

**WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 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 Theresa McRobbie
City Cllr Lee Castle

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Locum Clerk to the Council
There were two members of the public present.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Robin Treacher (unwell), Cllr Martin Twyman (recuperating) and City Cllr Mike Sole (attending Ickham PC meeting).

Cllr Wright asked that we record congratulations and best wishes from the parish council to Chenice and Chris on the birth of their daughter. Cllr Rees had a card and collection ready to present to Chenice hopefully at the next social Saturday.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

At this point the Standing Orders were suspended allowing members of the public to speak

A Resident raised concerns over the future of a parcel of land in Seaton Road opposite the playing field, which he was concerned might be developed. The land falls within the flood plain so development should not be an option. He also raised concerns over the possible fire hazard of the uncut grasses in summer. At present there are sheep grazing on the land so this should keep the grass down better.

Standing Orders were resumed at this point.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2023

All councillors voted in favour that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 October 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. INFORMATION FROM MATTERS ARISING

4 - Cllr Wright reported that The List sign had now been painted by a resident and was ready and waiting for CCC to schedule in the reinstallation.

7 – There was no news to report on either the Swanton Lane or The Hill applications.

8 - Cllr Wrightson mentioned that there is a D Day meeting planned for 3rd December so he will be in a position to report back at the next PC meeting.

12 - Cllr Wright reported that the debris had now been removed from the cricket willow site, with only a neat pile of logs now left.

5. HIGHWAYS

There was nothing to report.

6. PLANNING

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

Cllr Wright reported that a response had now been received from CCC planning regarding the complaint made from the October meeting, but it barely addresses the concerns raised. According to CCC, the EA will not be taking any action, this has not been heard directly from the EA as yet. The Internal Drainage Board objected initially but they have now withdrawn their objections following a site visit.

Uncertainty as to what the outcome from the Ombudsman would be, so not to be pursued. Cllr Wright to write in response to the CCC letter saying how disappointed the parish council is with the response. Cllr Castle also said he would highlight this at full council.

New Applications:

There were no new applications this month.

Awaiting Decision:

CA/23/01781	Land on northwest side of Swanton Lane, Sturry, Canterbury	Change of use of land for siting of 5 residential mobile homes.
CA/21/02165	The Pear Orchard, Hawthorn Bungalow And Altona, The List	5 no. two-storey detached dwellings and 2 no. single-storey detached dwellings following demolition of 2 no. existing dwellings.
CA/22/01530	Land To The North Of The Quaives Retreat, Seaton Road	Retrospective change of use of land for up to 20 bell tents together with a temporary toilet block, covered cooking area, bar and associated parking
CA/23/00484	Land At The Hill, Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne	Outline planning application for up to 300 residential dwellings (including affordable housing and older person accommodation), a new community hub, introduction of structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space and children's play area and surface water flood mitigation and attenuation. All matters reserved except for access.
KCC/CA/0123/2023	Wickhambreaux C of E Primary School, The Street	Replacement of roof coverings, reconstruction of front boundary wall & replacement of front 1.25m high picket fence with 1.8m high white bow-top railings including access gates

Determined:

CA/23/01665	6 Grove Road	Application for lawful development certificate for proposed replacement driveway. Would be Lawful 27/10/2023
-------------	--------------	--

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Mike Sole

Cllr Sole's monthly report received via email was as follows:

After last month's bus chaos, things appear to have settled down in the last few weeks, but please do let me know if there are issues that I can work with KCC and Stagecoach on.

As Cabinet Member for Finance, The City Council Budget has kept me extremely busy over the

last few months, but I am pleased that we will shortly be going out to consultation on proposals for 2024/25. The proposals include, re-opening the Sturry park & ride, bringing back the city centre market, investing in biodiversity and climate change initiatives, bringing back three hours free blue badge parking, introducing a residents' rate at some car parks, recruiting a tree officer, supporting struggling families by extending the council's early intervention work, and investing in systems to get the best out of the council's property portfolio. Once the consultation is launched, please do take the time to make your views known.

