

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 12th December, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. Plumb -Chair
Cllr. J. Hunt
Cllr. M. Gale
Cllr. J. White
Cllr. R. Rook
Cllr. D. Wastall
Cllr. L. Mitchell

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
County Cllr. Mike Whiting
4 Parishioners
Pippa Palmer from 'Kent Orchards
for Everyone'

Prior to the opening of the monthly meeting, the Chairman introduced Pippa Palmer from 'Kent Orchards for Everyone'

Pippa is the new Orchards Development Officer for the Kent Downs Orchards for Everyone Project. She initially undertook the pilot 'Orchards for Everyone Project' which took place in the Mid Kent Downs landscape area of the Kent Downs, setting up four community orchards. Pippa suggested looking at Kent Downs Website <http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/orchards%20for%20everyone.htm> which gives an idea about how this new project will take shape, but added that there may be other ideas which come to light through proposed questionnaires and surveys.

This new development project aims to liaise with 13 parish councils and the groups running the Parishes' Community Orchards through the main orchard growing areas of Kent, to develop and support the objectives and priorities of the community orchard groups. This will initially involve a series of questionnaires to discover what help is required to develop a sustainable orchards project at the delivery stage, bearing in mind Heritage Lottery Funding criteria. The project is based on community participation and the natural heritage of the Garden of England. Initially, during the development stage, volunteer time is required to run an ecological survey with training within the orchard site in order to develop an on-going monitoring programme, however, she hopes at this stage of the development that she has secured most of the volunteer time.

The project aims to specifically develop an Orchard Warden Scheme where a member of the Community will be trained to take the lead on the development and running of the Community Orchard once the project is up and running; however, it may be that members of the Orchards group will be skilled in different areas of orchard management and a collaborative approach may be taken.

Pippa would like Iwade to be involved in this project and as present Members were interested she now needs to collect data to prove this; she also needs to get approval from Graeme Tuff, Green Spaces Officer at Swale Borough Council. She has visited the site in Iwade and carried out some surveys; she has also managed to obtain some match funding. Pippa is hoping Iwade residents and the Parish Council will complete a questionnaire, which can be downloaded via the above link, which will prove there is support for this; ultimately she needs all paperwork in place by the end of February 2013.

The Chairman thanked Pippa for her input and details of this exciting project, officially opened the monthly meeting of the Parish Council and read out the following statement:

"During the past week there has been comments posted on a social media site questioning the financial activity of the Parish Council. As Chair of Iwade Parish Council I would like it recorded and minuted that as a result of fraudulent activities by a previous Clerk, over the past three years Iwade Parish Council has adhered to a series of strict financial procedures and protocols, put in place following the advice and recommendation of the Kent Association of Local Councils and the District Auditor. Furthermore, as part of these protocols the financial accounts are audited annually by the District Auditor and twice yearly by our Internal Auditor".

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Hyde and Borough Cllr. Stokes.

2. **Parish Councillor Vacancy**

There were three candidates, all attended tonight's meeting and addressed the Members. A paper ballot was held, following which Leslie Mitchell was co-opted onto the Council and invited to join the meeting.

The Chairman reported that Councillor Roy Jones had tendered his resignation and the Clerk will be advertising this vacancy. He also invited the unsuccessful candidates to re-apply for this vacancy, if they so wished.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – None.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 14th November, 2012 were proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Gale; agreed by all and signed as a true transcript.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. **Diamond Jubilee Trees; Pond Dipping Platform - Updates** – The trees are now planted, thanks to the efforts of Cllr. Hyde. The Clerk is pursuing the plaque; it is ordered and she is awaiting a delivery date; once received she hopes to arrange the unveiling ceremony so that it will take place before the end of the year. There have been no further updates on the Pond Dipping Platform.
2. **Lorries in Iwade and Lorries using Helen Thompson Close** – Clerk has contacted the Enforcement Officer at Swale Borough Council and hopefully the situation in Helen Thompson Close will be resolved shortly. Clerk has contacted KCC Highways, who have insisted that there is adequate signage. She has also spoken to companies at Ridham Dock. Paul Rainer, who works at Knauf, is the Chairman of The Ridham Dock Group. He has been extremely helpful and is liaising with other companies to track down the Lorries (assisted by pictures supplied by residents) to ensure they do not enter the village. County Cllr. Whiting is also pushing KCC Highways to take action.
3. **Village Centre/CCTV Cameras** – Clerk is now liaising with Chaminox, Swale Borough Council Environmental Health, the Community Warden and the PCSO to solve rubbish, lighting, damage to cars and other problems within the Centre.

