

Barham Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on 06 September 2018

Present: Parish Councillors David Wood (Chairman), John Brooks, Stephanie Hollowday, Sarah Goulden, Patti Earl and Liz Minter. And new parish cllr Stuart Eccles (Co-opted at the meeting).
Canterbury City Cllr Simon Cook (for part of the meeting).
Thirteen residents (some for just part of the meeting).
Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Cllr Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded people present that they were allowed to film the proceedings but should indicate that they wished to do so.
Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor David Tamsitt (away for work) and Parish Cllr Ernie Mullett (unwell) and KCC Cllr Michael Northey.

2. There were no declarations of interest.

3. Vacancy on the council

Stuart Eccles had put himself forward to be considered for the vacancy. Cllr Brooks proposed, Cllr Hollowday seconded and all councillors indicated that they were in favour of Mr Eccles being co-opted. He therefore signed the declaration of acceptance form and completed the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form for CCC. Cllr Wood welcomed Cllr Eccles to the team and commented that it is good to now be back to a full complement of councillors.

4. The Minutes of the last full parish council meeting held 05 July 2018 were approved and accepted as a true record and the Chairman signed them.

- 5. The meeting was adjourned for parishioners' questions and comments. A resident commented that he was pleased to see the Rural Housing item being moved on and reminded the Chairman that the Catching Lives Trustee would still be happy to visit the parish council. Homelessness is on the increase including in rural areas and there is a local need. Cllr Wood explained that CCC has been asked to review all possible sites in the village, but the Rural Housing Enabler has not heard back from CCC about this. The parish council has set up a working group who will report back to full council. Another resident mentioned off road motor cycling on the church field. Residents of The Grove and of properties by the Church have complained about the noise to the Police since June 2018. Apparently the riders have permission from the landowner but are causing a nuisance to residents and walkers. The Police have spoken to the riders and the PCSO is to contact the landowner. Cllr Wood commented that this concern is not within the parish council's powers or responsibilities. There were several residents present for Item 6 on the agenda and these Minutes below – the recent accident at Gravel Castle Road. The Chairman agreed they could speak to the item. The meeting continued.**

6. Accident at Gravel Castle crossroads

Cllr Wood declared an interest in this item due to the proximity of his home and felt that the vice-chair should chair this item. Cllr Hollowday therefore took the seat and led for this item.

Further to the serious road accident on 26 July 2018 at the Gravel Castle crossroads a residents' letter was received and circulated to all parish councillors prior to the meeting. The residents had also copied it to the city councillor and county councillor. (This letter is copied as an appendix to these Minutes).

A resident representing householders of Gravel Castle Road and Church Lane residents spoke. He explained there are concerns about: the carriageway; domestic traffic; agricultural vehicles; freight; the national speed limit in the area; and the fact that walkers including school children use the road with no pavements on a national speed limit; this is a route for walkers to Brickfield Play area and the cricket field; and the road is lined with residential properties with exiting drives. The one-way system needs revisiting too - A lot of traffic already goes up Gravel Castle Road the wrong way now.

Barham Parish Council is supportive of the call for traffic calming measures, a speed limit reduction, warning signs and repainting of all the lines at and approaching the junction. Canterbury City Cllr Simon Cook had responded to advise he had emailed Mike Whiting who is the cabinet member for highways to see what can be done urgently to make the junction and the area safe. KCC Cllr Michael Northey also

explained that he is familiar with the area and problem and some years ago attended a site meeting there with Cllr Wood and a highways officer to look at the problem in detail. Some bollards were put up and very clear road markings were painted, plus a Stop line and the Stop sign was placed to give early warning. Over time these markings have worn and he asked for these to be refreshed. Cllr Northey also emailed the Highways Manager and asked for a site meeting after this parish council meeting. The KCC Highways manager emailed the Clerk a "highway improvement plan document" which should be completed prior to the site meeting.

The resident spokesman had produced a report which was circulated to all councillors. This suggests various options to mitigate problems. The resident explained this document had been put together further to the issues being discussed by the group of householders.

Cllr Hollowday commented that it was an excellent report. Barham Parish Council will forward it to the Kent Highways manager with the completed highway improvement plan document – Cllr Wood and the Clerk will populate this. A site meeting can then be held with highways, city cllr, county cllr, Barham Cllrs and the Clerk to explore options with them. The Clerk explained that there may be restrictions on what may be achieved as the Department for Transport Guidance must be followed and any change in speed limit will require a Traffic Regulation Order which has both associated costs and statutory consultation with the Police and will need Police agreement.

