WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2017

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

Miss Chenice Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

5 Members of the Public

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllr Twyman welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that it was the Parish Council's wish for him to continue in the role of Chairman until Canterbury City Council resolve the complaint concerning Cllr Treacher.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2017**
The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with some minor amendments under Planning.

4. **INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING**
4(10,iv) Cllr Twyman reported Kent County Council are not willing to take the Nailbourne Flood Group's complaint regarding the Joint Transportation Board any further. Cllr Twyman expressed the group's disappointment at the decision and has contacted County Cllr Northey to appeal the decision.
4(14) The Clerk reported that Chris Maw at Kent Highways is of the opinion that the planters on the corner of Spicers Place are not "really appropriate to have on the highway". He has suggested that the Parish Council speak with residents to have the planters removed and indicated there may be scope for the parish to apply for a licence to cultivate the corner instead, as long as any work did not affect the visibility in/out of the junction. Cllr Bradford agreed to investigate who obtained the planters and relay the advice received.
9) The Clerk reported she sent a letter to Mrs Campling following discussions at the last meeting on ways to support the School. Mrs Campling responded via email and said the contents of the letter would require consultation with staff, PTA and governors before a full response can be made, apologising this was unlikely to be before the end of term.
11) Cllr Twyman reported that Liz Jones wished to thank the Parish Council for its letter thanking her for her volunteer services cutting the grass on the village green, saying she was happy to have assisted the village in this way.
12 (Trees) Cllr Wright reported that the hawthorn hedge belonging to The Stone House has not been cut back but, on inspection, it was decided that the hedge was not overhanging the footpath sufficiently to warrant discussions with the owners.
12 (Village Greens) Cllr Bradford reported that Mat Mackay has replaced the damaged post on the main path outside the Church and is waiting on an invoice to pass on to the Parish Council for payment. Cllr Bradford agreed to paint the post over the summer.
Cllr Rees reported that the replacement inner board for the noticeboard will be fitted shortly along with a general tidy up and sand down of the noticeboard.

Cllr Twyman wished to thank Cllr Treacher for donating his flower pots for the Open Gardens Event on Sunday 25 June 2017.
14) The Clerk reported she had sent off the Parish Council's nomination for the Lord Mayor's Award and has received notification of receipt from Canterbury City Council who will be making a decision in August.

ADJOURNMENT
Mrs Lisa Crosbie and a number of FOWS (Friends of Wickhambreaux School) wished to address the Parish Council on behalf of the School. Mrs Crosbie reported on behalf of Mrs Campling that Mrs Campling felt there were some inaccuracies in the Parish Council minutes dated 16 May 2017 under "Update on Relations with the School". As no formal minutes were taken of the meeting, Mrs Campling felt that she should have been consulted on the minutes before they were published to agree that a true account of the meeting was recorded and would like to have another informal meeting. Cllr Twyman agreed to contact Mrs Campling to arrange a meeting to discuss the minutes.

Mrs Crosbie wished to clarify why the decision of changing the date for the School summer fair was deferred for decision at Parish Council level rather than Playing Field Committee level, as three reasons were given via email. The Clerk reported that initially the reason the decision was deferred was because of the current regrettable situation with the School and that a member of the Playing Field Committee requested the decision be deferred. As a complaint from two residents was subsequently received following the publication of the agenda, the decision needed to be made at the Parish Council meeting to allow the residents to speak.

Mrs Crosbie also wished to clarify why the School had not personally apologised to the residents who complained following the summer fair last year. The School were only made aware of one complaint, reported after the event had taken place, by Cllr Rees and Cllr Lodge who said that the Playing Field Committee would deal with the complaint. Had the complaint come directly to the School, Mrs Crosbie assured the Parish Council that this would have been resolved swiftly and an apology made directly. Mrs Crosbie thanked Cllr Rees for her help selling raffle tickets at the summer fair last year and enquired why Cllr Rees had not approached the School to inform them of the complaint on the day. Cllr Rees reported that she was not made aware of the complaint until after the event.

