

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11th May, 2016

Present:

Cllr. J. Hunt – Chair	Cllr. S. Cheeseman
Cllr. M. Gale – Vice-Chair	Cllr. P. Horner
Cllr. P. Hyde	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Cllr. J. White	Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes
Cllr. L. Mitchell	7 Parishioners

This is a Parish Meeting called as required by the local Government Act, 1972. The meeting is an opportunity for the residents of the village who are registered electors to raise and discuss any subject affecting the village. Discussion and voting on any subject is restricted to electors, residents who are not registered as electors are welcome as observers. Residents wishing to speak are requested to give their name and the name of their road or street.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair, Cllr. J Hunt, said he was proud to be able to hand the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award to Nicola McKenzie for her work in the community including being part of the new Bam Trust; the monthly 'Iwade Observer' newsletter; the creation of the community Website - www.iwadevillage.co.uk and work undertaken during the time she was a Member of the Parish Council when she was also one of the instigators of the Village Broadband.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies were received from Cllrs. Plumb, Rook and D. Gale; Borough Cllr. Dewar-Whalley and Nick Mayatt the Community Warden; no apologies were received from Cllr. Clark or the two County Councillors.

2. REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The Chair went back over the year starting with the increase in Councillors from 9 to 11 and that over the year two Members have stood down although most of the time the Council has been at full strength.

Housing - Over the year the major issue has been housing and although only now coming up due to the Local Plan and the hearing the Parish Council has been speaking to developers and land owners to discuss what is coming forward and we have also put our case forward to the Planning Inspector as to why there should be no further housing in Iwade. Parishioners have seen the map showing proposed housing in the S.E. sector of the village; the Parish Council met with the landowner and took the view forward that we want no more development in Iwade; this is the view of the residents and also that given in the '10 Point Plan' and Housing Needs Survey. However at the same time we are very aware that the Planning Inspector might say more housing so we have been making sure that if it does come forward it brings other benefits to the village as well. What is being proposed is about 572 housing units but this proposal still has to go forward to the Local Development Framework Panel to be agreed and that number could change – we need to put forward good reasons as to why it should not go ahead. In addition to this more housing was put forward which we have managed to halt – a further 800 houses were being considered along with 16 in Dunlin Walk (land owned by Wards); but these haven't been included in the allocations coming forward in the Local Plan. A lot of this work has gone on behind the scenes. The additional housing allocations will come out for consultation in June and all responses will go to the Planning Inspector.

Projects – we have managed to complete the replacement of the old parish lighting with new; 26 old columns and two have been installed; this has been done in approximately 3 years whereas originally it was thought to replace one a year – 25 years for the completion! The Vodafone Rural Sure Signal is up and running. The Barn has been handed over; planning permission for internal works has been granted and we are now waiting for Building Regulations. The Solar Farm has been completed and although we objected to this in beginning the company has set up a community fund which is estimated to bring in £80,000 a year and community groups from Iwade can apply for funding.

School Parking - Numerous complaints are being received about parking outside the school; the Parish Council, together with KCC, Borough Councillors, the Police and residents are working to try and find a solution to the issues.

School Lane Playing Field and Pavilion – Still ongoing, it is in the hands of Swale Borough Council and we are hoping that this will move soon.

Village Park – there still has been no progress with the landscaping; this has been going on since 2012 and the Parish Council is still chasing for the work to be carried out.

General – The Chair then thanked Parish Councillors for all the work they had undertaken during the year and also Lynda Fisher, the Clerk, who has not only guided the Councillors over the last year but has also tried to keep the Chair in order!

3. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS

None.

4. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

None.

Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.