WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 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 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 County Councillor Michael Northey.

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

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2013**
Cllr Twyman proposed and Cllr Le Jeune seconded that the Minutes were accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. **INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING**
4(15ii) The Conservation Society informed the Parish Council that they are liaising with BT to take over the maintenance of the phone box in Wickhambreaux and Ickham. They plan to strip and paint the phone box in the near future with the help of a team of volunteers.
4(10i) Cllr Twyman reported that the pot holes from Cophall to Sandpit Cottages have now been repaired.
Cllr Joice reported he has liaised with the new owners of the Rose Inn and has welcomed them to the village on behalf of the Parish Council and the village. A new agreement has now been signed between the new owners and the Parish Council concerning the use of two tables on the Village Green.

5. **PLANNING**
Cllr O'Sullivan reported that as of Monday 9 September, Canterbury City Council will not accept any comments on planning applications after the set deadline. All comments must now be sent electronically – the Clerk will need to register to do this. Additionally, if the Parish Council's submitted view on a planning application does not concur with Canterbury City Council's view, then a representative from the Parish Council must attend the Development Management Committee meeting where the planning application in question will be decided, to speak on behalf of the Parish Council.

CA//13/00945/FUL The Village Green – Canterbury City Council have granted the application to prune and reduce the canopy of Lime tree, subject to TPO No 2 1962.

CA//13/00944/FUL Hooden Horse House, The Street – Canterbury City Council have granted the application to replace the existing lean-to roof, new porch to rear and fold back doors to rear.

CA//13/01303/FUL Quaives Cottage, Seaton Road – Canterbury City Council have granted the application to extend the existing outbuilding.

Tree Works:
Twynings, The List – The Parish Council had no objections to the felling of four decaying Crack Willows located to the rear, and to remove a Holly tree in the interim period between Parish Council meetings. Canterbury City Council has granted the application.

6. **SEATON MEADOW VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION**
Cllr Le Jeune reported that the decision on the Village Green Application has not yet been made. Another request was also made under the Data Protection Act.

7. **PEAR ORCHARD**
Cllr O'Sullivan reported of a meeting between himself, a representative number of Councillors and the landowner. A number of concerns were raised from the Parish Council including:

- the level of proposed affordable housing would fall below the compulsory level set by Canterbury City Council
- the designs of the houses were considered unimaginative
- the issue of drainage.

The landowner restated his position, hoping to secure the Parish Council's support for one of two proposals (either iii or iv detailed below). Failing that he will move towards submitting an application he feels comfortable with. He detailed four options; (i) to sell off the land, (ii) to submit the original application with 14 units proposed, (iii) submit a revised scheme of eight to nine units with affordable housing, or (iv) to build six units with no affordable housing.

To ensure the Parish Council had up to date knowledge on current planning policy before making any decisions, a meeting was organised by Cllr Wright on 15 August 2013 between herself, Cllr Le Jeune, Cllr O'Sullivan and Adrian Verrall of the planning department in Canterbury City Council, to discuss certain aspects of the Pear Orchard proposals and the Council's stance on certain points. Adrian Verral said that the application would only be granted if it reflects the local need of the Parish, it is sustainable, the level of development is suitable to the location and adequate drainage is provided.

The Local Plan states that 5-10 houses might be deemed acceptable for larger villages so for smaller villages like Wickhambreaux, less than five houses should be built, lower than the proposals for the Pear Orchard. In addition, in the new Local Plan and the Biodiversity Survey, Canterbury City Council wants no change to the character of rural lanes which supports the Parish Council's opposition to the proposed changes to the layout of Grove Road.
Canterbury City Council also would prefer local architects to be used in the development, and for buildings to maintain the same style as the existing buildings around them, especially in rural areas.
With regards to the drainage issue, under the new Local Plan introduced this Autumn, a Sustainable Drainage Assessment has to be submitted with all planning applications and any drainage must be managed in perpetuity.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed that Cllr O'Sullivan was to reply to the landowner's email dated Friday 13 September concerning the four different options, with the Parish Council's comments raised through their discussions with Adrian Verrall. The Parish Council accepts his right as a land owner to put forward an application, but following the meeting with Adrian Verrall any submitted application should have a smaller number of houses, very little overshadowing of neighbouring properties, sustainable drainage and an emphasis on vernacular designs for the buildings to be more in keeping with the village.