Mrs Crosbie raised that the Classic Car Show event had received a complaint, albeit one regarding traffic rather than noise, but it seemed a complaint regarding noise was upheld but not one against traffic when considering future events on a Sunday. The nature of this School event with entertainment and children is that it is going to be noisy but it is held only once a year. Mrs Crosbie confirmed that the main reason for wanting to change the event to a Sunday was historically the summer fair has raised more money on a Sunday compared to a Saturday (£1,970 in 2013 on a Saturday, £2,815 in 2014 on a Saturday, £3,070 in 2015 on a Sunday despite poor weather, and £3,469 in 2016 on a Sunday) plus more volunteers tend to be available to assist on a Sunday. The intention of moving the date was honourable, despite the current differences between the School and the Parish Council, to raise money for the children.

One member of the public, a relative of the Montgomery family, wished to express her disappointment that the summer fair is being held in Ickham this year rather than in Wickhambreaux. The Parish Council echoed that sentiment and expressed their hope that the current relationship between the Parish Council and the School improve.

Cllr Rees made the suggestion that the best way forward would be for a representative from the School to attend Parish Council meetings, not every meeting as the Parish Council appreciate that it would be difficult due to other commitments, but meetings that have a topic which would be of interest to the School, a representative to offer another opinion would be appreciated. Mrs Crosbie agreed that this would be beneficial but could not guarantee attendance if the meetings clashed

with other commitments. The Clerk agreed to send agendas to Mrs Campling or another representative from the School if a topic is up for discussion which may be of interest.

Cllr Wright suggested that, if the School thought it would be beneficial, to have a representative from the Parish Council attend some School meetings if topics being raised are of an interest to the parish as a whole, in addition to a representative from the School attending Parish Council meetings if necessary. Mrs Crosbie agreed this was a good idea and said she would raise this with Mrs Campling.

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

6. **HIGHWAYS**
(i) Cllr Twyman reported that he and Cllr Treacher had been in contact with Barry Sycamore from UK Power Networks who has confirmed works to connect the substation at Quaives Farm to Grove Road is now complete. The road will need to be closed again for a half a day to carry out some excavation work to make the final connections but the date for this has not been set. Works will also need to be carried out to the bridge but the connection between the bridge and Spicers Place is being kept in abeyance at the present time as UK Power Networks has not decided on the best way to make the connection.
Mrs Crosbie said the School would be happy to put in place alternative pick up and drop off arrangements with parents, should the road need to be closed during term time, similar to the arrangement when tree works were carried out on the village green.
(ii) Grove Road between Grove Ferry Road and Stodmarsh Road is due to be closed for three days from Tuesday 15 August 2017 for road resurfacing works.
(iii) Cllr Lodge reported that a width restriction sign has been knocked to the ground at the junction with Grove Road and Green Lane, opposite Frognal Farm. The Clerk was asked to report the sign to Kent Highways.
(iv) Cllr Lodge reported that KALC had sent round information regarding the fire hydrant initiative project following a meeting at Canterbury Fire Station on 02 February 2017, detailing the locations of fire hydrants in the village. Cllr Lodge agreed to carry out a visual inspection of the fire hydrants.
(v) Cllr Lodge reported that a number of residents have approached her concerned that hedges have been cut around Mr Kelsey's fields during bird nesting season. The Conservation Society has sent him a letter advising that hedges should not be cut until the end of August and Cllr Lodge has contacted organisations, including DEFRA and RSPB, who have confirmed the advice but cannot take the matter further. Under the Wildlife and Country Act, to take further action an active nest needs to be found in a hedge, the owner informed and if the hedge is subsequently cut, then the Police can be informed. Cllr Twyman agreed to have a talk with Mr Kelsey regarding the matter.
(vi) Cllr Lodge reported that the road resurfacing at Grove Ferry Bridge has been carried out and no new pot holes have emerged to date.
(vii) Cllr Twyman reported that the "no parking" sign on the bridge has gone missing and that Mr David Burton would be replacing it.