I attended the parish council meeting at Bishopsbourne and the Adisham Big Breakfast with Cllr Lee Castle, where it was good to catch up with residents' issues.

At the city council I have attended meeting of the Cabinet and full Council, as well as the special Council meeting to appoint new alderman of the city to acknowledge their public service.

With the KCC Growth & Economic Development and Communities Committee I visited Dover District to see the changes that they are making to their area.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to meet up with the German Deputy Ambassador to the UK to discuss how we might be able to boost the profile of the district and attract tourists and businesses to the area.

I had a meeting about the Wincheap gyratory scheme with KCC, who are adamant that the scheme will proceed, albeit with some minor tweaks. Road closures have continued to keep me busy, in particular those in Bridge and Wincheap.

City Cllr Lee Castle

Cllr Castle was in attendance and drew the Cllrs attention to the various consultations that are currently live and especially the budget for 2024/25 that is currently out for consultation.

His monthly report was also received via email as follows;

Early in the month I attended Littlebourne Parish Council meeting who are still fighting the proposed development on The Hill into the village. Also the discussion of getting the Highways expert in to help with all traffic and parking and Highways issues was progressed. Delivery vehicles using footpaths in Littlebourne has been raised at the PC meeting and also to myself directly. Actions have been agreed to try and help come to a resolution.

I attended Adisham Parish council's meeting which was well attended due a presentation by the business owners from Highland Court Farm. Residents raised concerns around traffic, dark skies and ongoing issues once the development starts. I will be working closely with residents and the business owners alike to help deal with any problems. Various other topics were discussed from bus stop safety for children to parking on the street. I also attended the Adisham big Breakfast, which was super busy and had a great morning chatting to residents along with Councillor Mike Sole. A tasty breakfast and brownie to takeaway!

I had the pleasure of attending Bekesbourne Coffee morning, had some great chats with residents and left with a list of issues to work on. I will be reporting back to the parish council on the items raised. In Bekesbourne with Patribourne I have also been dealing with case work on trees, permitted developments and footpath clearance.

Ickham and Well had a great parish council meeting in October, where they elected a new Chair. It was good to hear their local speedwatch group is taking its final steps to start catching speeders. They have cleared the Village pond and are pushing ahead with the other areas of improvement.

I've dealt with an ongoing issues in Patricxbourne and Littlebourne around housing and trees. Bin issues across the ward are still popping up, so do get in touch with persistent problems. The odd missed bin does happen but some are having multiple issues and this means a closer eye must keep on Canencos performance.

A reminder to be aware of the ongoing consultations on the Levelling up Projects in the city and the Boundary Commission consultation which are all on the City Council website. Plus the 2024/25 Budget consultation goes live on the 13th November. Lastly, there was a full council meeting with motions voted on, including cost of living, Right to Grow and proposed cuts by KCC to care leavers housing. It led to lots of interesting debate and all motions were fully supported by myself and the whole council.

In November I will be attending Littlebourne, Bekesbourne with Patricxbourne and Wickhambreaux Parish Council meetings.

Police and NHW

The Clerk reported that the area is now covered by two new Police Officers, PC Jake Angell and PC Dominic Taylor, contact details had been forwarded round to Cllrs.

Cllr McRobbie reported that 3 bikes had been stolen from the back of a van in a driveway in Grove Road between Sunday 12th and Monday 13th November.

A NHW report had been received from Linda Lodge as follows;

Neighbourhood Watch Report November 2023

Advice for a crime-free Christmas and New Year

At this time of year burglars know that our homes are filling up with new and expensive items and furthermore, home-owners may be away visiting relations or simply going out to seasonal celebrations.

- Keep presents out of view: a tree surrounded by presents in plain view of a window or open door will attract attention.
- Be careful if you are updating your status on social media. Do not advertise that you and your family will be away for Christmas or the New Year.
- Dispose carefully of packaging that contained expensive items. Burglars will look for signs that new presents or electrical equipment have recently been purchased.
- Outside decorations: ensure windows and doors are securely locked at night or when you are away from home. This is especially important if you have outside lights or decorations that have leads coming from inside the house.
- Sheds and garages: keep well secured with good locks and security lighting. Do not leave tools and ladders unsecured; these could be used to break into your property. Bicycles and expensive items should be property marked and listed with your insurer. It would be advisable to check your policy for details of cover.