8. **PARISH CHARTER**
Cllr O'Sullivan reported that he attended a meeting at the Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre on Saturday 20 July 2013 regarding the Parish Charter. A draft charter will be circulated before Wednesday 13 November when the proposals go to the Rural Area Members Panel

(RAMP) meeting for authorisation. The meeting consisted of further explanation and restatement of the different components with no further idea at this stage of what the Parish Charter will be other than something resembling a "service agreement" between Canterbury City Council and the Canterbury district's Parish Councils, without being legally binding.

9. **POSSIBILITY OF A BUS SHELTER**

Cllr Wright reported that the department responsible for installing bus shelters is Sustainable Transport at Canterbury City Council and they could install one for between £2500 and £3000. The shelter would have to be a hard standing shelter with perch type seating and all daily cleaning of the shelter will be the responsibility of the Parish Council, but an annual check and maintenance would be provided. However funding is limited, so whether or not a bus shelter is provided with funding is dependent on the amount of use the shelter would likely get and Wickhambreaux was deemed not to have lots of use.

The Parish Council could raise the funds themselves but would have to comply with strict Highways Standards – all passengers would have to embark and disembark from a kerb, there needs to be a raised kerb for disabled access, buses would need to be able to stop flush to the kerb, drivers would need adequate sight lines approaching the bus stop from both directions to ensure it is safe to stop and a permanent bus stop sign and timetable would need to be installed. There is no site in the village which fits all the criteria and would be suitable for a bus shelter, so in light of this information the Parish Council decided not to pursue installing a bus shelter. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Wright for her efforts researching.

10. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS**

Canterbury Local Government Review

Cllr O'Sullivan reported that, despite strong opposition from many organisations, Canterbury City Council are still pursuing reducing the number of Councillors from 50 to 38. He reported he had replied to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council with comments including that the proposals were short sighted when the Local Plan proposed to increase the population of Canterbury, and with less Councillors people's views are not going to be addressed fully. Also Canterbury already has the lowest Councillor to electorate ratio, reducing the number will increase the remaining Councillors' work load. He also expressed concern that Canterbury City Council had the opportunity to return to the former Committee-Style system of management but instead opted to keep more power under the Executive Model, concentrating power in fewer hands.

National Grid Richborough Project

Cllr O'Sullivan reported that he had formulated a response to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council expressing its strong preference for the "northern" route, but also its wish to have the cables buried if possible or use the T-pylons that are smaller than the conventional pylons. Concern was also expressed over possible health risks to anybody living to close to the pylons

The Parish Council thanked Cllr O'Sullivan for reporting on their behalf during the interim period.

11. **HIGHWAYS**

(i) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the fingerposts on the sign post at the top of Wickham Court Lane are starting to droop again. Cllr Twyman reported that Roger Bodimeade has kindly fixed some angle brackets to the top and bottom of the fingerposts. Mr Bodimeade reported that the base of the sign post is approximately 25% rotted away and the possibility of additional support for the base may need to be looked into in the future.

(ii) Cllr Twyman reported that a number of repairs have been made to roadside verges around the village.

(iii) The Clerk was asked to chase Kent Highways for some action in The List where the giant puddle has formed again due to a slight unevenness in the road surface after a repair.

(iv) Cllr O'Sulliivan reported that the grass on a banked area on a 90 degree bend on Stodmarsh Road has not been cut at the top, restricting an already limited view of the road. Police have already been called to a number of incidents on that particular bend due to poor visibility. The Clerk was asked to report the uncut grass to Kent Highways.

(v) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that he had received a complaint from a resident in Stodmarsh regarding cyclists taking up the whole road, especially dangerous around blind bends and corners with restricted vision. The Parish Council are sympathetic to the problem but does not wish to get involved in the debate between motorist and cyclists' behaviour on the road, although they agree it is nice to see more cyclists using the roads, with the majority following the Highway Code.

(vi) Cllr Le Jeune reported that at the entrance to Spicers Place, Kent Highways replaced a section of damaged kerb and retarmaced the surrounding area. However because Kent Highways did not heed the Parish Council's recommendation of relocating the kerb slightly back to avoid the situation happening again, the kerb is damaged again.

(vii) Cllr Lodge reported that the Invicta signs are in the process of being cast fairly locally at a reasonable rate.

(viii) Cllr Le Jeune reported that she had met with a representative from Kent County Council from to discuss the adding of footpath CB 537 along Mill Bank instead of CB 143B as it is a much more used footpath next year. The representative said they would add the footpath as an additional cut for next year but due to no confirmed funding for next year there is the possibility of no cuts being made at all.

