

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8th August, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. Plumb - Chair
Cllr. R. Jones – Vice-Chair
Cllr. J. Hunt
Cllr. P. Hyde
Cllr. R. Rook
Cllr. T. Avron-Cotton

County Cllr. M. Whiting
Borough Cllr. A. Willicombe
Borough Cllr. B. Stokes
2 Parishioners
Lynda Fisher, Clerk

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Phillips, Nick Mayatt Community Warden and PCSO Harris.

3. Declarations of Interest – None.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 11th July, 2012 were proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Hunt; agreed by all and signed as a true transcript.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Trees – The Clerk reported that the site adjacent to the bus shelter is not suitable due to services running underground; Highways also checked the rest of Ferry Road, but it would appear that most of the green verges have services running under them.

Members agreed that due to the difficulty in finding a suitable site it now looks as though the trees will possibly need to be split into different locations. It was proposed by Cllr. Hyde and seconded by Cllr. Rook that 4 trees be located at the front of the meadow side of the village park, and 4/5 in the actual park; agreed by all.

Replacement of Old Parish Lighting – Report still awaited from Cllr. Phillips. It was proposed by Cllr. Hyde, seconded by Cllr. Jones and agreed by all Members to replace the old parish lighting, one column per year (approximate cost £2000), or as a column becomes faulty and the repairs exceed £45, this will bring the lighting up to the same standard as the new parts of the village.

It was also agreed that a team of Members would inspect the 26 columns and depending on the condition/age draw up a replacement schedule.

D.S. Smith Community involvement; Pond Dipping Station – The Clerk has been advised to try contact to Mark Steadman again in August regarding the proposal for a pond dipping Station. In the meantime Wards Homes are also very keen to supply this equipment but will not install it. The Clerk has contacted Graeme Tuff, Green Spaces Officer at Swale Borough

Council, and he is agreeable to her requesting a quote from one of his contractors and will then pay for the installation. Graeme did raise one concern about whether the pond had a liner, which the legs of the station might puncture; however Cllr. Hunt advised that he has been informed that it is clay lined, which will not cause a problem. *Action: Clerk.*

Speed Watch – Clerk advised that the speed watch training has gone ahead and the Village now has a team of six volunteers. These volunteers will be meeting an established group on the Isle of Sheppey to get some ‘live’ experience at the roadside. There is some concern that the equipment needed costs £2,000, but Cllr. Willicombe very kindly offered to pay for this out of his Members’ Fund, which was very much appreciated. He advised the Clerk to contact Bill Ronan, KCC, for the grant application form. *Action: Clerk*

6. Visitors/Public Time

Parishioners – No comments.

County Councillor and Borough Councillors – County Cllr. Mike Whiting handed the Clerk a copy of a list which details costs of work that KCC can be requested to undertake. He referred to the Speed Watch and informed that he is going to have a flashing speed indicator installed in the village; this will be slightly delayed as he needs to meet with the contractor to ascertain its location. He is still pushing for the 20 mph zone in the village. He also advised that KCC are hiring out a gang of workers to undertake various tasks within the village, at a weekly cost of £3,000.

Borough Cllr. Alan Willicombe, as mentioned above, kindly agreed to pay for the Speed Watch equipment, costing approximately £2,000. He reported that KCC have put a further 6 million pounds into the resurfacing programme, and this now includes School Lane.

Councillors, Mike Whiting and Alan Willicombe very generously agreed to give the Parish Council a grant of £2,000 from each their of Members’ Fund, for the purchase of older people’s play equipment to be located in the Village Park. Clerk instructed to contact Bill Ronan of KCC for the Grant Application forms. *Action: Clerk*

Borough Cllr Ben Stokes generously agreed to donate £500 from his Community Fund to put towards a project within the village. He notified that there will be some muck spreading between Iwade and Borden over the coming days.

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – Report received from the Community Warden noted. The PCSO was unable to attend and sent apologies.

7. Finance

Refreshments for Pond Cleaning Day – Wards Homes have very generously donated £150 for refreshments for volunteers working throughout the day, and the company is happy for any money raised through the sale of food, or left over, to go towards the Village Hall. Members agreed that the Clerk can spend £100 on food/drink; for the remaining £50 to be given to the Hall and for volunteers not to be charged for food/drink, unless they wished to donate any money towards this. Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Avron-Cotton; Members agreed to issue a cheque for £100 to the Clerk in order for her to purchase food and drinks.