Finally, there are too many scams to list but the one which may be top of the "Christmas List" is where you are asked to pay a fee, or provide bank details, to allow for a parcel to be delivered. Don't be caught unawares in the panic that surrounds Christmas. Bona fide delivery companies will not request fees or bank details.

8. RESIDENTS SURVEY

The clerk had prepared a draft survey which had been circulated to Cllrs in advance of the meeting, some amendments had been made following suggestions. Timescale as previously discussed, delivery prior to/over Christmas period with the deadline of 15th January for responses. Results to be shared with village at APM. Clerk to arrange for printing of surveys at CCC and then to liaise with Cllr Rees over distribution. Forms to be returned to Cllrs, the clerk via email or The Rose or The Red Lion.

9. VILLAGE HALL STORAGE CONTAINERS

Cllr Rees still has lots of PC items stored at home and would like to purchase a second-hand storage cabinet and some heavy-duty plastic boxes to go into the village hall kitchen. It was AGREED that up to £150 could be spent purchasing these.

10. CLLRS' REPORTS TREES

Cllr Wright reported that the trees seemed to have survived the recent winds. A Lime tree on The Green is leaning a little and has a chunk out of it (unsure how this occurred), this is to be looked at further to see if it will survive.

Cllr Wright reported that a large limb had come down off a tree on Wickham Road/Wickham Lane; and that kindly Martin Twyman had this cut up and removed out of the roadway.

The Hornbeam tree on the corner of Spicers Place, which is a KCC tree is lifting out the ground. Cllr Wright had reported this previously in February; KCC had deemed it not unsafe and not a trip hazard. It looks to have become worse so Cllr Wright has reported it again.

One resident left the meeting at 8.25pm.

KALC

Cllr Wrightson had attended the KALC AGM (Annual General Meeting) on 18 November 2023 at Ditton Community Centre. Roger Gough had given a good presentation, but the finances were sobering, KCC along with others are struggling severely. The presentation on health and wellbeing was interesting, with 2 out of 3 adults in Kent obese. What extra can parish councils do re mental and physical health of its residents. WPC had worked with the local GP's during Covid relaying information to residents and perhaps it was time to consider how else we could work together.

Two of the Motions tabled at the meeting:

Swale Area Committee regrets the decision by Kent County Council not to re-appoint where there are vacancies for Community Wardens and urges that this decision be re-considered and reversed. They would like clarification as to why the service should be hit with 60% cuts when the budget is being cut 5-10%. This was well supported.

From St Mary in the Marsh Parish Council

KALC proposes that NALC lobbies central government to allow smaller parish councils to become exempt from bi-elections (mid-term) to enable public funds to be better spent and prevent councils from insolvency. This was defeated on grounds of democracy

Village Hall Committee

Next social Saturday on 9th December 10.30-12noon.

Next Village Hall meeting scheduled for 24th January at 7.30pm.

Playing Field Committee

Cllr Rees reported that the Kompan repairs to the zip wire were still yet to be carried out; even though an invoice for the works had been sent and chased. Clerk had contacted Kompan asking to confirm actual date of works carried out.

Soft Surfaces had now submitted an invoice for their works carried out on 17th October. Only one side of the safety surface had been filled (and arguably not completed), where the original quotation had been for all four sides. Cllr Rees has written to Soft Surfaces regarding the works done; at present the invoice will not be paid. A quotation to finish to works was still awaiting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6th December but this is likely to be postponed until January.

Village Greens

The village sign is complete but awaiting the pole so will unfortunately not be ready for Christmas. Cllr Wright and Cllr Wrightson had collected up various debris from The Green. It was noted this could be a possible job for a village caretaker if we were to employ one or possibly form part of a maintenance contract for some jobs on The Green. It was also suggested that the PC could subscribe to the CCC garden waste scheme and use the bin for this type of debris or alternatively house a composter in the church grounds. Cllr Wrightson to explore the idea of a composter at the Church and feedback.

