WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2014

Present: Parish Cllr Tony O'Sullivan
Parish Cllr Martin Twyman
Parish Cllr Christine Le Jeune
Parish Cllr John Joice
Parish Cllr Angela Hamilton
Parish Cllr Faith Wright
Parish Cllr Linda Lodge
Miss Chenice Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllr O'Sullivan welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Cllr Wright declared an interest in proposed tree work, not listed on the agenda, for a Liquid Amber to be felled on her property.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH FORUM**
Two residents addressed the Parish Council with the suggestion that, to prevent the Serco refuse lorry having to reverse over the kerb on the corner of Spicers Place, all the residents' bins should be moved to a single location further up. The Parish Council informed the residents that it has no power over refuse collections in the village, but was willing to contact Serco to ask for its comments. In return, the residents who suggested the proposal, agreed to speak with all the neighbouring residents to check everybody was willing to move their bins to a central location.

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2014**
The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with some minor amendments.

5. **INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING**
7(20iii) Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the new site for the broadband box has been approved and the box was moved today, Tuesday 17 June 2014.
10. Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the flyers inviting all residents to the Flooding and Emergencies meeting on Tuesday 24 June 2014 have been distributed.
12(iv). Cllr O'Sullivan reported he sent a letter to Highways Steward Sid Miller, expressing the Parish Council's dissatisfaction at the nature of a reply to the Parish Council's original letter, which suggested he had not read the letter. Cllr O'Sullivan reiterated the four main highways issues in the Village and asked again for a meeting. He also pointed out that the kerb in Jubilee Road is currently undergoing re-profiling very similar to the treatment the Parish Council is requesting for the corner of Spicers Place. County Cllr Michael Northey was also sent a copy.
12(vii). Cllr Lodge reported that the road surface at the junction of Wickham Court Lane and Grove Road has been repaired.
14. (Trees) Cllr Wright reported that the trees on the Playing Field have now been felled by Tim Butler and Julian Maynard. Thanks were recorded for their hard work and generosity at removing them all free of charge. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to them. Cllr Wright also reported that Tim Butler and Julian Maynard had recommended the removal of Ivy around the remaining trees and to have all the trees close to the fencing removed as soon as possible. This would prevent any further damage to the fencing in the near future as the trees grow.
14(Trees) Cllr Twyman reported that the tree guard on the newly planted red oak on the small green has been left for now. The tree is being regularly watered and has had its lower branches pruned to a much better shape. However, the tree is sinking due to the large hole left by the

removal of a previous tree from the site. More top soil may be needed to prevent the tree sinking any further and to raise the tree up to the appropriate level.
14 (Village Hall) Cllr Joice reported that he had contacted Environmental Health, at Canterbury City Council, to enquire about the Village Hall's responsibilities regarding Legionnaires disease. He was advised to carry out a risk assessment for the Village Hall, but believes there only to be a negligible chance of the bacteria being present in the water supply. Cllr Joice has contacted the school and it seems satisfied with the recommendation and will await the results of the risk assessment. The Parish Council recorded its thanks to Cllr Joice for undertaking all the research.
14(KALC) Cllr Lodge reported she had responded to the KALC survey on behalf of the Parish Council.
15. The Clerk reported she had purchased the £25 gift voucher for the Internal Auditor.
19(ii) Cllr Le Jeune enquired whether any money was sent to the Open Spaces Society to cover additional staffing costs regarding deposition notices. Cllr Le Jeune felt that, as it was an initiative the Parish Council had asked for, it would be only fair to donate some money towards the cause. Cllr Le Jeune proposed and Cllr Lodge seconded that £20.00 should be sent as a donation.

6. **PLANNING**

CA//14/01149/FUL Fieldview, Grove Road – The Parish Council had no objection to the demolition of a part rear extension and the erection of an enlarged replacement single-storey extension.

7. **POSSIBLE NOMINATIONS FOR THE LORD MAYORS AWARD 2014**
Cllr Twyman wished to nominate Ted Edwards, semi-retired Chief Engineer at Canterbury City Council, for all his hard work and efforts during the flooding earlier this year. The Parish Council unanimously agreed with the nomination. As Mr Edwards is an employee of Canterbury City Council, it is unclear whether he can be nominated. Cllr O'Sullivan agreed to investigate Mr Edwards's eligibility and, if permitted, to nominate him for the award.

8. **REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S DECISION UNDER THE EIR/FOIA**
The Council considered a letter from a parishioner requesting that the Council's Refusal Notice in relation to the Environmental Information Regulations and Freedom of Information Act be reconsidered. The Council's reason for refusal was that the request was manifestly unreasonable because of the cost of compliance and the diversion of resources of the Parish Council. The Council agreed to review its decision and decided to appoint two Councillors, who had had little or no involvement with the application to register a village green at Seaton Meadow, to conduct the review. The appointment of Cllrs O'Sullivan and Hamilton was proposed by Cllr Lodge, seconded by Cllr Wright and carried unanimously.

9. **LOCAL PLAN LATEST CONSULTATION**
Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the main changes in the submission draft Local Plan appear to be the introduction of housing proposals for the Howe Barracks site and the Kent and Canterbury Hospital site, which may relocate to land near the New Dover Road Park and Ride, and some proposed Green Space sites. Cllr Wright reported that anybody can propose a site to be a Green Space, as long as the area has great significance to the local community or has historical significance. The only opportunity to propose Green Space sites is when the Local Plan is under review and when a Neighbourhood Plan is being drawn up or reviewed.