Cllr Hollowday suggested that the parish council should also ask Kent Highways to conduct a traffic count too as an information gathering exercise.

Cllr Cook explained that Kent Highways has a restricted budget and improvements therefore like signage are more likely to be achieved than laybys, chicanes etc. Repainting of the white lines should also be considered although he felt Kent Highways already have this in hand. He also felt that other areas of concern such as the problem of speeding traffic on Derrington Hill from Elham Valley Road could also be added to the template.

7. CCC Cllr Simon Cook report

Cllr Cook advised that CCC has organised a second clean of the A2 east side to be undertaken on 17 September 2018 and the west side by the end of October. Budget is in place for cleans to be undertaken twice a year provided these can link to Highways England work controls. For the Highland Court application there is no application for consultation yet – but he anticipated this within a month.

Cllr Goulden commented that stakes installed at the slip road at Cold Harbour Lane have been very successful at deterring lorries and she thanked him for his involvement in this.

Cllr Cook explained that in Bishopsbourne cones are being put out periodically in their laybys due to issues with littering and solicitation to the drivers. Cllr Cook is asking Kent Highways to either mark them off or make them official laybys. Bishopsbourne Parish Council would prefer them to be closed.

8. PCSO report – the PCSO report for August had been circulated prior to the meeting. For Barham there had been one theft from a vehicle and one burglary in Church Lane.

9. Finance - the cheques were authorised and signed.

NOTED a further few amendments to the NALC Model Standing Orders and TO ADOPT a revised version (more detail on the Clerk report). Cllr Minter proposed the new set be adopted, Cllr Goulden seconded and all councillors were in favour. The Clerk will upload and replace the set available on the parish council's website.

RECEIVED the bank reconciliation and bank statements for July and August 2018 and RESOLVED the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon.

All Cllrs were in favour and therefore it was RESOLVED to set up a direct debit for the electricity bills for street lighting – in order to meet their 14 days payment terms requirement.

RECEIVED an End of Quarter One spreadsheet of expenditure against budget – for information.

Annual Insurance Renewal

The parish council is in a long term agreement with Zurich until 1 October 2022. The annual renewal premium for the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019 is now due for renewal. The Clerk has added the following to the insurance schedule: The third new bench (a second one for The Shrubbery); New

fencing at Brickfield Recreation Ground; the Electricity Cabinet on the village green; A dog bags dispenser and post; Two new picnic tables for Brickfield Recreation Ground; and the new Proludic Multi-Play Tower play equipment at Brickfield Recreation Ground. These combined added £117.85 to the renewal premium. NOTED that the Clerk has also updated the Fixed Asset Register with these new additions.

Canterbury South Urban Extension (Corinthian) proposal

This is to be heard at the Court of Appeal on air pollution grounds, in 2018. The case began in February 2017 with a challenge to the Secretary of State for failing to call-in the Corinthian application on air pollution grounds. CONSIDERED the written request from “The Kent Environment and Community Network” for a donation of £500 (or any amount) towards legal costs. However no councillors were willing to give a donation of any size at this time.

CCC Parish Capital Grants Fund for 2019/20

The Parish Capital Grants Fund for 2019/20 is open for applications with a deadline of 30 September 2018. There is no change to the process for allocating the funding. This year there is a total of £25,000 to allocate due to an underspend. As in previous years', the funding is solely for capital projects and applicants are required to match fund. The Rural Area Member Panel and Herne Bay Area Member Panel will be consulted on the proposals and the allocation of funding will be agreed at Community Committee at the end of November 2019. RESOLVED to make a match-funded application for the removal and replacement of the four concrete seats on the village green plus two further ones to match new provision. The old concrete seats have been there circa 60 years and the parish council have to replace these, and would like to do so with wooden ones.

A “kick-start” grant to Barham Football Club

The parish council has agreed use of the cricket field for a football provision. The football Club is now constituted and affiliated to the FA. A “Letter to Occupy” has now been given to the Barham Youth Football Club. Cllr Goulden explained that since the last meeting she and Cllr Wood and the Clerk had held a useful meeting with Mr and Mrs Julian with a lot of work passed back to Mr Julian to explore further and report back. Details of this meeting had been circulated by the Clerk.

There is a need for a building. There has been a building there before, with a small footprint. The site is in the AONB and conservation area so there will be planning constraints. The FA require a building with toilets and changing rooms as a minimum. There is also desire for a hall space, a kitchen and showers so the building would need to have a bigger footprint than that held before, subject to planning permission.

