WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

Present: Parish Cllr Martin Twyman
Parish Cllr Robin Treacher
Parish Cllr Linda Lodge
Parish Cllr Faith Wright
Parish Cllr Gary Bradford
Parish Cllr Charles Porter
Parish Cllr Caroline Rees

City Cllr Stuart Walker
County Cllr Michael Northey

Miss Chenice Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

2 Residents

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllr Twyman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from PCSO Karl Shonhard

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

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2015**
The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with some minor amendments.

4. **INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING**
4(1) Cllr Twyman reported he has received no further correspondence from Canterbury City Council regarding his Disclosable Pecuniary Interest form.
4(10.9) The Clerk reported she had contacted EiS regarding obtaining training on the new email system and also to enquire whether email notifications were possible to be set up for phones. The representative needed to investigate further and promised a phone call back on Wednesday 16 September 2015.
5. Cllr Twyman nominated Cllr Porter to spearhead planning possible celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday next year, as suggested by City Cllr Walker at the last meeting. The Parish Council unanimously agreed with the nomination and Cllr Porter accepted the role.
6(ii) Cllr Twyman reported that he chased Kent Highways regarding the collapsing BT manhole outside Wickham Lane. He was informed that they had "forgotten" about the manhole and somebody would be out to undertake repairs within 48 hours. It has since passed the 48 hour deadline and Cllr Twyman reported he would be chasing again.
9. Cllr Rees reported herself and Cllr Bradford had been to visit the owners of the Rose Inn regarding their request to hold a Classic Car Show on the Village Green to request additional information. Cllr Rees presented the owners with examples of information that would be required and the owners decided not to pursue getting permission at this time.
10. The Clerk was asked to chase for an update on when the drain clearance in the village will be undertaken.

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

City Councillor Stuart Walker

Cllr Walker reported that he, along with many other City Councillors, have been inundated with correspondence following the harrowing picture of the little dead boy on the beach fleeing Syria enquiring what is currently being done to help Syrian refugees. No decision has yet been made at City Council level but help is available nationally.

Cllr Walker also reported that during August Rydon Homes resubmitted an application to Canterbury City Council, slightly amended to offer the land originally designated for a doctor surgery to Littlebourne Parish Council to have what they want built and to dedicate a small parcel of land for recreational purposes. The deadline for comments has been extended by 21 days to this Friday 18 September 2015 due the planning notices not being displayed correctly.

In addition Cllr Walker reported that there has been an increase in flytipping across the district and encourages anybody who discovers dumped rubbish to report it to Canterbury City Council. Sometimes evidence is able to be located amongst the rubbish and this can assist investigations to find the people responsible and, in some cases, seek to prosecute.

County Councillor Michael Northey

Cllr Northey reported that he has spoken with Cabinet Member Matthew Balfour regarding Operation Stack personally. David Cameron requested himself at a COBRA meeting for the Manston lorry park option to be explored and used if necessary and, although it has not been used yet, police will be marshalling along the road to ensure lorries do not deviate and choose country roads. Highways England has been instructed to work out a system of two way flow traffic in both directions but has so far failed to do so. They have also been instructed to look into a large long-tern lorry park which KCC (Kent County Council) is also looking into.

Cllr Northey also reported on the topic of unaccompanied asylum seeking children, having spoken with Cabinet Member Peter Oakford. These children are KCC's legal responsibility with normal numbers approximately 240 at any one time. In March 2014 there were 218 children and a year later in March 2015 there were 368. Last week KCC had eight children below the age of 16 in its care with the numbers rising month on month since March. The total now stands at 740. This number is beyond KCC's resources, currently running at a deficit of £7,000,000, with not enough hostels to house them all. 90 children are costing £1,000 per week as they have had to be placed in private fostering agencies.

