

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11th April, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. Plumb – Chairman
Cllr. R. Phillips
Cllr. J. White
Cllr. S. Harris
Cllr. J. Hunt

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
County Cllr. Mike Whiting
Borough Cllr. Alan Willicombe
2 Parishioners

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed Members and Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs Avron-Cotton, Jones, Hyde and Gregory, Nick Mayatt, the Community Warden, and Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Phillips declared an interest under Matters Arising: D.S. Smith – Community Involvement.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Proposed by Cllr. Harris and seconded by Cllr. Phillips, the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 14th March, 2012, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Plumb and seconded by the Clerk, the Minutes of the Finance meeting held on the 28th March, 2012, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Village Park/Pond – Cllr. Hunt advised that a survey is being carried out on the pond to see what wildlife it contains. The new Iwade Nature Conservation Group has been set up and has seven members. It is hoped that at the time when KRAG carries out its Great Crested Newt survey in April these members will be trained in managing the Newts' environment. He also mentioned the possibility that a Villager will be donating £50 to help with this.

Action: Cllr. Hunt/INCG

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trees/Celebration – The planting of the commemorative trees will be deferred until October, following advice received from the Nursery that owing to the drought the trees will not survive.

Clerk to look into the cost of obtaining a commemorative plaque. Due to the possibility of vandalism/theft it was agreed not to go with anything that was movable or made out of metal; possibly something made out of stone?

Action: Clerk

Iwade Medical Centre – The Clerk has written to the PCT and the Medical Centre’s Practice Manager, looking to set up a meeting to discuss some of the concerns raised by Parishioners. Clerk added that she has now received notification from the PCT that a letter has been sent to all patients advising that a walk in session has been arranged at the medical centre on the 19th April, from 5.30 to 7.00 p.m. This session will allow patients to put forward their concerns and for the PCT to update them on the current position regarding the centre.

SBC Corporate Plan 2012-16 – The response prepared by Cllr. Plumb and circulated to all Members was agreed for submission to Swale Borough Council.

Replacement of old Parish Lighting – Agreed Cllr. Phillips to inspect all 26 columns and report back with his findings to the next meeting. *Action: Cllr. Phillips*

D.S. Smith Paper Limited – Following this company’s offer of financial assistance/help with community projects at last months meeting, Members’ were asked to formulate ideas to put forward. One idea is ask the company to purchase a pond dipping station and to help with the nature trail; it was agreed that Cllrs. Phillips and Hunt put together a presentation involving these suggestions for submission to the company. *Action: Cllrs. Phillips and Hunt*

5. Visitors/Public Time

Parishioners – Steve Theobald, who has taken over the running of the Village Market, sought clarification on restrictions for cooking in the Village Hall garden area; he would like to bring in more products which might require cooking on site. Members agreed to this proposal providing that risk assessments are carried out on each stall holder who wishes to take up this option and a copy of the assessment given to the Parish Council; stall holders have up to date Public Liability Insurance and adequate fire extinguishers are located around the site.

County Councillor and Borough Councillors – Borough Cllr. Alan Willicombe thought the grant he had offered of £1000 was going through; Clerk confirmed she had submitted the forms to KCC and the Parish Council hopes to purchase a picnic table/seating and a bench for the Village Park, plus a bench for the green adjacent to Sheerstone.

County Cllr. Mike Whiting has arranged for bollards to be installed on the footway in the Village Centre’s access road, to stop vehicles parking on the pavement. He is also pushing KCC for a 20 m.p.h. speed limit in Iwade. He informed that at a recent meeting of the L.E.F. teenagers had asked for a Skateboard Park in Sittingbourne. Swale Borough Council is looking for a site and the Clerk will write to the owner of the Speedway Track at Raspberry Hill to ascertain whether it is possible to use some of his land. *Action: Clerk*

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – In his absence the report circulated by the Warden was noted by Members.

Clerk advised that Iwade now has a new PCSO, Aaron Harris.

6. Finance

KALC Membership 2012/13 – Proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Harris that the fee of £798.35p be paid for the Parish Council’s membership of this organisation.

Village Handyman Hourly Rate – Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Harris that the Handyman’s hourly rate be increased from £10 to £11.

Seed of Hope Upkeep – The Chairman advised that during a recent discussion with Hillreed Homes it had been discovered that no-one has responsibility for maintenance of this work of art, which is now showing signs of wear and tear. Clerk instructed to contact the Sculptor, Will Glanfield, to gain his advice on the repairs. *Action: Clerk*

Clerk’s Salary – Clerk left the room whilst this subject was being discussed. It was proposed by Cllr. Phillips and seconded by Cllr. White that the Clerk advance from Point 24 on the NJC Salary Scale to point 25. Members had also decided to look at the hours worked and asked the Clerk to log her work over the next month. *Action: Clerk*

Picnic Table and Benches (KCC Grant) – Clerk advised that she has pursued Borough Councillor Alan Willicombe’s offer of a KCC grant. The total cost of the extended picnic table and two benches, excluding V.A.T., is £857. On top of this there is a possible £2,000 for concrete bases for each piece of equipment; this amount is a very quick ‘guestimate’ supplied by the Handyman, as there was insufficient time to obtain an accurate figure because of the short closing date for submission of applications.

