

**WICKHAMBREAUX PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 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 Martin Twyman
Parish Cllr Robin Treacher
Parish Cllr Theresa McRobbie

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Locum Clerk to the Council

There were no members of the public.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mark Wrightson (work commitments), City Cllr Lee Castle (attending Ickham PC meeting) and County Cllr Mike Sole (attending LG training).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

All councillors voted in favour that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 September 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 on The List signage progress to date. CCC have straightened the supports in readiness. The sign itself is with a resident of The List who is repainting the sign, once this is ready CCC will attend and reinstall.

5 - Cllr Rees reported that the No 11 bus has been erratic this term, not running to time and on occasion missing Wickhambreaux completely so the children were forced to walk back from the A257.

7 - Cllr Treacher congratulated Cllr Wright on the complaint letter she prepared to CCC with regard to the Quaives retrospective planning application.

14- Cllr Wright had established that the quotation received for the tree survey from Mark Jones Tree Surgery did include the trees in Stodmarsh and The Green, so he had been instructed to carry out the survey.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Mike Sole

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

September has been busy, especially with all of the issues with buses. Whilst there are always some problems at the start of the new school year, this time it has been worse than ever. I've been following up a lot of issues on several routes, but by far the most significant issues arose from Stagecoach removing a school time 17 service, running two bus when previously there were three. After weeks of correspondence with residents, Stagecoach and KCC, my request to run both Canterbury bound buses at the same time earlier was actioned. I hope that will solve the pupil lateness issue, but I will continue to follow up other capacity issues and problems on other routes. The Stagecoach complaints number is 0345 241 8000 or

www.stagecoachbus.com/help-and-contact/forms/complaint-form should anyone wish to raise issue directly with them.

I attend parish council meetings at Waltham, Womenswold and Kingston.

I was delighted to meet up with residents to celebrate the 30mph limit installed in Woolage Village a few weeks ago as I've been campaigning for this for years. I have now been able to find the funding so that the process can start on a similar scheme in Woolage Green.

I attended the A257 Traffic Group meeting to discuss road safety issues. At the Canterbury city council Scrutiny Subcommittee, I was questioned and spoke about progress on the city centre improvement projects and council staffing.

I proposed a motion at KCC to place bins in men's toilets in support of the Prostate Cancer UK campaign highlighting incontinence, and also raised questions about delays to bus stop improvements for wheelchair users.

City Cllr Lee Castle

Cllr Castle's monthly report received via email was as follows;

September was a busy month dealing with various issues across the ward. In Littlebourne and Bekesbourne, I have been dealing with several new housing issues in and in the wider area, the topic of Airbnb's is still on the agenda.

I have been pursuing the ongoing planning application for 300 homes in Littlebourne, with the decision still pending, as soon as the decision is made, I will share the outcome. Although the bin strike maybe over, there are still some isolated incidents where bins are being missed. If your bin is missed, please report it via the Canterbury Council website and if you have persistent problems, please call Canenco and also let me know. This month I attended Wickhambreaux and Bekesbourne with Patricxbourne Parish council meetings.

I also had the pleasure of attending CARE meeting in Adisham to discuss various subjects, including the revised local plan, buses, and other environmental issues. The array of local volunteer groups, really show how keen people are to protect the area that we all live in. I took part in a scrutiny subcommittee meeting, where we had the opportunity to discuss the City Centre levelling up fund, which has some great improvements planned for the district, please do take part in the online consultations to have your say.

New matters relating to trees and landscaping issues have arisen and it was great to see the City council, after my interactions, starting to fix historic issues with streetlights, and street furniture.

There have also been some bus problems and although Mike Sole as KCC Councillor has been dealing with these, I have also been engaging with Stagecoach around the 89B service and other ward services due to their lack of reliability and time keeping.

6. HIGHWAYS

(i) A257 Update

Cllr Twyman reported that the next A257 Group meeting will be in November and he hopes to attend.

General Highways Matters

Cllr Twyman reported that KCC Highways had undertaken patching works on Grove Road, between Supperton Farmhouse and the sandpit bends, they have not gone as far as was marked up though. Cllr Twyman has chased this up and Highways did return to do the worst potholes but still need to come back to finish off.

Cllr Twyman reported that various odd potholes had also been repaired in the parish, on The List and elsewhere. He reminded everyone to report through any potholes direct to KCC Highways on the phone or via the fault reporting tool. Thanks was given to Martin for reporting these all though. www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

Cllr Twyman warned there are other repairs due on Grove Road in November that will mean the road is closed, we are awaiting further details on this at present.

Cllr Twyman had also reported the dumped mattress on Wickham Court Lane through to CCC.