These children are mostly boys aged 15-17, but some as young as 13 have been placed in some Kent hostels, with 120 so far sent outside Kent to London and other areas at KCC's expense. Only 20 children have been accepted by other countries at their expense. Young girls are always kept safe and placed in foster care. 17 new social workers have been employed to cope with the increased demand with no sign of the numbers dropping. The Government have promised to fully reimburse costs but talks are still on going. The Cabinet Member has received some aggressive emails but in general public attitudes have changed since the picture of the little dead boy on the beach. Offers have since been made for accommodation, football coaching, English tuition and clothes.

Cllr Northey also reported on the new LED lighting system which is to be introduced in urban areas from January 2016 and will take approximately 14 months. Rural areas will be commenced shortly after this start date and will finish later. A public consultation is taking place from 21 September 2015 for 10 weeks asking members of the public if they want some hours at 70% power, 30% power or not on at all. Crime rate if anything falls when light savings have occurred. The new LED lights save a lot more energy, are a lot more environmentally friendly and can be controlled centrally by a switch so there is no need for manual setting. After eight years introduction costs will be paid and then there will be a saving of £5,000,000 a year.

PCSO Karl Shonhard

PCSO Shonhard provided a report to be given to the meeting in his absence covering the period from 22 July 2015 to 10 September 2015. There have been five crime report incidents in the area; four for Wickhambreaux and one in Stodmarsh. In Wickhambreaux there have been three common assaults, with the same offender for all three, between farm workers living on farm land. In Stodmarsh Nature Reserve car park there was a minor verbal altercation between a couple in a vehicle from out of the area.

In total there have been 18 calls for Wickhambreaux, Stodmarsh and Grove. In Wickhambreaux there have been seven calls (two of which related to the common assaults). Others of particular note include information regarding flytipping of asbestos where Serco were called out for collection, and an incidence of fraud where a computer was possible hacked, £150.00 missing and personal details taken.

In Stodmarsh there were three calls (one of which related to the altercation) and eight calls in Grove. Six of these calls were relating to a green Fiesta vehicle in a ditch on Grove Ferry Rad by the turning for Preston by the Boat House. Vehicle now has police tape around it and has been attended previously. A note was left on the vehicle on 21 August 2015 by the owner of the field stating he will remove the vehicle himself after 14 days. Attempts have been made to locate the owner of the vehicle since July but there has been no luck so far. Another call was made regarding males shouting and swearing on a boar on the River Stour when the engine stopped working. When the caller shone a torch in their direction they started shouting abusive language at him but no trace of males were found when a search was made.

PCSO Shonhard also reported on an incident that occurred in Adisham on 08 September 2015 which may be of use of the Parish. A male was seen going to door to door along Station Road attempting to sell items and was believed to have become aggressive when asked to leave at one point. The male was stopped by PCSO Lisa Williams who obtained details and advised the male to stop and leave. Male was attempting to sell cleaning products, had no ID and no peddler's license. The information has been put on an intelligence report and local Councillors and Neighbourhood Watch have been made aware by email. The male was tall, slim build, had a shaved head, stubble, with hazel green eyes and of mixed race. He was wearing a grey jumper and matching jogging bottoms with NIKE logo on them, two tone grey/red NIKE trainers and carrying a large red hold-all with a black strap with NIKE logo on. If the male is sited in the area, residents are encouraged to dial 101.

6. **HIGHWAYS**

(i) Cllr Twyman reported that there a number of very large pot holes along Grove Road that need filling in urgently. He reported he has informed Kent Highways but they will not be attending the road until Monday 05 October 2015, when the road will be shut for five days between 8am and 5pm. The road will be closed between the junctions with Stodmarsh Road (Wickhambreaux) and Grove Ferry Road.Cllr Twyman requested that the Clerk email Cllr Northey to investigate why it has taken so long to schedule works and why the largest pot holes, which can be categorised as an emergency, were not filled in within 48 hours of reporting.

