

**WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2023 AT
WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL, THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAUX, CT3 1RJ**

Present: Parish Cllr Peter Collinson
Parish Cllr Caroline Rees
Parish Cllr Faith Wright
Parish Cllr Mark Wrightson
Parish Cllr Martin Twyman
Parish Cllr Robin Treacher

Mrs Chenice Howard-Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

3 Members of the Public

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from City Cllr Lee Castle (Work Commitments) and County Cllr Mike Sole (Work Commitments).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wright declared an interest in planning application CA/23/01218 as an immediate neighbour. Cllr McRobbie declared an interest in planning application CA/23/01218 as an immediate neighbour.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2023

All councillors voted in favour that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman duly signed them.

4. INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING

4(7) – Cllr Wright reported that there appears to have been no obvious clearance undertaken to date at Land to the West of Grove Road. Cllr Wright has contacted the Environment Agency for further investigation and comment.

9 – The Clerk confirmed the Annual Return has been submitted to Mazars LLP.

10 – Cllr Rees confirmed she has reached out to the landowner of the strip of land between Seaton Road and the Frank Montgomery Playing Field, who has expressed a continued interest in the easement and will respond in full in due course.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Mike Sole

As the CCC Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Sole is busier than ever, but is determined not to reduce his level of engagement in the local area, getting out and about, getting things done and making a difference.

There continues to be issues with bin collections in a few regular rural areas like Bishopsbourne. Cllr Sole is following these up, in particular bins not being replaced in the right places and left causing obstructions.

In Kingston, Cllr Sole met with a KCC tree officer to discuss what funding options may be available for tree planting. Cllr Sole also met with KCC Highways officers and Lower Hardres Parish Council to discuss highway improvements, in particular traffic speeds. There should be additional 30mph road painted roundels in Bridge Road soon, and other measures are being investigated. Cllr Sole is also looking into speed limits along The Downs between Chartham and Stone Street.

At the KCC Growth, Economic Development & Communities Committee, Cllr Sole spoke against the cuts in Community Wardens. He also attended the AGMs of Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service, and also Canterbury Business Improvement District (BID).

Cllr Sole presented the budget outturn report at CCC's Scrutiny Committee and shared his concerns about the current financial position. He also attended the Cabinet meeting and the Overview Committee, where it was agreed to move forward with another Levelling Up Fund bid for Herne Bay, following the successful bid for Canterbury. Cllr Sole will be closely monitoring these projects.

Other issues dealt with during the month included road signs, grass cutting, drainage, council housing, planning, potholes, water leaks, garden waste stickers and parking enforcement.

Cllr Sole also met up with the Community Police Officers who cover Canterbury South to discuss areas of concern, some of which have already been actioned.

City Cllr Lee Castle

Since coming back from a family holiday, Cllr Castle has been working through old or outstanding issues within the ward. In Wickhambreaux he has been dealing with planning enforcement and new planning applications, in Bramling discussions regarding the rules and regulations for events licensing, and enforcement issues in Adisham and Patrixbourne. Cllr Castle has been working hard to build better communication links between CCC Planning, residents and parish councils.

Cllr Castle has also been helping social housing tenants with housing issues and, although the process can sometimes be slow, the officers and housing staff are working hard to help resolve all the problems. Bin related issues have also been prominent this month. Cllr Castle encouraged residents to report missed collections online and send him the reference number to follow up.

Another concern raised has been footpaths and overgrown verges. These are overdue in lots of areas, mainly caused by quicker growth due to the recent warm and wet weather. If an area is dangerous or causing an obstruction, please report on KCC and CCC websites. The maintenance teams are working hard to get the backlog cleared as quickly as possible.

Cllr Castle took part in two Speedwatch sessions in Littlebourne, and Ickham and Wickhambreaux Parish Councils are well underway establishing a joint group. Cllr Castle put out a call for volunteers in Adisham and Bokesbourne with Patrixbourne, which received a great response and it is hoped that groups will be established in these areas soon.

Cllr Castle also welcomed the two new Community Police Officers who cover Canterbury South, who have been busy door knocking, issuing speeding fines and dealing with a variety of issues. Please do report any issues, however small, as unreported events cannot be dealt with.