Budget 2012/13 – adjustment – Clerk referred Members to the set of revised year end accounts, which have been adjusted following discussions with the Internal Auditor. One of the adjustments has led to a clearer layout which now shows the over/underspend on each heading. Clerk also advised that the Internal Auditor carried out the year end audit on the 11th April and his report will follow in due course.

Cheques raised at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
11.04.12	1515	Iwade Womens Institute	£252.00p
11.04.12	1516	Iwade Parent & Toddler Group	£820.00p
11.04.12	1517	1 st Iwade Cubs & Beavers	£1596.00p
11.04.12	1518	Wages	£557.65p
11.04.12	1519	L. Fisher	£58.38p
11.04.12	1520	Swale Borough Council	£807.80p
11.04.12	1521	Cancelled	0
11.04.12	1522	Society of Local Council Clerks	£47.00p
11.04.12	1523	C.P.R.E.	£28.00p
11.04.12	1524	PFL Electrical Ltd.	£111.60p
11.04.12	1525	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.	£54.60p
11.04.12	1526	Steve Wakeling	£65.99p
11.04.12	1527	Steve Wakeling	£185.00p
Thirteen cheques in total			

7. Swale RAHM (Core Strategy)

Cllr. Gregory and Cllr. Phillips attended a meeting at Bobbing Village Hall on the 25th March, which was held to raise awareness around the new 20 year plan, which was offered for

consultation. CPRE raised serious concerns around sustainability; there is a lack of schools, hospitals and highways to support the planned new housing.

The Parish Council also needs to respond to the consultation, which includes

- a) Gypsy and Traveller pitch number options;
- b) the Council's 2010/11 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and
- c) The Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal.

Clerk to draft a basic response to b) and c) and forward to Members for consideration and any additions/amendments.

Action: Clerk

8. Village Hall Updates

Peter Lovelock, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, was invited to update the Council on this item. Peter attended the meeting of Swale Borough Council's Planning Committee on the 29th March, to hear the debate on the outline planning application for the Village Hall site. All fourteen Members present voted unanimously to agree the permission. However, after the meeting an e-mail was received from the Planning Officer advising that permission was subject to the view of Sports England, which was still awaited, and that they had until the 21st April to respond.

Peter further commented that action will need to be taken to ascertain if it is possible to transfer part, or all, of the School Lane Playing Field site into the ownership of the Parish Council, as the hall site cannot be sold until ownership of an alternative site is secured (Clerk to talk to Swale Borough Council's Green Spaces Officer, Graeme Tuff, regarding the land). The Parish Council will require services of a Solicitor for the sale/purchase of the land. There is also the need to establish how/if the Section 106 money for the proposed Pavilion will be transferred into the fund for the new hall, as this building will be incorporated into the new centre.

He acknowledged a Business Plan will need to be put together once planning permission has been approved. Cllr. Phillips suggested the way forward would be a plan of action to show deadlines and objectives and volunteered his help with this.

Action: Cllr. Phillips and Clerk

9. Provision for Teenagers

Youth Parish Council – regrettably no teenagers attended the meeting to follow up their enquiry. County Cllr. Whiting was very interested in the formation of a Youth Council and the Clerk will advise him if there is any take up.

Action: Clerk

Skateboard Park – possible site Raspberry Hill – regrettably no teenagers attended the meeting. See Cllr. Mike Whiting's comments under Section 5 -Visitor/Public Time.

11. Correspondence

New Kent Policing Model – With the assistance of an Iwade resident, who suffered a recent crime and could comment on the service she received from the Police, Cllr. Hunt completed and returned the questionnaire.

Dogs Off Lead – Members agreed to support the RSPCA’s request for the Parish Council to ask Swale borough Council to give serious consideration to add dogs on leads on the highway to the Local Dog Control Order. *Action: Clerk*

Invitation to meeting with Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council re:

- a) **Bold Steps for Swale – A Local Prospectus of Services**
- b) **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**
- c) **Localisation of Council Tax Benefit and Cutting its costs by 10%**

Members agreed to defer discussion on these items until the May meeting.

Closure of A2 High Street, Newington – Clerk advised that this road will be opened from tomorrow, 12th April.

12. Planning

SW/12/0281 – Single storey rear extension, loft conversion and summerhouse – 88 School Lane, Iwade, ME9 8SG – Members raised no objection to this application.

13. Next Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be followed by the normal Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 9th May, 2012, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The annual Parish meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd May, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.