Mr Julian is to meet with Sport England. The freeholder can apply for funding jointly with a leaseholder which would be a good thing but they would not consider an application with a lease of less than 21 years.

In due course a Lease will need to be given and full details of this will come to full council for agreement. She suggested that a period of 30 years be considered so quite a commitment.

Cllr Goulden proposed that a “kick-start” grant of £5,000 in the first year be given to Barham Football Club in their endeavours towards a planning application and fund-raising for a building on the old cricket field – once the formal lease has been agreed. Any offer in a second year would need to be revisited as there are parish council elections in May 2019 and new councillors would need consulting.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Minter and approved in principle by all. (Cllr Eccles abstained from discussion and voting as he has an interest in the Football Club.)

10. Publicity & Communications including website

The Village Survey Action Plans – one for the Village and the one for Children and young people, and a “Completed/Achieved/Abandoned” list are on the parish council website. There is no update this month.

Removal of the Bell Cottage phone box – NOTED the removal of the box by the buyers took place on 24 July 2018.

Facebook page for Barham parish council – Cllr Hollowday has been updating the Facebook page as appropriate. She explained that there has been Facebook discussion that the new kissing gates at Brickfield Recreation Ground don't allow buggy access. She advised too that there has been online discussion about the nuisance motorbikes mentioned by a resident earlier in the meeting.

Crookenden Place has won an award “highly recommended” for their blooms which the parish council welcome and congratulate.

11. Rural Housing Enabler

It was reported at the July 2018 parish council meeting that a meeting with the Rural Housing Enabler from Action with Communities in Rural Kent was held on 18 June 2018. Details of that meeting were published in the July 2018 parish council meeting Minutes. The parish council resolved at the July 2018 meeting to revisit the possible sites for rural housing development in the village again with CCC Planners if possible, and that a councillor working group explore this item in more detail – The working group meeting is scheduled for 11 September 2018.

12. First Aid demonstration session for residents

Cllr Wood explained that since the last meeting the Community First Responder for Barham has kindly run an uncertified first aid session for interested residents. This went very well and all attendees commented that they had found it useful. The CFR is happy to run more sessions later in the year for CPR and a basic first aid session. This would last about an hour or so and be on a Saturday and probably be in October onwards and would have a maximum of 12 people at a time for each. Anyone interested please contact the Clerk. Cllr Hollowday will put a post about this on Facebook.

13. Highways

Crocus Bulbs

Cllr Goulden advised that she has received an anonymous donation of 600 large mixed bulbs. She will pass these to Cllr Minter to arrange to have these planted by the volunteers that Cllr Minter has to hand to do this.

A2 roundabout construction at Aylesham turnoff

The old A2 turning is now becoming blocked with the volume of traffic during the day and at the last meeting the Clerk was asked to try and seek an update on the construction of the roundabout in Barham parish as part of the planning approval to mitigate the new Aylesham housing development. The Clerk has spoken to both Clerks of Adisham and Aylesham:

All parish councils are frustrated at the lack of progress that appears to be happening about this. The new traffic from the people occupying the new homes is having an accumulative effect – and this is of course only going to get worse. We are concerned that the roundabout is a mitigating requirement of the Aylesham development – and if it is not possible to create it then there needs to be a dialogue to resolve a variation and a different mitigation measure (such as traffic lights perhaps).

The Aylesham Parish Council Clerk replied in July 2018 as follows:

“In regards to the A2 roundabout, we had an update at our meeting last week in that the latest delay was down to KCC and Highways England not agreeing maintenance of a parcel of land, this has now been resolved. I am of the understanding that Highways England now just need to “sign off” the roundabout with work hopefully due to start this autumn. One of our District Councillors Linda Keen has been writing to Charlie Elphicke MP regarding the matter, and has again this week to hopefully make sure this all happens. As soon as I know any more I can let you know.”

14. Open Spaces

A Community litter pick

The latest litter picks have been most successful on a Saturday afternoon so a Saturday afternoon in early November to conduct a Community litter pick was agreed – the date to be finalised by Cllr Wood, Cllr Hollowday and the Clerk and based on hall availability.

A re-tender exercise for the grounds maintenance contract for the open spaces, churchyard and verges

A re-tender exercise must be undertaken periodically and to inform the budget setting due in October/November. The Clerk will meet with the current contractor and agree a specification and schedule and seek a second quote.