(ii) Cllr Porter reported that there is a very large pot hole along Bekesbourne Lane which he has reported to Cllr Northey and Kent Highways. Since the initial reporting a cyclist has fallen off their bike and despite reporting this latest development, the pot hole has still not been repaired. Cllr Northey reported that he has received a response from Kent Highways regarding the pot hole and will forward any correspondence onto Cllr Porter.

(iii) Cllr Treacher reported that there is a substantial leak on Wickhambreaux bridge that has been steadily increasing in size for four weeks. He has reported the leak a number of times to Kent Highways and on each occasion has been assured that somebody would be called out to assess the problem but nobody has arrived. Cllr Twyman reported he had chased Kent Highways himself and was informed that because the mains water is spilling into the

river, it could be polluting the water therefore the leak is the Environment Agency's responsibility. Cllr Northey requested an email from the Parish Council to chase the matter further. It was also decided that the local press should be contacted in an attempt to get the leak resolved quicker. Cllr Porter agreed to contact the press on the Parish Council's behalf.

(iv) It was reported that the sign on Wickhambreaux Court Lane has been damaged by the tree surgeon carrying out works at Wickhambreaux Court. Mark Jones, whose company carried out the work, has agreed to replace/repair the sign.

(v) Cllr Wright reported that the flooding in The List is still not resolved. Cllr Northey agreed to chase for a response and asked Cllr Wright to re-send her last email explaining the situation and he will pass this onto Chris Maw to enquire why the camber of the road has not been repaired and why the Black Hole Dyke has not been cleared despite assurances it has.

(vi) Cllr Twyman reported that he and Cllr Northey had attended the last A257 meeting to brainstorm the inspection of junctions along the A257 and what improvements can be made. It was agreed that the Stodmarsh Residents Association will cover all junction from the Barracks to Fish Pool Bottom, Littlebourne Parish Council will cover the next stage to Shervill Lane, Ickham will cover to the casino garage then Wingham will cover up to Ash. After these assessments have been carried out, a meeting will be arranged with Kent Highways to discuss potential improvements that can be carried out.

(vii) Cllr Walker enquired whether the A257 group were planning on making a formal representation for the proposed extra junction on Littlebourne Road for the Barracks development which ends Friday 18 September 2015. Cllr Twyman reported he believed the group were aware of the consultation and the probability of a large increase in traffic along the Littlebourne Road.

(viii) The Clerk reported she had received a complaint from a resident regarding the latest cut of the mill bank footpath. The footpath has been cut rather narrow which has resulted in the vegetation becoming overgrown very quickly. In addition the cut has not been made close enough to the ground to remove all the stalks which are posing a trip hazard to any residents using the path. The Clerk was asked to pass the complaint onto Kent Highways before the September cut takes place.

7. **PLANNING**

CA//15/01664/LB – The Bell Bakery, The Street – The Parish Council has no objections to the alterations and reconfiguration of the first floor rear bathroom window.

CA//15/01680/FUL and CA//15/01681/LB – The Old Stone House, The Green – The Parish Council have no objections to the minor internal alterations, conversion of outbuilding (former workshop) to provide kitchen and dining accommodation and the new glazed extension linking the house and outbuilding.

The Red Lion, Stodmarsh – Nomination for inclusion as an asset of community value under the Localism Act 2011. The Parish Council has no objections to The Red Lion becoming an asset of community value. This would mean that in the future if the property comes up for sale, community organisations may have up to six months in which to raise the capital and bid to buy the asset.

Rydon application in Littlebourne

Following the last meeting the Clerk sent a letter to Littlebourne Parish Council on behalf of Wickhambreaux Parish Council, to offer their support in the objection of the application by Rydon for 87 new houses. Although the application lodged with Canterbury City Council at the time had already passed its consultation period, a letter was sent to the Chairman to offer support should the application come back in the future.