Cllr Castle attended Wickhambreaux and Bokesbourne with Patrixbourne parish council meetings in June, and will be attending Ickham, Littlebourne and Adisham parish council meetings in July. Cllr Castle's training has continued in earnest with planning, licensing, finance and various other informative sessions, which have been run for new councillors by the executive team within CCC.

Neighbourhood Watch

The theft of diesel, battery and agricultural tools occurred in Grove Road, Wickhambreaux, during the first week of July. A lock and irrigator were damaged during the theft.

A road safety operation supported by Kent Police resulted in 353 motorists and passengers being reported for not wearing their seatbelt.

Nine people were also targeted for failing to ensure a child was suitably restrained during the two-week national campaign that ran from 12 to 25 June 2023. Anyone not wearing a seatbelt risks an on-the-spot fine of £100.00 which can rise to £500.00 if prosecuted.

The big news from Kent Police this month is the launch of the new neighbourhood policing model, which will see the return of dedicated beat officers for each of the Council Wards throughout the district. The long-term aim will be provisions for officers to cover just one ward, but until full establishment and recruitment is achieved, there will be a need for some constables to cover several districts. The new model will utilise the 'My Community Voice' messaging system to assist officers in communicating with the public in their area. The police have up-to-date lists of NHW coordinators across the CCC district, so hopefully in time they will be able to maintain more regular contact with NHW (Neighbourhood Watch) schemes within their respective areas.

Summer burglary advice:

- Lock doors and windows at night and during the day when you're not in the vicinity (even if you are just popping upstairs for something)
- Lock your back doors and windows when you answer the front door. Some burglars use distraction techniques.
- Consider fitting extra security measures such as spy holes, door chains, door locks and intruder alarms.
- Install CCTV
- Mark your valuables and register them online at www.immobilise.com so that recovered items can be returned
- Keep gates, boundaries and sheds secure
- Lock away bikes, tools and garden items that could be used to break into your home
- Don't leave spare keys hidden outside under pots or in garages
- Think before posting holiday photos on social media and ask neighbours to keep an eye out and perhaps encourage them to park on your drive

6. HIGHWAYS

(i) A257 Update

Cllr Twyman reported that the A257 Group met on Saturday 22 July 2023. There were no specific items of note.

(ii) Highways Improvement Plan

The current Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) was reviewed and it was agreed to add resurfacing of Burnt House Hill in Stodmarsh to the Plan. The Clerk agreed to send a revised version to the KCC HIP team for consideration.

Cllr Twyman advised that Burnt House Hill was closed from 26 June to 16 July 2023 by KCC to enable carriageway repairs to be undertaken. Cllr Twyman understands a claim was submitted by a member of the public to KCC for damage to their vehicle engine caused by the poor road conditions, which prompted the closure. However, no resurfacing appears to have been undertaken to date and signage has been repeatedly removed.

The Clerk also agreed to follow with KCC on resurfacing of passing points on rural lanes and replacement railings on the white bridge in Wickhambreaux, both of which have been raised as part of the HIP but KCC advised should be dealt with separately.

General Highways Matters

The Clerk reported she received an email from a resident chasing for an update following submission of an online fault to KCC. The fault related to pavements and kerb stones becoming overgrown with weeds and mud. The Clerk agreed to follow up with Cllr Sole. The resident also asked whether street cleaning could be undertaken by CCC. The Clerk agreed to follow up with Cllr Castle.

The Clerk reported a resident has been in contact to advise that drain clearance works in The Street, which should have been undertaken by CCC on 18 July 2023 following thatching works at a nearby property, was not carried out. The Clerk agreed to follow up with CCC for a revised date, and to stress the importance of advance notice due to parked vehicles.

Cllr Collinson reported that 'The List' road sign on the corner of The Street and The List fell off its rotten backing board. A number of residents have expressed a view that they would not like the sign replaced with the standard plastic road sign. The Parish Council agreed it would be preferable to replace like-for-like, and Cllr Collinson agreed to follow up with KCC. The Parish Council agreed in principle to a financial contribution for the difference in cost if required.

National Highways and Transport Network (NHT) annual public satisfaction surveys have been launched, with a deadline for comments 29 February 2024. There are six web-based surveys on specific issues including highway maintenance, accessibility, walking and cycling, public transport, road safety, and tackling congestion. Cllr Twyman agreed to respond on behalf of the Parish Council. The surveys are open to all residents and the more responses received, the better. Should you wish to comment, please visit KCC's website – [NHT Survey 2023-2024](#).