Action: Clerk

Cheques signed at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
08.08.12	1551	Steve Wakeling	£242
08.08.12	1552	Wages	£536.88p
08.08.12	1553	L. Fisher	£105.67p
08.08.12	1554	Kent County Council (KCS).	£107.96p
08.08.12	1555	Marmax Products	£1117.20p
08.08.12	1556	Mrs. P. Wilson	£25.00p
08.08.12	1557	Stiddard Maidstone Ltd.	£15.00p
08.08.12	1558	L. Fisher (Refreshments Pond Cleaning Day)	£100.00p
Eight cheques in total			

8. **Village Hall Updates** – Cllrs. Plumb and Hunt, together with Peter Lovelock from the Village Hall Committee, have an appointment to meet a Solicitor at ‘Jarmans’ next week to talk about the garden site and other issues. It is hoped that following this free advisory meeting there will be a clearer indication as to the feasibility of the project and Solicitor’s costs.

Cllr. Hunt advised that some revision to the plans for the new hall have been delayed as the original Architect has left the company, but a new person has now taken this over. The New Hall Committee is waiting for the amendments to drawings to come back and then hope to submit an outline application for planning permission on the School Lane site. Hillreed Homes are now pushing for this as they need to determine the way ahead with their development.

The Chairman referred to the resignation yesterday of Cllr. Harris who is the Parish Council’s representative on the Village Hall Committee, and the need to appoint a new representative in light of the above proposals. Clerk requested to arrange an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the vacancy. *Action: Clerk*

9. **Emergency Plan for Iwade**

No progress as yet as still awaiting receipt of flood maps from KCC.

10. **Correspondence**

Code of Conduct – Councillors from all levels of Government are still not happy with the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest as regards the section relating to the Spouse. As this form needs to be returned to the Monitoring Officer by the 31st August Iwade Parish Councillors agreed to complete it. *Action: All Councillors*

The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way County of Kent – Cllr. Hunt agreed to look at this matter. *Action: Cllr. Hunt*

Consultation on Local Government Finance Bill – Lobbying progress to date noted.

DCLG Consultation on Payments by parish and community councils and charter trustees: proposals for changing payment methods note and Members agreed to look at again when further details come to light.

OPEN FIRST - Swale's Charter for engagement – Consultation – noted.

Constituents encouraged to have their say on rail services – noted. Details have been sent to the village website for residents’ information and comment thereon.

Soft Estate/Landscape Maintenance/Weed Control/Tree Planting for 2012/13 – update from County Cllr. Mike Whiting noted.

11. Planning

- **SW/12/0963:** Replacement dwelling and garage: Swaysdown Game Farm, 2 School Lane, Iwade, E9 8QH – after consideration of this application; Members objected on the following grounds:
 - The site is approximately 800 metres outside the village and is therefore outside the area designated for housing in the adopted Swale Borough Local Plan 2008.
 - The site is in an area designated as a Local Landscape Area and development would be contrary to Local Plan Policies E7 (The separation of settlements) and E9 (Protecting the Quality and Character of the Borough’s Landscape).
 - Hillreed Homes currently have planning permission (SW/08/1127) for the erection of 327 dwellings, on a site off School Lane, on land at Coleshall Farm, approximately 1100 metres from the proposed site by road which will provide an adequate supply of houses for local needs.
 - Planning Policy Statement 4, 2009, sets out “the Government’s national policies on different aspects of spatial planning in England.”
 - Planning Policy EC6.1: Local planning authorities should ensure that the countryside is protected for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of its natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all.
 - There is a meta population of great crested newts, which are protected by European and British Legislation, in the ponds surrounding Iwade. There is one pond shown on the adjoining site (No. 1 Swaysdown Game Farm) and another nearby towards Plantation Lodge. There is no supporting documentation showing that an independent Environmental Survey has been carried out on this site. In addition, English Nature, ‘Great crested newt mitigation guidelines 2001,’ states that Local Planning Authorities have the following role:

‘Ensuring that protected species issues are taken into account as a material consideration when determining planning applications; this may involve refusal, deferral, conditions or agreements’.
- **SW/12/0557:** – Side extension with front and rear dormers, front porch and detached garage; 31 Sheerstone, Iwade, ME9 8RW: – Approved by Swale Borough Council
- **SW/05/1477** - Change of Use to Long-Stay Caravan Site for Five Gypsy Families: Tiptree Farm School Lane, Iwade Sittingbourne, ME9 8QE: – Approved by Swale Borough Council.
- **SW/12/0778** – Proposed side extension, garage conversion and detached garage – 6 Shelduck Close, Iwade, ME9 8WH: Approved by Swale Borough Council.

- **SW/12/0757** – Change of use of property from A1/A2 use (retail and financial and professional services) to beauty salon – Unit b, School Mews, Iwade, ME9 8UW: Application withdrawn.

12. Next Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 12th September, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 09.50 p.m.