Rydon submitted another application in August with two minor amendments; one to offer the parcel of land that was originally designated for a doctor's surgery to Littlebourne Parish Council to choose what they wanted built for the village, and also to designate a small parcel of land for recreational purpose. The Clerk sent a letter to Canterbury City Council on 09 September 2015 in objection to the proposals

Cllr Walker reported he has spoken with Steve Davis, Senior Planning Officer at Canterbury City Council, to push for Southern Water to demonstrate that the sewage and water from the new proposed 87 houses will not have a detrimental impact on the current sewage and water system for the village. Steve Davis has reported back to Cllr Walker that Southern Water has not provided this information yet. Cllr Twyman reported that he has spoken to Paul Kent at Southern Water who has said he believes the capacity is there in the current system to take on the additional 87 houses.

Cllr Treacher reported he had spoken with Mike Gallagher, chairman to Littlebourne Parish Council, about the latest developments and it has put Littlebourne Parish Council in a very awkward position. If the Parish Council takes up the offer of the land and uses it for another community amenity, then they cannot oppose the 87 houses proposed as part of the rest of the application. Cllr Treacher reported the best way forward would be for Canterbury City Council to impose restrictions through the Section 106 agreement on the land to ensure it can only be used for community purposes and to ensure that the sewage system installed is adequate for the number of houses as well as adequate to not have any detrimental impact on the current sewage system for Littlebourne.

Cllr Walker reported that this site has been marked as a 'windfall site' in the proposed Local Plan to bolster the numbers of houses being built. Currently the number of houses in the Local Plan is currently 800 short. Cllr Wright and Cllr Porter agreed to look into planning matters to put the Parish Council in a better situation for planning matters in the future when the Local Plan is passed.

Chislet Wind Farm
The Clerk reported after the last meeting she sent a letter to the Clerk at St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre Parish Council in support of their objection to the proposed new Chislet wind farm. Although there has been no formal application submitted, the letter offered any additional support to the Parish Council in opposing a formal application. The Clerk also sent a letter to Canterbury City Council to be lodged with the Planning Department in advance of any formal application and also to the local MP in the area.

St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre Parish Council undertook a survey in their Parish, delivering a questionnaire to every household, asking whether they supported or objected to the proposals. The results were made public at their September meeting where it was revealed that 66 forms were returned with 122 residents submitting an opinion (15% of the electorate). Of those 76 (62%) were from St Nicholas-at-Wade and 46 (38%) were from Sarre. Five (4%) were in favour of the wind farm and 117 (96%) objected to the wind farm.

Cllr Treacher reported that now the Government have withdrawn subsidies for wind farms installed on land, potentially no official application will be lodged due to lack of financial incentives. However should an official application be lodged, the Parish Council will support St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre Parish Council in their opposition.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned to allow a resident to address the Parish Council.

The resident requested that the Parish Council chase the Environment Agency for progress on two outstanding floor protection works, agreed by the Environment Agency in April 2014.

The first outstanding protection works is the installation of a sluice gate at White Bridge. Following the raising of the south bank of the Little Stour in 2014 to prevent overflowing onto the road at peak water volume, it was agreed to install the sluice gate so when the river reaches high volumes, the water can be directed along the Black Hole Dyke.

The second outstanding protection works is the placement of clay bags on the low areas of the north bank of the Little Stour in Seaton Meadow which were breached in January 2014. The consequence of the breach was the flooding of Seaton Road and potential; flooding of properties in The Street. The resident was asked to survey the low areas with Simon Beale and his engineer from the Environment Agency in July 2014. At this meeting it was agreed to install clay bags to help prevent further breaches in the future. The resident chased for this to be carried out in Autumn 2014 and again Spring 2015. Mr Beale explained he was trying to coordinate the work with another Environment Agency project to narrow the river later in 2015 which unfortunately did not happen.

Cllr Twyman explained he was aware of the sluice outstanding works and has been putting pressure on the Environment Agency for many months. The funding is in place for the works and two meeting have been arranged on site with contractors to carry out the work but the Environment Agency has not attended so the contractors have had to leave again. A further site meeting has been arranged and Cllr Twyman promised to put additional pressure on the Environment Agency to make sure they attend. Cllr Twyman requested that the resident put these two points in written form to take to the next Environment Agency meeting and put pressure on the Environment Agency on his behalf.