The Clerk had ordered the two Christmas Trees; one for each Green and Polo Contractors are to erect as in previous years. The trees should be delivered next week; likely Tuesday or Wednesday 28/29 Nov. Cllr Rees to arrange the hanging of the lights on the Wickhambreaux tree once it is erected and Cllr McRobbie to arrange for the hanging of the lights on the Stodmarsh tree. Cllr Rees had the lights for both trees stored at her house from last year.

One resident left the meeting at 9.05pm.

11. FINANCE

Budget 2024-25

The budget for the next financial year as set out by the Finance Sub-committee was considered and AGREED. Cllr Rees proposed the figure of £16,074.00 be requested as the precept for 2024-25, this was seconded by Cllr Collinson and AGREED. This is the same figure as the current year so should not result in an increase to residents. Approx Band D figure would be £67.53 per annum.

The Defibrillators were raised under the budget and questions asked as to who checks and when replacement pads are ordered (regarding costs). It was confirmed Cllr McRobbie checks the Stodmarsh one and Cllr Rees the Wickhambreaux one. Are they registered on the Circuit National Defib Register, Clerk to check and feedback to Cllrs.

National Salary Award 2023-24

The NALC salary award for 2023-24 had now been agreed and published. As the Clerk is on a NALC contract this would be implemented and backdated to 1st April 2023 as per the award detail. This would be paid in the December salary.

Presentation of financial information

The Clerk had prepared a budget expenditure spreadsheet for the Finance Sub-Committee meeting; the Finance Sub-Committee's recommendation is this spreadsheet along with the addition of bank balances is used going forward to show Cllrs the full financial position. This was AGREED.

Payments

The expenditure totalling £709.34 for November 2023 was authorised, made up of:

Gail Hubbard – Clerk Salary November 2023

Elizabeth Stevens – Village Hall Cleaner Salary November 2023

HMRC – Employee and PAYE November 2023

Cllr Rees – reimbursement of expenditure (wood for shed at VH) - £36.14

Majestic Garden Care – Playing field maintenance - £90.00

KALC AGM with lunch - £6.00

Invoices had been received from Soft Surfaces and Kompan but were both on hold awaiting further investigation/information from the two companies.

12. CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE CORRESPONDENCE

A. CCC Handbook

Forwarded from CCC, this was originally sent out to all City Cllrs but now issued to parishes. Circulated to Cllrs

B. Current CCC Consultations

Canterbury City Council has today begun consultation on various proposals, including:

[General Fund budget consultation 2024/25](#)

[Housing Revenue Account budget consultation 2024/25](#)

[Proposed changes to charges and conditions in council car parks](#)

[Canterbury city market and market trader fees](#)

C. Porchlight Canterbury Poster

Advertising their drop in session on 4th December 11-2pm at All Saints Church in Military Road

D. Community Larder Poster

Advertising their drop-in session on 12th January 10-12pm at All Saints Church in Military Road.

E. KALC Community Awards Scheme

KALC have now launched the 2024 KALC Community Awards Scheme, with support from Kent County Council, the High Sheriff of Kent, and the Mayor of Medway. This follows a very successful 2023 Awards Scheme, which was adopted by 79 member Councils.

The Award Winners receive a Framed Certificate. The Council can decide whether to present something extra to their winner. The first step is for the Council to agree to adopt the Scheme. The Council would then need to submit its Nomination to manager@kentalc.gov.uk by Friday 2nd February 2024. To be added to agenda for discussion in January.

F. KCC Highways Seminar invite

This year's Highways seminar are to be held online; there are 3 sessions to choose from. Circulated to Cllrs. Clerk to attend one and make notes for circulation.

All other correspondence noted.

13. MEETING DATES FOR 2024

The following dates were set for next year's meetings:

16 January 2024

20 February 2024

19 March 2024

16 April 2024

7 May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

14 May 2024

18 June 2024

16 July 2024

(No meeting in August)

17 September 2024

15 October 2024

19 November 2024

(No meeting in December)

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

draft