FUL Quaives Cottage, Seaton Road – The planning application to the change of use of a garden office to annexe including alterations and extensions has been withdrawn.

KCC/CA/0177/2013 Replacement and re-orientated non-ferrous metal building granted consent under CA/13/18 dated 15/4/13 – Cllr O'Sullivan agreed to assess the planning application on behalf of the Parish Council, in particular on behalf of Stodmarsh, which will be most affected by the application.

6. **SEATON MEADOW VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION**
Nothing new to report.

7. **INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS AND VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
The Parish Council delegated looking through the document to Cllr O'Sullivan to make any comments if he feels it necessary. The document will then be circulated to all other Councillors for information.

8. **CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAN**
Cllr O'Sullivan reported he had attended the Rural Area Members Panel (RAMP) meeting on Monday 10 June 2013 and was given a presentation on the Local Plan. To summarise Canterbury City Council are going for more concentrated development rather than the scatter gun approach to develop better infrastructure, transport links and generate more employment in a given area. Green field spaces and small rural villages will be protected with larger villages only being selected for limited development.

County Cllr Michael Northey informed the Parish Council that Kent County Council would not approve the Local Plan unless they are satisfied adequate infrastructure will be put into place to support the proposals. All infrastructure will need to be funded by the developers.

There are 1104 houses per annum that need to be built to deal with the back log of need with Canterbury City Council deciding on 760 houses per annum. Out of the eight sites earmarked for development, none have any direct impact on the Parish. The Sturry and Broad Oak site is the most likely to have an impact, especially in terms of increased traffic flow causing congestion on narrow roads.

9. **LORD MAYOR'S AWARD**
The Parish Council unfortunately put forward no nominations this year for the award.

10. **HIGHWAYS**
(i) Cllr Twyman reported that the pot holes from Cophall to Sandpit Cottages on both sides of the road have not yet been repaired. The Clerk was asked to chase for a repair.
(ii) Cllr Twyman reported that everyone should have received correspondence from the National Grid asking for comments on their Richborough Connection project proposal. They plan to build a new electricity link between Zeebrugge in Belgium to Richborough near Sandwich. Councillors decided to keep an eye on any further developments for now, but wish to push for burying the pylons to protect the natural beauty of the countryside. There will be a meeting held in Wickhambreaux Village Hall on Saturday 13 July 2013 from 10am – 4pm regarding the proposals and the consultation will run for two years.
(iii) The Parish Council asked the Clerk to thank Kent Highways Officer, Marie Lambkin, for the high standard of repair work around the Parish from Kent Highways.
(iv) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that he has received a number of complaints about the state of the uneven pavement at the entrance of Mill Close opposite Spicers Place. The Clerk was asked to report the pavement.
(v) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that a footpath sign has been broken on footpath CB139 on the descent from Stodmarsh Court on Stodmarsh Road on the right hand side. The Clerk was asked to report this.
(vi) Cllr Le Jeune reported that the signpost at the end of Wickham Court Lane has been replaced. The Clerk was asked to write to Roger Bodimeade and thank him for his hard work.

(vii) Cllr Le Jeune reported that a stronger metal repair has been carried out on the drain outside Bell House at the junction of The Street and The Green.

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

County Cllr Michael Northey reported that in regards in the litter problem along the A2, he has pursued the matter with Canterbury City Council who are looking into the idea of working with lots of partners including businesses and local organisation to clean up the rubbish in return for sponsorship through increased publicity by this goodwill gesture.

He also reported that he is one of the judges for this year's Model Railway Competition, which Wickhambreaux Primary School came second in last year. He assured everyone he would be impartial and fair in his judging, but he wishes Wickhambreaux Primary School every success. In addition Cllr Northey reported that on Tuesday 23 July there will be some micro asphalt resurfacing of Grove Road, Preston for three days.