8. **FENCE QUOTATIONS FOR PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Rees reported that the Playing Field Committee had been awarded £800.00 from the Four Villages and Post Office Fund towards the cost of new fencing. So far two quotations have been received but both have amounted to over £800.00. The Parish Council agreed to pay the difference in cost for the new stretch of fencing on the condition that three quotations are presented at the next meeting for consideration.

9. **ROSPA REPORT**

Cllr Rees reported that the RoSPA report has been received for the Playing Field and has come as 'high risk'. The item that has come back as high risk is the larger children swings – two of the legs are rotting in places and has been deemed 'unsafe'. The swings are in no immediate danger of collapsing and Cllr Rees reported that measures will be put in place to make the swings safe to use until the Playing Field Committee is in a position to purchase new play equipment. The cost of replacing both legs would amount to approximately £2000.00, a cost that was agreed to be a waste of money when fundraising for new equipment. If the swings were to become unsafe then the swings will be removed to prevent any accidents. Items that have been flagged up as low to medium risk Cllr Rees reported will be dealt with shortly.

Cllr Treacher reported that on the New Councillor Course he attended, it was mentioned that the Parish Council could take out a Public Body Loan, at a very low interest rate, for community projects. This could potentially be an option for helping cover the costs of the new play equipment. Cllr Rees agreed to look into this possibility along with other fundraising options.

10. **RELOCATION OF ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION**

Cllr Porter presented the Parish Council with a map showing the proposed relocation of the electricity sub-station on the land at Wickhambreaux Watermill. A 'H' pole will be located in the field between Ickham and Wickhambreaux where a single pole is already located at present, but between the poles and up above the ground will be a new transformer. From the field the cables will travel underground through to Spicers Plane and then under the road through the

village up to the start of Grove Road. The present transformer will be removed from a garage in The Mill and further work will be carried out at The List concerning the overhead cable feeding the houses. UK Energy Networks have requested to meet with the village once the route is confirmed to explain the route in more detail. Cllr Porter agreed to confirm that a presentation would be much appreciated.

11. **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSED KENT ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**
The Parish Council decided not to comment on the proposals.

12. **CLLRS' REPORTS**

Tree Warden – Cllr Wright reported that she had a meeting with Cllr Lodge and Rees on the Playing Field to access the trees along the fence line. There are a number of ash and sycamore samplings pressing on the new stretch of fencing that need to be felled to ensure no damage to the fencing in the future. Out of the trees along the fence line, 11 meet the requirements for notifying Canterbury City Council. The Parish Council agreed for Cllr Wright to notify Canterbury City Council of the intention to feel 11 saplings on behalf of the Parish Council and to have the stumps ground out.

Cllr Wright also requested the Parish Council reconsider a quotation from Mark Jones for surveying trees in the village for insurance purposes. At the time of the original quotation, a number of trees were felled or had remedial work carried out so it was decided not to proceed with a survey. The Parish Council agreed that it would be beneficial to organise the survey for insurance purposes.

Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Porter reported that Vivian Spratt in Littlebourne enquired whether it would be possible to record incidences that occur in Littlebourne on the message board. People who commit these incidents move around and, as Wickhambreaux Parish is so close, it was agreed that it would beneficial to take note of incidents reported in neighbouring parishes.

KALC – Cllr Lodge reported that she had attending the AGM held on Tuesday 21 July 2015 with guest speak Simon Cook, new leader of Canterbury City Council. Simon Cook's new policy is to ensure that he listens more to others and increase dialogue with community groups, especially Parish Councils. He is also aiming to address a number of issues with the Planning Department and endeavour to respond to all emails and letters.