7. PLANNING

CA/23/00940 and CA/23/00941 – Poplar Farm Barn, Stodmarsh Road

Cllr Wright reported that the application has been amended to bring the proposed garage closer to the road, following a request from an immediate neighbour. It is not clear whether the garage will have timber doors or be open like a cart shed.

Standing Orders were suspended at this point to allow residents to speak.

A number of residents wished to express concerns regarding the proposals at Poplar Farm, in particular the siting of the new garage with the construction of a drive and hardstanding. The residents feel that the character of the farmyard and Grade II listed building behind will be detrimentally affected by the proposals, and the access and turning circle are inadequate. The residents wished to suggest an alternative location/option for the garage and parking, which they feel would be less obtrusive. The residents have expressed their views directly to CCC, and requested the Parish Council revisit their decision not to object to the application.

Standing orders were resumed at this point.

As per 7(a) of the Parish Council's Standing Orders, "a resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least two councillors... or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee". Cllr Treacher proposed and Cllr Wrightson seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, that the Clerk seek legal advice from KALC whether the decision can be revisited. Should it be permitted, an extension of time could be applied for and a more thorough debate be held at a future Parish Council meeting.

CA/23/01218 – Twynings, The List

The Parish Council has no objections to the proposed single storey rear extension following part demolition of rear wall. Cllr Wright did not participate in the discussions or the vote on this item.

CA/22/01530 – Land to the North of The Quaives Retreat, Seaton Road

CCC Planning has advised that the Environment Agency (EA) and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) have raised concerns as the site falls within an area at higher risk of flooding. The application as it stands does not include details of the earthwork and bunding carried out on the land, nor does it assess the impact of these on the flood risk. The application also does not demonstrate why the campsite cannot be located in an area at lower risk of flooding. CCC

Planning has met with the agent who submitted the current application on behalf of the owner, and they will be providing additional information to address these points.

In the meantime, CCC Planning has advised the owner that the tents and all structures associated with the use of the land for glamping need to be removed from the land – they cannot operate under permitted development rights for up to 28 days a year because of the issues around deteriorating water quality at Stodmarsh. Cllr Wright advised most of the tents have been relocated into the garden area, but the showers, restaurant, sheds and some tents appear to remain in-situ.

CCC Planning also advised that the EA are investigating the glamping use and substantial earthworks on the site separately. CCC Planning has requested the EA provide updates on any action they are looking to take and the timescales for this. Cllr Wright wished to record thanks to Cllr Castle for his assistance in liaising with CCC Planning and Enforcement.

CA/23/00700 – Riverscroft, Grove Ferry Road

CCC has granted the single storey detached dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling.

CA/23/00880 – Wickhambreaux Village Hall, The Street

CCC has granted the re-roofing with height increase together with external timber cladding to existing toilet block.

CA/23/00663 – Wisteria, The List

CCC has granted the single storey ground floor side extension together with first floor side extension to existing dwelling.

8. REVIEW COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEMBERSHIP FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2023-2024

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Treacher be appointed as Village Hall Committee Representative and on the Finance Committee, in the place of Cllr Rees and Cllr McRobbie respectively who voluntarily stepped down from these roles.

9. MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE GREENS

Cllr McRobbie and Cllr Wrightson have been investigating the most efficient and cost-effective solution for improving the condition of Stodmarsh and Wickhambreaux greens. Quotations for complete returfing have been obtained for £2,250.00 onwards. A quotation from Landcare Trees and Fencing has been obtained for reseeding, scarifying and releveling for both Stodmarsh greens amounting to £650.00 plus materials (approximately £175.00). An additional quotation is due later this week.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the reseeding option rather than returfing. It was further agreed to instruct Landcare Trees and Fencing, subject to the second quotation not being substantially cheaper. Cllr McRobbie and Cllr Wrightson agreed to instruct and liaise with the contractor, and obtain an additional price for works to Wickhambreaux greens as required.

10. LOCATION OF FRANK MONTGOMERY PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE STORAGE SHED

The Village Hall Committee previously agreed on 24 May 2023 to locate the shed at the back of the hall to the right-hand side in a currently underutilised area. This would require an opening made in the current wall, levelling of the general area, and provision of a designated path and locked gate for access.