(ix) Cllr Wright reported that one of the planters on the bridge has been destroyed but the bulbs were salvaged. The Parish Council agreed to replace the planter.

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

None present

13. **CONCURRENT GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION 2014-2015**

After much discussion the Parish Council decided to apply for the following figures:

Grounds Maintenance - £300
Grass Cutting - £620
Trees - £900
Play Equipment - £500
ROSPA - £80
Insurance - £600
Fencing - £700

This brings the total application to £3700 for the year 2014-2015. Village Hall funding is now covered under the Single Grants Gateway instead of the Concurrent Function.

14. **CLLR'S REPORTS**

Tree Warden – Cllr Wright reported that the tree work has been carried out on the lime tree on the Green. And that the Elder on Grove Road has been felled, although the stump hasn't been ground out yet, but it has been treated to prevent any growth.

Cllr Wright also reported that the Parish Council need to make a decision on the replacement tree for the one felled in Spicers Place. The Parish Council decided on a hornbeam. The Parish Council would also still like to go ahead with a full annual inspection of the trees in the village in the near future.

Cllr Wright reported that it is very difficult to ascertain who owns the trees on the verge outside the Old Rectory. Cllr Wright was asked to enquire with the Vegetation Team at Kent Highways to see if ownership can be uncovered.

Police Liaison, Neighbourhood Watch and KALC – Cllr Lodge reported she will be attended a meeting at Hawkinge Community Centre to meet the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes who promised to create more PCSOs. She also reported that the nearest mobile police station is at Littlebourne Recreation Ground, with the next one attending on Wednesday 25 September.

Cllr Lodge reported that Michael Back from the Crime Advisory Group – a pro active group who go out in pairs, park in lay-bys at junctions to monitor suspicious vehicle activity during the night – is considering introducing a similar scheme in Wickhambreaux. All members during the night are in constant contact with the Police should they witness any suspicious activity.

She also reported there is no KALC meeting till next month.

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Joice reported that the Village Hall has received its first allocation from the Single Grants Gateway totalling £1554 to cover the costs of insurance and general maintenance.

He also reported an asbestos survey of the building was carried out and was given a relatively clean bill of health. There is asbestos under the corrugated roof above the store area and under some cloaking sheets in the porch. However it does not pose any danger unless any building work is to be carried out in which case any contractors must be informed.

Flood Protection – Cllr Twyman reported that there is a meeting on Wednesday 18 September at 3pm in Bishopsbourne Village Hall and 7pm in Bridge Village Hall with Southern Water to get an update on the sewage problem. Southern Water are being very pro-active and seem to be doing all that is required to fix the problems.

15. **FINANCE**

The expenditure totalling £1136.69 was authorised made up of:

- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk Salary August 2013 - £148.10
- HMRC – Employee and PAYE for August 2013 - £29.80
- Stripy Lawns – Mowing of the recreation ground twice for July - £70.00
- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk Salary September 2013 – £162.39
- HMRC – Employee and PAYE for September 2013 - £32.40
- Mark Jones Tree Surgeon – Work carried out on the Lime tree - £504.00
- Stripy Lawns – mowing recreation ground twice for August - £70.00
- PKF Littlejohn LLP – Annual Return fee for auditing the accounts - £120.00

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return to PKF Littlejohn LLP was returned on Monday 9 September 2013, with no actions or recommendations being required. As legally required, the Clerk posted the “Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Right to inspect the annual return notice” on the noticeboard.

16. **CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) The Clerk reported she had received the Rural Area Member Panel (RAMP) agenda for Monday 2 September 2013.

(ii) The Clerk reported she had received an invite to the Parish and Town Council Seminar on Thursday 10 October 2013 in Maidstone.

(iii) The Clerk reported she had received correspondence from Bespoke Life Support who believe that the elderly should remain in their homes for as long as possible and support

them through Personal Care Assistants, which they can provide. A poster was put on the noticeboard.

(iv) The Clerk reported she had received some correspondence from Channel 4 who are making a documentary on social change in Britain in the last 40 years asking for stories from office workers/secretaries, doctors, teachers and police officers with funny or revealing stories to come forward. A poster was put on the noticeboard.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the Birts had a large quantity of potatoes stolen from their farm during the night recently.

(ii) Cllr Twyman reported that there has been a problem with hare coursing recently, locked gates have been tampered with and fences cut.

The meeting closed at 10:00 p.m.

Signed……..... (Chairman) Date…….....