Cllr Lodge reported she enquired why villages have to raise their own funds to pay for play equipment when urban areas have recreation grounds paid for them. Simon Cook responded that the play equipment has been paid for by developers, not by the Council. Cllr Lodge also enquired why Jon Lambourne was made redundant and his position not filled. Simon Cook responding that it was not evident at the time how important notifications of tree works were for community groups such as Parish Councils and agreed to address the lack of notifications.

Village Hall – Cllr Lodge reported that the redecorating of the Village Hall has been a success. John Joice carried out a lot of cleaning and washing of the walls before Terry Bates proceed to carry out the painting. Cllr Lodge reported that Tracy Harris will be washing the red stage curtains and the blue ones in position at the moment will be taken down and steam cleaned. The Parish Council wished to thank John Joice and all the volunteers for their efforts in creating a fantastic new decorated Village Hall.

Playing Fields – Cllr Rees reported that a bank account has been officially set up for the Playing Field Committee and £50.00 compensation has been awarded for the delay and mishandling of the paperwork.

Cllr Rees also reported that the Sumac on the Playing Field has started to grow back rather vigorously. Cllrs Rees and Lodge cleared the majority of the Sumac growth yesterday with more clearing work still remaining. Bags used to clean up the Sumac are still on the Playing Field but will be removed once all the growth has been cleared. Spraying of the Sumac growth will need to take place next Spring to keep the growth under control. Cllr Rees reported she is currently obtaining quotations for the work to be carried out.

Once the tree notifications have been made to remove the 11 saplings, Cllr Rees reported that a small working party of volunteers will be formed to carry out the work. A quotation of £240.00 plus VAT was presented to the Parish Council to cover the cost of grinding all the stumps left behind and this was agreed by the Parish Council to be a good investment.

Cllr Rees reported that permission has been given for a bouncy castle on the Playing Field tomorrow for a birthday party. In addition signs have now been installed on the gate asking people to be more considerate with parking as access is required to mow the grass.

Cllr Rees reported that a meeting with be organised with herself, Mr Perkins and the fencing company to discuss the exact line the fencing will be built on before any work is undertaken. In addition the next Bag to School collection will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2015 and has been advertised in Church and Village. A logo for the Playing Field Committee is currently in the early design stages which will be published on their website and be included on any correspondence sent to residents.

Cllr Rees reported that she is currently in the process of obtaining quotations to purchase a noticeboard for the Playing Field to keep residents informed of the progress of the Committee and any upcoming events. The quotations will be considered by the Parish Council at the next meeting. Cllr Rees also reported that £10,000 has been applied for from Awards for All towards the cost of the new play equipment.

Flood Protection – The Emergency Plan for the Parish is due for renewal in November 2015 and it was agreed a meeting should be organised for the Emergency Group members to ensure all the information is correct and up to date. Cllr Bradford reported that the Environment Agency have requested the opportunity to address the Emergency Group at their next meeting. It was agreed that a meeting date will be formalised at the next Parish Council meeting.

13. **FINANCE**

The expenditure totalling £599.34 was authorised, made up of:

- KALC – Councillor Induction Course 21 July 2015 - £25.00
- Stripy Lawns – Mowing recreation ground 18 July and 01 August 2015 - £70.00
- Stripy Lawns – Mowing recreation ground 15 and 29 August 2015 - £70.00
- RoSPA – Play area inspection - £81.60
- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk salary August 2015 - £144.57
- HMRC – Employee and PAYE August 2015 - £31.80
- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk salary September 2015 - £144.77
- HMRC – Employee and PAYE September 2015 - £31.60

The Parish Council discussed what level of funding will most likely be required for the financial year 2016-2017 and decided on £10,551.49, broken down into:

Grounds Maintenance - £1200.00
Grass Cutting - £700.00
Trees - £1000.00
Play Equipment - £2000.00
ROSPA - £81.60

Insurance - £569.89
Repair of Fencing - £5000.00

14. **CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**
None received not on agenda

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
(i) It was agreed to discuss the possible purchase of a defibrillator at the next meeting

The meeting closed at 10:00pm

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....