Five contractors were invited to survey the site area and provide advice and quotations. Two contractors declined to quote due to the close proximity to a cluster of trees, and the other quotations ranged from £2,000 to £5,000. This is substantially more expensive than anticipated.

An alternative option (Option 2) would be to lay geo grids on a level base and fill with stones in another location within the garden. A site visit was undertaken on 25 July 2023 with members of the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council to consider the best location.

Following some discussion, it was proposed to locate the shed along the rear boundary, approximately where the hedge behind the kitchen ends, which would have the added benefit of screening the shed from adjacent properties.

Cllr Rees obtained an informal estimate in advance of the meeting for approximately £1,000. A more formal quotation is expected in the next few days and additional contractors have been approached for comparison prices. Cllr Collinson proposed and Cllr Treacher seconded, and all councillors voted in favour, to instruct the cheapest contractor in the interim period before the next Parish Council meeting to proceed with Option 2, up to a budget of £1,250.00

11. TEMPORARY SIGNAGE FOR CONTRACTORS

Cllr Wrightson advised that it is possible to order custom made multi-use 'works' signs in various designs, with the ability to add in detail/dates, etc, in semi-permanent marker, for between £160.00 and £200.00. These would be for use by contractors and volunteers for works on Parish Council owned land and events. The signs would be used to compliment other health and safety measures undertaken by contractors/volunteers should they wish to utilise them, and the Parish Council accepts no liability for any incidents during works or events.

12. GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the NALC model Grievance and Disciplinary Policies, with additional amendments to provide more clarification on timescales and processes (identified in red within the documents for ease of reference) following consultation with the Clerk. The new policies supersede reference to disciplinary and grievance processes outlined in the current Contract of Employment. The Clerk agreed to sign a letter confirming acceptance that the new policies supersede reference to the processes outlined in her Contract of Employment.

13. RESIDENT REQUEST FOR DOUBLE YELLOW LINES ON THE JUNCTION OF SPICERS PLACE AND WICKHAM ROAD

A resident submitted a request via Cllr Castle for double yellow lines on the junction of Spicers Place and Wickham Road. The Parish Council has been asked to consider supporting the proposals.

After some discussion, it was agreed not to support the proposals. Whilst councillors were sympathetic, concerns were expressed that double yellow lines in this location would have a knock-on effect in other areas of the village, which could cause a more unsafe situation elsewhere as a result. Double yellow lines in this location could also set a precedent elsewhere in the village, further moving parking issues into other areas. Councillors were also mindful that the double yellow lines will only work if there is adequate enforcement to back them up. The Clerk agreed to write to the resident and Cllr Castle to advise them of the Parish Council's decision.

14. D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Cllr Wrightson reported he has officially registered Wickhambreaux's interest in taking part in the D-Day Celebrations. The event will centre around the lighting of a beacon at 9.15pm on the evening of 06 June 2024. There will be a reading of the commemorative eulogy, and a fish and chip supper as it will also be 'National Fish and Chip Day'. The possibility of a bagpiper was also discussed. Cllr Wrightson agreed to report back to the Parish Council with further details in due course.

The possibility of holding a joint event with Ickham Parish Council was also discussed. Cllr Treacher advised that Ickham Parish Council discussed this possibility at their recent meeting and decided they would prefer to hold their own event.

15. ADDITIONAL FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

Cllr Wrightson proposed that he become a joint admin with a local resident on the existing Wickhambreaux Community Facebook page for a trial period. This would be used for communicating events, important notices and providing an additional conduit for residents to contact the Parish Council.

With the success of the well-used 'Ickham Residents' site, it is unclear how successful a separate one for Wickhambreaux will be. Some concern was expressed regarding implied support for advertisements on the page, which Cllr Wrightson advised could be managed similar to the Ickham page. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with Cllr Wrightson becoming a joint admin for a trial period on the existing Wickhambreaux Community Facebook page. The Parish Council will consider adopting a Social Media Policy at a future meeting.

A village Whatsapp Group could also be set up as a method of quick communication with residents. Cllr Castle previously suggested that the Whatsapp group have comments disabled, but that the administrators of the Whatsapp group have their contact details available for private messages. It was agreed not to proceed with this option at this time.