Play area visual inspections

The two play areas’ visual Cllr 6-monthly inspections are next due in October 2018. Cllr Brooks and Cllr Eccles will undertake this.

Play Area Inspection Reports

The Valley Road play area and Brickfield Recreation Ground had their annual inspections completed on 19 July 2018 and the Clerk has received the subsequent written reports.

Risk scores are calculated by Likelihood of harm (scored 1 to 5 where 1 is rare and 5 is certain) and Severity of injury (scored 1-5 where 1 is insignificant and 5 is catastrophic) - Then the numbers are multiplied by – to give a maximum risk of 25. Scores 1 to 7 are Low Risk; Score 8-14 is Medium Risk and some control measures may be needed, and a Score of 15 and above is High Risk where urgent action is required. Brickfield Recreation Ground has two items scoring 8; and the Valley Road play area has the three items with a score of 8 and one item with a 7.

The reports were delegated to the Chairman and Clerk to explore further in the first instance.

Volunteer working party held on Sunday 8 July 2018

This project was to undertake minor actions from annual play area inspections reports ideally with resident volunteers. Only Cllr Hollowday and the Clerk attended. They stained some of the wood supports on the trim trail – which has received favourable comments from residents. The Clerk will speak to Cllr Hollowday to set another date to do some more. Cllr Wood will advertise this in the magazine and Cllr Hollowday will advertise again on Facebook.

New play equipment at Brickfield Recreation Ground

The new multi play unit at Brickfield Recreation Ground has been installed. An external inspection took place and the item was passed over. A Community event at Brickfield – to “open” new play equipment has now been abandoned.

Two new picnic tables for the Brickfield Recreation ground new fenced section

The Clerk and Cllr Wood and Cllr Hollowday met on site on 30 July 2018. Various styles of picnic seating were researched and discussed. Two picnic tables have been ordered. These tables are recycled plastic, so virtually maintenance free, and are very heavy.

The Order was placed on 3 August 2018 and they are in production. Cllr Wood is dealing with the contractor for the installation. The contractor has said they don't need concrete bases but they will be concreted in.

A second new bench for along The Shrubbery

The second bench to match the one there now has been installed.

Wormery provision

The provision of the wormery, with a dog bag dispenser and dog poo wormery at South Barham Road (on the National speed limit repeater pole) alongside Ford Lodge/Heaselands Barn was resolved at the March 2017 parish council meeting. (When the Nailbourne is flowing the dog bin on this repeater sign does not get emptied by Serco so this is considered an ideal location.)

A Dog Poo Wormery is a compost bin in which just dog poo in compostable bags is placed. It completely disappears producing scent-free compost after 3 - 4 months. The wormery ordered in March 2017 has now over-wintered. The supplier confirmed delivery may now be arranged from mid-July but since then the Clerk has tried repeatedly to make contact by email and two telephone numbers with no success. The Clerk will now write formally to the company to seek an update and send the letter by recorded delivery.

Christmas lighting

C/FWD ITEM: Cllrs would like better Christmas lighting for 2018. Cllr Wood confirmed the hall have agreed use of an external socket at the back of the shop for a Christmas tree nearby.

Cllr Wood to talk to electrician about suitable connectors for the armoured cable and to do work at the hall for external points to make the lights safe and make the installation waterproof.

Cllr Minter and Cllr Mullett will speak about suitable lights to purchase for the Derringstone Green triangle. There is no power supply here and the lights will have to be solar/battery powered.

Dog fouling

The Clerk was asked to defer the idea of hanging dog bags filled with mud on a village tree as a statement and message to the next meeting agenda when Cllr Tamsitt will be present.

15. Footpaths & Rights of Way

Resident offer to replace stiles - A resident has kindly offered to replace the three old stiles with a self-closing pedestrian gate each on the footpaths CB227 and CB228 heading from Out Elmstead towards The

Street. The Clerk contacted the KCC PROW department who are happy for this to proceed. KCC will supply the gates at a reduced rate. The landowners permission is needed – they also need to agree to the future maintenance of the gates. The Clerk sourced the necessary S147 form required for completion by the landowners and wrote to them but has not as yet received a reply. She will write again.

16. External Organisations

Cllr Wood explained that the History Society is working with the village hall committee re the provision of a heritage room on the village hall site. If the committee agrees that, then funding will be required. To apply for grants it would be helpful if Barham Parish Council is supportive of the project. The Clerk advised this would need to be published as a future meeting agenda item and Cllr Wood will provide more information when available. Barham Cllrs were happy in principle subject to the detail.