7. **PLANNING**
Cllr Wright reported on the following planning applications:

CA//17/00369/FUL and CA//17/00370/LB – Undertrees Farm Barn, Under Trees Farm, Undertrees Farm Road, Stodmarsh
Canterbury City Council has refused the application to convert an existing barn to residential on the grounds that the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the barn is capable of conversion without substantial rebuilding, nor that the proposed use is the optimum viable use being away from any services or public transport facilities. Concerns were also raised at the marketing study which Canterbury City Council felt was inconclusive.

CA/17/0116/FUL – Land west of Newborn Farm
Canterbury City Council has refused the application for the erection of two log cabins near the fishing lakes to be used as holiday lets on the grounds that the proposal would result in an unsustainable form of development in a rural location which would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the rural environment. Canterbury City Council also felt that insufficient information had been submitted with regards to the ecological impact and the flood risk assessment did not adequately demonstrate that the development could not be located within an area or alternative site with a lower probability of flooding.

CA/17/01093/FUL – Quaives Farm, Grove Road
Canterbury City Council has granted the revised retrospective application for replacement section of perimeter fence.

CA/17/01149/FUL and CA/17/01150/LB – The Rose Inn, The Green
Canterbury City Council has refused the application for a proposed single storey rear extension housing new toilets, with the existing toilets converted to a new dining area, on the grounds that the scale, massing and height of the proposed extension would result in an addition that is overbearing to the host building and would detract from its special architectural interest, in particular by obscuring the catslide roof. Canterbury City Council also feel that a number of alterations have already been carried out to the rear of the building, which have resulted in a cluttered elevation, and the introduction of a larger structure will further degrade the historic significance of the listed structure.

CA//17/01089/FUL – Church Farm House, Lampen Wall
Cllr Wright reported that she visited the property to ascertain whether the proposed replacement windows at the front of the property were to be timber or uvpc. The owners of the property confirmed that the windows to the front of the property are to be replaced with timber and the ones to the rear in upvc.

8. **MANAGEMENT OF PLANTERS ON THE BRIDGE**
Cllr Treacher commented that the planters have been largely successful in their primary aim of preventing cars parking on the bridge, although cars are now parking in the road further down to either side. The planters are in need of sprucing up as they were installed some years ago. Cllr Twyman agreed that the planters were important, particularly for school children and members of the public to walk along the bridge safely.

Cllr Bradford proposed that a letter be sent to the Garden Society to enquire whether they would be interested in taking on the management of the planters on the bridge, with all expenses paid by the Parish Council. The Parish Council unanimously agreed with this suggestion and the Clerk agreed to send the letter.

9. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**
Canterbury City Council is preparing to carry out a Community Governance Review which will look at whether current parish council arrangements are the most efficient for the communities they serve. The review will look at the possibility of changing parish boundaries, changing the number of parish councillors or merging councils, and abolishing or creating new parish or town councils.

Cllr Treacher and the Clerk attended a meeting on 26 June 2017 where more information was provided (please see Appendix I for detailed minutes of this meeting and timescales). Cllr Treacher suggested that the Parish Council request a change in the parish boundary to include the Playing Field which, although owned by the Parish Council, falls under Ickham.

Cllr Wright reported that Canterbury City Council designated the Playing Field under Wickhambreaux for the Rural Settlement Study, which put Wickhambreaux in a higher band for

potential housing even though it is not in the parish boundary. Despite a meeting at Canterbury City Council to discuss this point, Canterbury City Council stood by its decision to include the Playing Field under Wickhambreaux. Cllr Lodge agreed to add the suggestion to the next Playing Field Committee meeting for discussion.

Cllr Lodge enquired whether the review would cover changing parish speed limits. Cllr Treacher confirmed that the review does not include changing speed limits but an option already exists that if the Parish Council would like to apply to Kent County Council to amend the speed limits, then Canterbury City Council can be asked to support the request.