16. CLLRS' REPORTS TREES

Cllr Wright and Cllr Wrightson undertook a walk around the Parish Council managed trees since the last meeting. Cllr Twyman expressed concern with one tree on Wickhambreaux Green. This has been visually inspected by Cllrs Wright and Wrightson and minor pruning may be undertaken shortly as branches are overhanging the road. All the Parish Council maintained trees are due an annual inspection shortly, and any recommendations will be actioned as necessary.

KALC

Cllr Treacher advised that the KALC Canterbury Area Committee AGM (Annual General Meeting) was held on 21 June 2023 in Littlebourne. Cllr Alan Baldock, Leader of CCC, was the guest speaker. Main items of discussion included feedback on the Parish Charter and CCC Engagement Meetings. Alan Atkinson was also elected as Chairman, Chenice Howard-Sparkes as the Secretary, and Hazel Chowchat and Alan Atkinson as Executive Committee representatives. The next meeting will be held on 20 September 2023 at 7.30pm in Littlebourne War Memorial Hall.

The KALC AGM will take place on 18 November 2023 at Ditton Community Centre. Cllr Wrightson advised he is able to attend.

Village Hall Committee

Cllr Treacher advised that the Village Hall Committee instructed Collett Builders to undertake the refurbishment work to the toilet block, which commenced yesterday (24 July 2023), following a tender process. Collett's quotation was competitive and was the only firm with availability to undertake the work during the school holidays. It is hoped the works will be fully completed before the start of the new school term. The hall will remain accessible to hirers, but the toilets will be off limits during the works.

Cllr Treacher reported that the Four Villages Post Office and Shop has awarded the Committee £1,350.00 for various internal improvements including blackout blinds for the film club, kitchen equipment for the coffee morning socials and other community groups, and costs towards getting the flooring professionally re-treated. The Committee will also be submitting an application for £5,500.00 towards the current toilet block refurbishment works as part of the mid-year CCC Capital Grant scheme.

Cllr Rees advised that the disabled access into the village hall could be improved, which will be discussed by the Committee at their next meeting on 30 August 2023. A further application could be submitted to CCC as part of the Capital Grant process to fund these works.

Cllr Treacher also advised that a future item for discussion will be creating a 5-Year Plan for maintenance of the building.

Playing Field

Cllr Rees reported that the bug hotel has now been repaired and reinstalled. The total cost of the repair was £200.00, which has been jointly paid 50/50 by the two young people responsible for the damage.

Cllr Rees also reported that the Committee has been awarded £500.00 from the Four Villages Post Office and Shop towards the upkeep of the Classic Car Show website, trophies, printing, and production of a programme for fundraising. Cllr Rees wished to record thanks to the Four Villages Post Office and Shop, and to Cllr Collinson for setting up the website for the Classic Car Show.

The current bank balance is £4,754.54 and the next meeting is scheduled for 27 September 2023 at 5.30pm.

Village Greens

Cllr Wrightson reported that the two benches on the Wickhambreaux greens require maintenance. Cllr Wrightson agreed to organise for the maintenance to be undertaken.

Flooding

Cllr Twyman reported that a local landowner has expressed concern regarding the stability of a large willow tree on the riverbank, which is leaning precariously over the river and would cause a blockage should it fall. The willow tree has been destabilised following beaver activity, and Cllr Twyman advised the landowner contact a local beaver group for advice. Cllr Twyman also reported that he has recently become registered and certified to monitor beaver activity.

Speedwatch

The Clerk was asked to arrange a Community Speedwatch meeting in Wickhambreaux Village Hall, for both existing and potential volunteers, on or around the 16 August 2023. The Clerk was further asked to invite guest speakers from Kent Police, Littlebourne Speedwatch group and Lower Hardres Speedwatch Group.

Cllr Treacher reported that Ickham Parish Council has reaffirmed its commitment to spend up to £1,000.00 towards Speedwatch equipment, which will be stored in Ickham Village Hall. Wickhambreaux Parish Council has also pledged up to £1,000.00.

Footpaths

Cllr Wright reported that she contacted KCC PROW (Public Right of Way) on 21 June 2023 on behalf of a local volunteer who cuts back overgrown vegetation on public footpaths, to formally register their activities. No response has been received to date. The current owner of Frognall House has given permission for the volunteer to continue to cut back vegetation on the footpath adjacent to their property.