17. Clerk report – the Clerk report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Most items are incorporated elsewhere in the Minutes, or in the appendix to these Minutes.

Clerk at Coffee Stop - The Clerk usually attends a Coffee Stop on the third/fourth Tuesday of each month between 10.30 and 11.30. The Chairman is usually at each session too to take enquiries also.

18. Planning Matters

New planning applications:
CA/18/01054 - The Grey Bungalow, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6PL Proposed detached two-storey dwelling with accommodation in the roof space and detached garage with associated access, following demolition of dwelling and outbuilding.
CA/18/01245 - Holmwood, The Street, Barham, CT4 6PA Two-storey front and side extension, single-storey rear extension and detached two-storey garage.
CA/18/01464 - 16 Fox Way, Barham, CT4 6QJ - Change of use from chiropractic clinic to dwelling.
CA/18/01493 - Rowan House, Brickfield Road, Barham, CT4 6LQ Proposed single-storey rear extension to garage to form annexe for ancillary accommodation.
Application for Highland Court in the neighbouring parish of Bekesbourne: CA//18/01597/EIAb - Land at Highland Court Farm, Coldharbour Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5HN. Request for EIA screening and scoping opinion for development comprising expansion of existing business park, leisure, commercial and tourism development including an innovation centre, food and drink hub, leisure hub, mixed use court, office space, sports pitches, floodlights and clubhouse for Canterbury Football Club and Canterbury Rugby Football Club, 175 holiday homes and associated car parking, access, landscaping, lighting and associated infrastructure.
CA/18/01663 - Broome Quarry House, Canterbury Road, Barham, CT4 6QU Proposed two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension with balcony following demolition of existing single-storey side extension.
CA/18/01800 - The Cottage, Rectory Lane, Barham, CT4 6PD Proposed single-storey side extension.
Notifications
CA/18/00864 - Cedar House, Old Dover Road, Barham, CT4 6PW Proposed recreational tree house, decks and play equipment. GRANTED by CCC
CA/18/00911 - Cariad Cottage, Out Elmstead Lane, Barham, CT4 6PG Proposed two-storey side and rear extensions, single-storey rear extensions, balcony to rear and change of rear flat roof to pitched roof, following demolition of garage. REFUSED by CCC
CA/18/00833 - Sydney House, Derrington Hill, Barham Variation of condition 01 (approved drawings) of planning permission CA//18/00331/VAR for the erection of three detached dwellings in the grounds of Sydney House, Barham; to allow alterations to outbuilding on plot B. GRANTED by CCC
CA/18/00869 - Simpson Wine Estate, The Barns, Church Lane, Barham, CT4 6PB Single-storey extension for wine press room. GRANTED by CCC

CA/18/00891/FUL and CA/18/00892/LB - The Old Farmhouse, Derrington Street, Barham, CT4 6QB
Single-storey side extension following demolition of outbuilding. GRANTED by CCC

CA/18/01004 - Heaselands, South Barham Road, Barham, CT4 6QA
Retrospective application for shed. GRANTED BY CCC

CA/18/01245 - Holmwood, The Street, Barham, CT4 6PA
Two-storey front and side extension, single-storey rear extension and detached two-storey garage. GRANTED

CA/17/00809 - Arter Brothers, Eagle Motor Works, Old Dover Road, Barham, CT4 6EX: Proposed 10 two-storey dwellings following demolition of existing commercial buildings GRANTED BY CCC

Application for Highland Court in the neighbouring parish of Bekesbourne:

CA/18/01597/EIAb - Land at Highland Court Farm, Coldharbour Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5HN.

Request for EIA screening and scoping opinion for development comprising expansion of existing business park, leisure, commercial and tourism development including an innovation centre, food and drink hub, leisure hub, mixed use court, office space, sports pitches, floodlights and clubhouse for Canterbury Football Club and Canterbury Rugby Football Club, 175 holiday homes and associated car parking, access, landscaping, lighting and associated infrastructure. CCC DECISION is "PLANNING GUIDANCE".

19. Councillors' items

None this month.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Future meetings: Full Council: in the Grabham Room in the village hall. First Thursday of each month – 4 October, 1 November and 6 December 2018. (and F&GP dates *if required*: Usually 3rd Monday of each month: in the committee room – if required - 15 October, 19 November and 17 December 2018.)