A member of the public enquired whether changes could be forced upon the Parish Council, especially if the Parish Council chose not to participate. Cllr Treacher responded that yes potentially boundary changes could be forced on the parish and that a response needs to be sent to Canterbury City Council even if the Parish Council are happy with the current arrangements. The devolution of services from Canterbury City Council to parishes will not be compulsory. Cllr Treacher asked councillors to consider their views to be put to Canterbury City Council in the next phase of the consultation expected to run from the end of July to early October 2017.

10. **POSSIBLE CHANGE IN START TO PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Cllr Bradford proposed that parish council meetings start at 7pm rather than 7.30pm as meetings are not currently finishing until around 10pm, compared to other local parishes who start at 7pm and finish around 9.30pm.

Cllr Wright and Cllr Rees reported that they would be able to attend an earlier meeting but Cllr Twyman and Cllr Holland reported that it would be difficult to ensure they arrived in time due to work commitments. Cllr Twyman reported that the other committee meetings he attends start at 7.30pm or 8pm. The Clerk reported that as she is moving house before the next meeting so it is difficult to tell whether attending an earlier meeting would be possible due to work commitments.

Cllr Treacher suggested that a decision be deferred to the September meeting where the Clerk will know whether an earlier meeting time will be possible. If not, Cllr Treacher suggested that the Parish Council look at ways in which to make meetings more efficient, for example having minutes checked and any amendments made ready for approval before the meeting starts. The Parish Council agreed with this suggestion.

11. **ANNUAL PLAY EQUIPMENT PROVIDER**

The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations from annual play equipment servicing providers following the errors in last year's RoSPA report for consideration. The following quotations were received (all prices include VAT):
Quote A - £84.00
Quote B - £54.00 for unaccompanied and £85.20 for accompanied
Quote C - £114.00

The Clerk had previously distributed sample copies of a report from each of the companies for consideration. Cllr Rees and Cllr Lodge, as representatives on the Playing Field Committee, recommended Quote A as they produced the most thorough report compared to the other companies. The Parish Council decided to proceed with Quote A from RoSPA and the Clerk was asked to book in an inspection.

12. **CLLRS' REPORTS**

Tree Representative

White House, The Green

The Parish Council has no objection to reducing of a beech tree in the rear garden by 20% and crown thin by 15%.

Cllr Wright requested that a cheque be made out to About Trees Ltd for the sum of £1435.50 to cover the various tree work due to be completed by the end of July 2017. Works to the ash tree outside the Village Hall will be carried out on 26 July 2017 once the School have broken up for the summer holidays.

Cllr Wright reported that she will be away for the majority of August and requested that the three saplings in the village be monitored for watering. Cllr Bradford agreed to monitor the saplings and water as necessary.

Cllr Wright also confirmed that a decision on the type of replacement tree on the Village Green will be decided in the autumn.

Law and Order

Cllr Lodge reported that an anonymous report of a lone male in the Playing Field was received through Mr Porter. Cllr Lodge reported she contacted the School to inform them, contacted parents along The Street whose children use the Playing Field, and contacted PCSO Williams who advised anybody who sees an individual acting suspiciously and is concerned about their behaviour to call 101.

Cllr Lodge also reported that complaints have been received regarding Antisocial Behaviour in the Playing Field, in particular an incident involving a number of eastern European youths using the zip wire at night. Cllr Lodge reported she has requested PCSO Williams attend the Playing Field AGM tomorrow evening (18 July 2017).

KALC

Cllr Treacher reported that the next KALC meeting is tomorrow night (18 July 2017) where the Community Governance Review is expected to be discussed.

Village Hall Committee

Cllr Lodge reported that the Four Villages Post Office and Shop have awarded £495.00 towards the cost of a new noticeboard for the Village Hall.