The Clerk provided a hard copy of the latest draft of the Local Plan to the meeting. The document was too large to assess fully in the meeting, so Cllr O'Sullivan suggested each Councillor take the Local Plan home to read through for a few days. Any comments will be passed onto Cllr O'Sullivan to formulate a composite response. It was also suggested that approaches should be made to the Four Villages Conservation Society regarding possible

designation of Green Spaces. Cllr O'Sullivan and Cllr Wright agreed to attend a meeting discussing the Local Plan on Wednesday 2nd July, 2014 at the Kent County Cricket Ground.

10. **CONSULTATION ON UNDERGROUND DRILLING ACCESS**
As none of the proposed sites in the consultation affect Wickhambreaux, the Parish Council opted not to comment.

11. **HIGHWAYS**
(i) Cllr Twyman reported that along Drill Lane, following improvement works from Kent Highways, a pile of loose material has been left, which is obstructing Black Hole Dyke ford. The Clerk was asked to report this to Kent Highways.
(ii) The Clerk received a list of dates from Highways Steward for Ickham and Well, Mr Tatman, for a meeting between himself and Wickhambreaux Parish Council to discuss possible signage. Mr Tatman had been approached by a number of concerned parents who walk their children to school along a route with no pavement and narrow bends. These parents are seeking road improvements and the most likely option to be achieved will be some additional signage. Potential locations being considered do cross into Wickhambreaux and Mr Tatman would like to discuss this possibility. Cllr Le Jeune and Cllr Twyman both agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Le Jeune agreed to correspond with Mr Tatman concerning possible dates.
(iii) Cllr le Jeune asked the Clerk to enquire when footpath CB537 will be cut. There is no evidence that any maintenance has been carried out so far this year.

12. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS**
None.

13. **CLLRS' REPORTS**

Tree Warden – Cllr Wright reported that Canterbury City Council is no longer publishing a list of all the proposed tree works in the district, which now have to be checked online. The latest list of trees, unfortunately not in time to detail on the agenda for this meeting, is as follows: the pruning and shaping a horse chestnut and sycamore tree at Sawkinge Farm, Stodmarsh, felling of a dead liquid amber at the Old Rectory, The List, Wickhambreaux, and pollarding of a beech tree at Church Farmhouse, Stodmarsh. The Parish Council decided to accept Cllr Wright's recommendations on all the proposed tree works.

Cllr Twyman reported that the fallen trees at the cricket bat willow plantation have still not been removed. He contacted the owners of the land, who were under the impression the trees have already been removed. They agreed to investigate why the hired contractor had not turned up on the agreed date. The date for removal is Wednesday, 18 June 2014.

KALC – Cllr Lodge reported that the AGM of the Kent Association of Local Councils is to be held next month

Flood Protection – Cllr Twyman reported that the next Little Stour Management Group meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th June, 2014. The current Chairman, Tony Austin, is standing down at the meeting to become Sheriff of Canterbury. All Parish Councils have been asked to nominate a candidate to take over the role. Cllr Twyman said he had received a number of nominations from other Parish Councils and would be willing to accept the role for a couple of years or so. Cllr Hamilton proposed and Cllr Le Jeune seconded to nominate Cllr Twyman for the position, and the Parish Council unanimously passed the decision. Cllr Twyman also asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to pay £20.00 annual subscription to the group to help towards to ever increasing costs. Cllr Lodge proposed and Cllr Joice seconded to pay the annual subscription.

Cllr Twyman reported that the Environment Agency wants to make the bank near the willow trees more substantial, because during the flooding it leaked. Cllr Twyman advised the Environment Agency not to make any changes until more maintenance work has been carried out on the Black Hole Dyke. The bank leaking saved Wickhambreaux from more severe flooding because it allowed a lot of the water to bypass the Mill through the Black Hole Dyke.

Wickham Lane still needs to be sorted out in the wake of the flooding. There are four or five different services located underneath the road where the emergency pumps operated from. An extension to the services has been suggested and perhaps excavating a slight lip in the top surface of the road. Cllr Twyman also reported he has now registered 2000 acres of farmland that were flooded on top of the 42 houses in the flooding catchment area. He has also registered all the businesses in the area which were affected. The Environment Agency has accepted that maintenance work has not been undertaken and that the neglected areas are unacceptable. It has agreed that maintenance work will be carried out in all these areas in the near future.

14. **FINANCE**

The expenditure totalling £255.08 was authorised, made up of:

- Stripy Lawns – Mowing recreation ground 20 May and 31 May 2014 - £70.00
- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk salary May 2014 - £153.08
- HMRC – Employee and PAYE for May 2014 - £32.00

The donation of £20.00 to the Open Spaces Society, agreed earlier on in the meeting, was signed.

15. **CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) The Open Spaces Society magazine for Summer 2014 was received.
(ii) The Open Spaces Society invitation to the AGM on Tuesday, 8th July, 2014 was received, together with the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
(iii) A flyer detailing all of Canterbury City Council's meetings was received.
(iv) A letter was received from AON Insurance confirming that the Parish Council's insurance has been renewed.
(v) An update on the Richborough Connection Project was also received. Cllr O'Sullivan took the documents to look over at a later date.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) Cllr Lodge reported County Cllr Michael Northey had visited the school with the Kent County Council Cabinet member

The meeting closed at 9:37 p.m.

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....