The Clerk reported that a resident has reported overgrown vegetation on PROW CB143, the footpath from St Andrew's Church to Reynolds Place. Although the footpath is the responsibility of KCC, Cllr Twyman arranged for this to be cut back due to the high volume of use. The Clerk was asked to contact KCC PROW to check the cutting schedule for the footpath.

17. FINANCE

The expenditure totalling £740.35 was authorised, made up of:

- Majestic Garden Care – Playing Field maintenance June 2023 - £270.00
- CCC – Printing Coronation event leaflets - £29.20
- Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Clerk Salary July 2023
- Elizabeth Stevens – Village Hall Cleaner Salary July

- HMRC – Employee and PAYE July 2023

18. CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- Network Rail will be installing new miniature warning lights at Ships Meadow Footpath Level Crossing. The warning lights are modern, more reliable and will add to the safety of the footpath level crossing. As the line speed is due to be increased from 40mph to 55mph to aid with the opening of Thanet Parking Station, the warning lights will need robust testing as there is insufficient sighting on the upside of the crossing without warning lights. The crossing will therefore be temporarily closed from 15 July to 07 October 2023.
- KCC Emerging Local Transport Plan consultation, which sets out KCC's ambition for transport in Kent. Deadline for comments is 18 September 2023. For more information and to comment, please visit KCC's website – [Emergency Local Transport Plan](#).
- KCC 2024-2025 Budget consultation. KCC is seeking views on their Council Tax proposals, whether they are prioritising resources in the right areas, and suggestions for further savings. Deadline for comments is 06 September 2023. For more information and to comment, please visit KCC's website – [KCC Budget 2024-2025](#).
- KCC Community Warden Service consultation. The Community Warden service has been asked to reduce its annual budget by £1 million by 2024-2025. Views are being sought on redesigning the service, to ensure there is a core warden presence across the county. Deadline for comments is 03 October 2023. For more information and to comment, please visit KCC's website – [KCC Community Warden](#).
- KCC Family Hub consultation, which sets out proposals on the future of young peoples' services. Deadline for comments is 13 September 2023. For more information and to comment, please visit KCC's website – [Family Hub](#).
- KCC Kent and Medway Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029 consultation. Views are being sought on a new five-year plan to develop and improve response to domestic abuse. Deadline for comments is 09 October 2023. For more information and to comment, please visit KCC's website – [Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029](#).
- Canterbury City PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) consultation. CCC is consulting on proposals to replicate the existing Order with the addition of addressing the behaviour of antisocial delivery riders in the city centre. Deadline for comments is 11 September 2023. For more information and to comment, please visit CCC's website – [City Centre PSPO](#).
- Free Summer bus travel for families who receive benefits-related free school meals from 23 July to 31 August. The new 'Bus About Kent' pass is now available and allows up to four family members to travel by bus for free during the summer. For more information, please visit KCC's website – [Bus About Kent](#).
- The Older Person's Bus Pass can normally only be used after 9.30am Monday to Friday. However, during August 2023, the pass can be used from the first bus that runs in the morning until 11pm on any day of the week. This offer is only for the month of August and from September onwards, the times you can use your pass will return to normal. For more information, please visit KCC's website – [Older Persons' Bus Pass](#).

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Cllr Wrightson reported that the Wickhambreaux Village Sign is currently being fabricated and is due to be completed in the next few weeks.
- (ii) Cllr Treacher enquired whether the Parish Council wish to proceed with investigating employing a caretaker. It was unanimously agreed to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- (iii) Cllr Treacher suggested the Parish Council may wish to consult with residents following the election to ask the local community what they would like councillors to focus on over the forthcoming four year term. It was unanimously agreed to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

- (iv) Cllr Treacher suggested the Parish Council consider adopting a policy for a mini-community fund to support local groups. It was unanimously agreed to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

20. CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING ITEM

Cllr Collinson advised that 2no neighbouring clerks have been approached to enquire whether they could provide temporary maternity cover for the Clerk. One clerk was unable to assist but Gail Hubbard, Clerk at Littlebourne Parish Council, is available.

In consultation with the Clerk and Ms Hubbard, it was unanimously agreed that Ms Hubbard be appointed as temporary maternity cover from 01 October 2023 to 01 May 2024, at the same payscale, with a handover period either side. There will be the opportunity to review this decision during the maternity period should the Clerk or Parish Council wish to change arrangements.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....