Cllr Lodge also reported that Russ Jordan, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, has met with Ann Campling at the School to discuss ways in which the Village Hall can further support the School. The meeting was very successful and full report will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Treacher reported that David Pierce is arranging for wifi to be installed in the Village Hall which will be paid as a direct debit from the Parish Council's current account. Mrs Crosbie reported that, although the idea that the School could benefit from wifi in the Village Hall is great, unfortunately the School has a lock down policy in place by EiS to restrict what sites children and staff can access on the School site. If the School were to use the internet at the Village Hall, they would have to have the same restrictions imposed. Mr Pierce agreed to look into the matter in more detail.

Playing Field Committee

Cllr Rees reported that the two circular wooden picnic benches have been ordered, assembled and are currently chained to a tree in her front garden. The original price of these was £330 when the grant from the Four Villages Post Office and Shop Association was applied for,

however when the Committee went to order them, the price had increased to £350. Cllr Rees telephoned the company and they agreed to honour the lower price. Two were purchased, one being paid for from some of the funds raised from the classic car show.

The ground spikes and combination padlocks have arrived and once security bolts have been obtained, the picnic benches will be placed in the playing field, hopefully this week. Cllr Lodge and Cllr Rees have undertaken a site survey and decided upon their locations. The good thing about securing them with combination padlocks is they are easier to move for maintenance, or just re locating them in the future. Cllr Rees requested that reimbursement of the cost of security fixings be added to the agenda in September.

On Thursday 06 July 2017, Cllr Lodge and Cllr Rees had a site survey at the nature area, commencing the planning stage and this will be discussed further at the Playing Field Committee AGM tomorrow (Tuesday 18 July 2017) at 19.30 in the village hall. Cllr Rees confirmed that the agenda was displayed for 21 days as required.

The current bank balance is £2,461.72.

Flood Protection
A member of the public reported that a Terrapin turtle has taken up residence underneath the bridge which is harmful to the native wildlife. Cllr Bradford agreed to arrange for its removal.

13. **FINANCE**
The expenditure totalling £1930.71 was authorised, made up of:

- Chenice Sparkes – Reimbursement for ink cartridges - £28.00
- Chenice Sparkes – Reimbursement for posting annual return - £6.45
- Majestic Garden Care – Playing Field maintenance - £40.00
- Chenice Sparkes – Clerk Salary July 2017 - £220.36
- HMRC – Employee and PAYE July 2017 - £50.40
- Inside Out Services – Tree works to rear of Village Hall - £150.00
- About Trees Ltd – Various tree works in parish - £1435.50

14. **CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

(i) SLCC July 2017 magazine has been received.
(ii) Clerks and Councils Direct July 2017 magazine has been received.
(iii) The Clerk reported that an email was received from a resident disappointed in the Parish Council's decision to not grant the change in date of the School summer fair. The resident felt that, as the summer fair is a once yearly event in support of the local School, a degree of tolerance on the part of local residents should be expected and that this was a missed opportunity to rebuild bridges with the School following the recent planning application. The Clerk responded to the email and assured the resident that it was the Parish Council's intention to improve relations with the School.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) Cllr Lodge reported that the School invited local residents to an end of term event on Friday 14 July where approximately 100-150 people attended. Food and drink was provided and the school children performed with may-pole dancing, singing and dancing. During the course of the event, a massive £800.00 was raised for the School. Mrs Crosbie wished to say that the summer fair is being held on 17 September 2017 in Ickham and all residents of Wickhambreaux were welcome to attend. Mrs Crosbie reported that FOWS want to involve the local community and local farming community in the event and that assistance on the day would be much appreciated.
(ii) A member of the public reported that an incident occurred two weeks ago which unfortunately resulted in the Little Stour being polluted. The Environment Agency

requested permission from local residents in charge of sluices if they could release some water as the works to the new transformer site got underway. Permission was given but the local contractor chose to dispense water from another river in Ickham into the Little Stour which has resulted in the death of a large number of eels and fish. The Environment Agency were informed and they will be issuing a warning notice to the contractor responsible.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....