7. PLANNING

CA/23/01781 – Land on northwest side of Swanton Lane

Within the parish of Littlebourne. An objection to be raised from Wickhambreaux Parish Council. Concerns to be raised over the use of the old KCC waste tip and tannery waste site as unfit for human habitation; this is the wrong site for families to grow up on.

CA/23/00484 – Land at The Hill, Bekesbourne Lane

Within the parish of Littlebourne. Revised documentation and layout drawings submitted this month, to now include a Wastewater Recycling Centre sited in a different location to the previous sewage works, the end destination for the water from the centre is still however the Nailbourne. This type of water recycling centre is very new and untested in an environment such as this. An objection to be raised from Wickhambreaux Parish Council

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

Cllr Wright reported that there had been no response yet from CCC to the complaint submitted earlier this month, not even an acknowledgement. Cllr Wright explained that before approaching the Ombudsman you must exhaust all avenues with CCC firstly. City Cllr Lee Castle has also been chasing for further updates.

8. D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT ON 06 JUNE 2024

Nothing to report as Cllr Wrightson was not present. To be deferred until next meeting.

9. CONCLUSION OF AGAR 2022-23

Following receipt of the conclusion letter from Mazars LLP, the report and letter were considered and accepted by the Council. There were no matters raised in the actual report although in the letter Mazars LLP have asked for their bank reconciliation template to be used for the bank reconciliation in future years. At this point it was also proposed by Cllr Treacher that the finance sheets are upgraded to a budget and expenditure layout. It was agreed that the acting clerk should prepare the budget for 2024-25 in this layout and take it from there.

10. RESIDENTS SURVEY TO ESTABLISH COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The acting clerk had sent round some survey examples to the Cllrs and had drafted some general questions. Multiple choice questions were favoured due to easier analysis, however a more general open question at the end to give residents to opportunity to raise/suggest anything else. Acting clerk to draft a survey and circulate for further suggestions and amendments. The Chairman said it would be good to be able to discuss the results for the APM, possible delivery out/door knock over the Christmas holidays, survey would need to be finalised for November meeting to meet this timescale.

11. VILLAGE CARETAKER

Cllr Treacher had done some research into this scheme and information had been circulated to the rest of the council. Support had been received from the Village Hall Committee who felt it was a very good idea (they certainly had some jobs that could form part of the job list). There was various discussion on this item. The acting clerk reminded Cllrs that if this was to be pursued then funding would need to be allowed for in next years budget, which must be set at

the next meeting. Some jobs suggested were; litterpicking, clearing graffiti from pirate ship, works to telephone box. It was also mentioned that any caretaker would need transport to move between the villages and mileage payments/vehicle insurance would need to be considered. The Chairman said that a full job description needed to be prepared and then it could either be ruled in or out when setting the budget. However if money was allowed for in the budget it would not tie the Council to going ahead.

12. CLLRS' REPORTS

TREES

Cllr Wright reported that she had received two letters from residents with regard to the felling of the willow trees along the riverbank in Wickham Road, Cllr Wright had enquired with Cllr Twyman and then had responded to the residents accordingly. These are commercially grown and have just been harvested for the cricket bat industry. The remaining logs will be chipped and removed. Cllr Treacher remarked that there had been a good clear up of the site after the felling works was complete, there had been nothing caught in the watermill.

KALC

The KALC AGM (Annual General Meeting) will take place on 18 November 2023 at Ditton Community Centre. Cllr Wrightson had confirmed that he would attend this on the Parish Councils behalf.

Village Hall Committee

Cllr Treacher reported that the most recent Village Hall Committee meeting had been held on 11th October. The Chairman had calculated the average years expenditure over the past five years as £5,500 and the income as £2,500. The medium-term financial position does not look so good. The school hire no longer covers the running costs. The contract between WPC and KCC allows for a 2% increase plus reasonable increase for fuel charges. The contract is direct with KCC rather than the School and 12 month's notice would be needed if WPC were to remove use of the hall from the school. It was felt that WPC should not have to cover the schools fuel usage.

It was suggested that the Chairman meet with the Hall Chairman to discuss the 5 year plan and that a KCC representative be invited to a WPC meeting in the future.

The Social Saturday held on 14th October raised a useful £220 towards the halls funds. The next one will be held on 9th December 10.30-12noon. The unveiling of the village sign along with the turning on of the Christmas tree lights on Wickhambreaux Green has also been penciled in for 2nd December.

Cllr Rees reported that the hall had been found unlocked on two weekends, with the fire exit also being left wide open on one of the occasions. The school had obviously failed to secure the building once finished on a Friday afternoon. A letter of apology had been received from Headteacher Lisa Crosbie. There are insurance implications for the hall if the building is left unsecure. Cllr Rees explained that there needs to be a consequence if this happens again; the hall need to decide on this.