Signed..... Chairman, Barham Parish Council

Date

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting

Barham Parish Council meeting 06 September 2018 – Appendix

Residents' letter re accident at Gravel Castle crossroads:

Dear Amanda,

As you are no doubt aware, there was a serious road accident at the junction of Church Lane/Gravel Castle Road at around 10.20 pm on Thursday 26th July, 2018. A van drove at speed from the direction of the A2, through the crossroads of Church Lane/Gravel Castle Road without stopping, hitting a car driving along Church Lane. The Police (accident ref: 26-1674), Fire Department (accident ref: 4703) and Ambulance Department (accident ref: 3021) all attended the accident.

Fortunately nobody was killed, but this is not the first time that vehicles have driven at speed through the crossroads without stopping.

The speed of traffic (which includes cars and extremely large lorries and trucks) coming down the one way Gravel Castle Road, which is a tortuous, steep, and narrow country lane with no pavements, lined with properties with concealed entrances, has been a concern of the residents for many years. Gravel Castle Road is used regularly by pedestrians, children walking to school, cyclists and horses. Traffic has increased considerably over the years. Previous attempts at traffic calming have not been entirely successful.

It is evident that existing traffic calming measures need to be reinforced and new measures introduced. We suggest for your consideration changing the one way system, changing the speed limit (currently 60 mph), putting up warning signs and repainting all the lines at and approaching the junction which are very faded.

We, on behalf of the residents of Gravel Castle Road, would be grateful if the Parish Council would look into this as a matter of urgency. Surely measures taken to prevent fatalities are better to be introduced now rather than carrying on the status quo and waiting for a death to happen.

We note from the KCC website that any correspondence to request action has to be instigated by the correct authorities i.e. yourselves.

We would be grateful if you could put this matter on the agenda of the next Barham Parish Council meeting in September. Thanking you in advance for your consideration to this urgent matter.

Letter copied to KCC Cllr Mr. M. Northey, CCC Cllr S. Cook (councillor) and Mr. Steve Horton (KCC Kent Highways Casualty Reduction Manager).

Other items noted within paperwork but not discussed at the meeting:

Referendum principles and English town and parish councils:

SLCC advised on 17 August 2018 that the Government has published a “technical consultation” on the draft local government finance settlement. This contains the very welcome following paragraphs about referendum principles and English town and parish councils:

4.3.1 In 2018-19, the Government decided to defer the setting of referendum principles for town and parish councils for three years. However, this was conditional upon:

a) the sector taking all available steps to mitigate the need for council tax increases, including the use of reserves where they are not already earmarked for other uses or for “invest to save” projects which will lower ongoing costs; and

b) the Government seeing clear evidence of restraint in the increases set by the sector

4.3.2 In 2018-19, the average Band D parish precept increased by 4.9% (£3.02). This compares to a 6.3% increase (£3.63) in 2017-18, and is the lowest year on-year increase in parish precepts since 2015-16.

4.3.3 In view of this, the Government intends to continue the deferral of setting referendum principles for town and parish councils, but encourages parish councils to continue this downward trend, and will keep this area under active review.

Parking queries

After the July 2018 parish council meeting the Clerk made enquiries with the PCSO about parking guidelines and the PCSO clarified the following with a traffic officer:

i) Question: the Highway Code states that there should be no parking within 10m of a junction? Can this be enforced?

Answer: ***It can be but only if it causes a physical obstruction to junction ie stop vehicles moving, if it's an inconvenience due to sight then I doubt it?***

ii) Question: For parking after dark is it an offence to park without lights near a junction? There is a possible £1,000 fine?

Answer: ***It could be parked/left in a dangerous location which is an offence but the fine is only £50 or £100***

Register to Vote

Household Enquiry Forms for electoral registration were delivered to every property in the district from 10 July 2018 (with a response deadline of 3 August 2018).

Residents should check the form carefully when it arrives. Canterbury City Council needs to know whether all the details are correct or if any changes are required. Details of how to respond are on the form. It is important to make sure you are registered to vote. If you are not, you will not be able to vote at elections and it could put your credit rating at risk, which means you may find it difficult to get a loan or mortgage.

You can now register to vote online at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

It will save money if you respond by telephone or internet rather than returning your form by post. If you do not respond CCC is required to issue reminders and possibly visit your property which would incur further costs.

If CCC do not receive a response to the initial form, reminders get sent out from 17 August which need to be returned by 10 September. With no response from the reminder, a canvasser will be knocking on the door from 5 October to 24 October to get the form completed. If the canvasser cannot get a response a form will be left to be complete and a response to this is required by 29 October. (Last year it cost the council over £20,000 sending out reminders and canvassers door knocking to get a response.)