12. **CLLRS' REPORTS**

Tree Warden – Cllr Wright put herself forward for the vacant position of Tree Warden and the Parish Council agreed unanimously. Cllr O'Sullivan agreed to speak to Sheila Hicking, the previous tree warden, to get any information regarding trees with a TPO number and a list of all owned trees in the village for Cllr Wright to have. The Parish Council also wishes to thank Sheila Hicking for her help and service for over a decade. It was decided Cllr O'Sullivan should write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Wright reported that work to the Lime tree on the Green should be carried out week beginning the 15 July 2013. She also reported that the stump on the Little Green in Stodmarsh after inspection does not appear to be a trip hazard in the corner and is not a substantial size, advising the stump not be removed at this stage. Cllr O'Sullivan agreed to speak to the Birt family who felled the tree to ask if they treated the stump with anything to stop any regrowth.

Cllr Wright reported that an elder tree is causing an obstruction on the pavement outside two Grove Road. The Parish Council asked Cllr Wright to look into possible options for removing the obstruction.

Cllr Wright also reported that a flowering Cherry on the Little Green in Stodmarsh is located too close to a neighbouring property and may cause structural damage to the property in the future. Cllr O'Sullivan agreed to inquire as to the measurements required to request for the tree to be felled.

Police Liaison – Cllr Lodge agreed to investigate whether the advertised Police Surgeries in Wickhambreaux and Stodmarsh actually took place.

KALC – Cllr Lodge reported that she had attended the last Kent Association of Local Councils meeting where David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment, was the key note speaker. He gave an interesting presentation on 'Waste of Plenty' which included all matters regarding waste including the fact that back in 2005 72% of waste went to landfill but in 2011 this had been reduced to 22%. The next meeting will be in July.

Village Greens – The Clerk reported she had received the signed agreement by the Rose Inn regarding the use of tables of the Village Green. Cllr Twyman and Cllr Joice agreed to hold a follow up meeting with the owners.

Flood Protection – Cllr Twyman reported that the meeting held with Southern Water, orchestrated by himself and Julian Brazier MP, on Saturday 8 June 2013 in regards to the sewage problem went well. Also present were representatives from the Environment Agency,

Jill Thomas from the Little Stour River Management Committee, City Councillor Bill Oakley from Barham and the Press.

Southern Water reported that so far the survey using CCTV inspecting all the water and sewage pipes along the Nailbourne is 90% complete with so far over 100 faults found compared to none back in 2009 when the last survey was completed. There is a 10 kilometre stretch of the sewer with ground water infiltration, ongoing repairs are being completed and Southern Water are promising funding being put aside to fix all the faults and make the necessary repairs. Cllr Twyman also reported that a survey of the Great Stour will be carried out in the next 12 months to assess the level of silting in the river.

13. **FINANCE**

The expenditure totalling £391.05 was authorised made up of:

- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk Salary June 2013 - £134.73
- HMRC – Employee and PAYE for June 2013 - £31.60
- Chenice Sparkes – Reimbursement for stationary for the year - £84.70
- Martin Twyman – Sign writing of two double sided finger signs - £70.00
- Stripy Lawns – Mowing of the recreation ground for May and June - £70.00

14. **CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) The Clerk reported she had received a letter from the Open Spaces Society informing that it is no longer possible to register land as a Village or Town Green if the area has been earmarked for development, even secretly. Instead it has been substituted for Local Green Space (LGS) but this does not give the public a right to wonder on the land or guarantee the lands protection.

(ii) The Clerk reported she had received a poster regarding the new bin collections to put on the noticeboard.

(iii) The Clerk reported she had received a copy of the National Grid letter, reported above under Highways, already received by Councillors.

(iv) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that a reply was sent to KALC regarding localised tax support for parish councils with the expectation that local authorities will continue to pass funding down to parish areas

(v) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that communities will get a greater say over the siting of wind farms and will have increased benefits from hosting developments that do proceed.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) Cllr Le Jeune reported that the applicant hoping to develop the Pear Orchard has expressed an interest in putting in another planning application and wished to know what figure for housing the Parish Council would deem acceptable not object to the application. The Parish Council agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

(ii) Cllr Lodge reported that Wickhambreaux Primary School had entered a gardening competition, planting raised flower beds, hanging baskets and vegetables among other projects. Their efforts have been recognised and the Blue Peter gardener will be visiting to see the work on Tuesday 9 July 2013.

(iii) The Clerk reported she had not heard any news from BT regarding the cleaning up of a telephone box in the village.

The meeting closed at 9:58 p.m.

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....