Tracy is retiring from the Committee and as booking secretary, so a replacement is being sought. None of the existing committee wish to take on this role.

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

Playing Field

Cllr Rees reported that they had held a working party on the weekend of 14/15th October. Cllr Rees paid thanks to Karen & Donald MacIsaac, John Cotton, Kat and Charlie Gower, Steve Rees and the Frank Montgomery Committee for all their hard work over the weekend. The willow weave dome is now completed.

The current balance stands at £5193.73.

Safety surface repairs

Soft Surfaces Ltd had attended site today Tuesday 17th (works schedule for Wed 18th) to carry out the repair works to the four sides of the playing surface for the multicoloured climbing frame; upon attending they had advised Cllr Rees that the one side would need an edging piece in place before wetpour could be laid on that side. Cllr Collinson had also attended site at this point and it was agreed that the team should get on and do the three sides and a return would need to be arranged/quoted to fit an edging piece and complete the fourth side. The team then started digging the surface out and discovered the wetpour surface was not the 40mm depth they had quoted for but 90mm so they would not have enough material to complete. Cllr Rees had to leave the team doing the first edge and hopefully the second if they had enough material. Photos would be sent to Cllr Rees of what they had completed.

No site survey had been carried out by Soft Surfaces and the quote seems to have been done from photographs provided by the clerk. Acting Clerk to provide all past communications relating to this job to Cllr Rees so she can ascertain exactly what was quoted and how to move forward.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6th December 2023 and will focus on the Classic Car show arrangements.

Village Greens

Cllr McRobbie reported that the grass has now grown on the linear green where it had been reseeded. Looking forward to Christmas the two Christmas trees should be ordered, ready to be delivered in the last week of November. Acting clerk to arrange the order from EJ Clough, to be the same size and type as previous years.

Flooding

Cllr Twyman reported all quiet at present.

Speedwatch

Nothing to report at present.

Footpaths

Cllr Wright reported that the local volunteer had now attended the two-day strimming course and now has the relevant qualification. However to comply with KCC guidelines, it now requires a person plus a sign at each end of the footpath to warn people of the strimming taking place on the riverbank footpath. An alternative may be chopping brambles or mowing. KCC schedule only allows for one cut per year.

13. FINANCE

The expenditure totalling £1319.95 for October 2023 was authorised, made up of:

KOMPAN – September quarterly play area inspection - £96.00

Gail Hubbard – Clerk Salary October 2023

Chenice Howard-Sparkes – Clerk Salary October 2023

Elizabeth Stevens – Village Hall Cleaner Salary October 2023

HMRC – Employee and PAYE October 2023

Majestic Garden Care – Playing field maintenance - £180.00.

14. CLERK REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. CCC & Boundary Commission

Has published its decision on the number of Cllrs for Canterbury – 39 councillors, so the same number as now.

B. Boundary Commission consultation

10 week consultation started on ward boundaries, closes 4 December 2023

They seek to;

- Make sure, within each authority, each Cllr represents a similar number of electors
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities

- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances
www.lgbce.org/all-reviews/canterbury views can be submitted through site or email
reviews@lgbce.org.uk

C. Slow Ways

A crowd sourced national walking network that connects Britain's towns, cities and National parks. Supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, the mission is to make life easier for people to walk and wheel between places. Having a network of recommended and trusted routes is key to unlocking this. People have already drafted 9,000 routes now these routes need checking on the ground to make sure they are good enough for people to follow. They are encouraging people to walk the walk and feedback if the routes are suitable.

D. RACE (Rural and Community Housing Enabling Service)

Are holding a session introducing the service and outlining how you can address the housing needs of the community. There will be information on;

- How they undertake housing needs surveys to identify the nature and level of housing in your community.
- How small affordable housing schemes can be developed so that homes are only available to those who have a strong local connection
- How they can support developing a scheme

The session is online on 8th November 12.30-1.30pm and free to attend.

E. Lords Mayors Award 2023

The annual Lord Mayor Awards has been launched and we are asking for all parish councils to spread the word any way you can please. Poster displayed on noticeboard.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr McRobbie reported that the green bin collections have been very intermittent since the strike finished. Bins have not been collected for two weeks now. There was a reminder to report these missed collections through on the CCC website.

Cllr Rees reported that a children's party had been held on the playing field on Sunday 8th October with a bouncy castle, this had been arranged in advance with the Committee and went well with no issues.

Next Playing Field Committee meeting is to be held on Wednesday 6th December and will be focused on the arrangements for the Classic Car Show.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....