6. **Visitors/Public Time**

1. **Parishioners** – Concern was raised at cars parking illegally outside the school with drivers being abusive when asked to move. Irresponsible parking makes it difficult to safely cross the road and Cllr. Rook suggested having a Lollipop person. Clerk to contact The Community Warden and PCSO requesting that they patrol the area during dropping off/picking up times. **Action: Clerk**

A resident referred to the recent lorry incident in the village, when the vehicle got stuck for four hours and damaged trees, verges, street sign and a parked vehicle. The Parish Council shares the concern of villagers for this growing problem and has been taking action to try and put a halt to this (see item 4.2 above). County Cllr. Mike Whiting has been pushing KCC to install new signage and has now received an e-mail from County Cllr. Bryan Sweetlands informing that the sign will be put in within the next six weeks.

A complaint has been lodged regarding the way in which the Police dealt with the recent incident issue. County Cllr. Whiting has spoken to the Police Inspector who commented that the situation was unacceptable; the Inspector is hoping to have a meeting with him and a representative from the Parish Council.

The Clerk has contacted KCC to replace the damaged street nameplate and Swale Borough Council to reinstate the damaged verges and the tree/shrubs; she has also given them the crime report reference so that they can pursue a claim for the damage. This issue was raised at the recent Local Engagement Forum (LEF) Meeting and an article has appeared in the local newspapers.

2. **County Councillor and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Whiting welcomed Les Mitchell to the Parish Council. He reported that School Lane will be open for Christmas, but would still need to be closed again for a short period of time to finish work to the street lighting, footpaths and verges. He has arranged for salt to be delivered to the Parish Council (Clerk confirmed this has been received) and is trying to arrange a meeting with Persimmon to discuss the proposals for a new village hall. At the LEF meeting there was a presentation by the Skateboard Park supporters (who are in touch with the Iwade group) and at the moment Swale Borough Council is looking a piece of land opposite the new Morrisons site. Groundwork is involved and is looking for match funding from the Borough Council.
3. **Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO** – Report circulated to Members. During the past month Nick has dealt with graffiti, car parking issues, complaints regarding the road works in School Lane and fly tipping.

7. Finance

1. **Shrubs – corner of School Lane** – The Handyman has obtained a quote for 22 assorted shrubs at a cost of £158, for planting on the outer edge of the piece of land on the corner of School Lane/Ferry Road. It was proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Rook, agreed that the Parish Council purchases these plants. **Action: Clerk/Handyman**
2. **Replacement of Notice Boards** – To be placed back on the January Agenda, and discussed following the decision on the budget. **Action: Clerk**
3. **‘No Access to Ridham Dock’ Road Signs** – Clerk has received a quote from The Royal British Legion. No action to be taken as County Cllr. Whiting is pursuing this.
4. **Requests for Donations from Village Organisations** – It was proposed by Cllr. Hunt, seconded by Cllr. Gale and agreed by all Members that the requests for grants to aid the work of the following Iwade organisations be approved:

Iwade Women’s Institute	£250
Iwade Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	£1752
Iwade Parent and Toddler Group	£900
Iwade Herons	£500

5. **DPI Dispensations: Delegation of Authority to Grant these Dispensations** – Members agreed authority be given to the Proper Officer, The Clerk, who will now prepare the necessary paperwork. **Action: Clerk**
6. **Payment of Clerk’s Wages by Direct Debit** – Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Mitchell; agreed to pay the Clerk’s wages by this method.
7. **Grounds Maintenance 2013 – School Lane Playing Field** – Members agreed that in light of the current situation with the Playing Field and with health and safety in mind, the Parish Council should vacate the field and hand it over to the owners ‘Persimmon’. The Clerk will post a notice on the site;

in the local newspaper and on the village website advising Parishioners that the field will be closed as from the 1st January 2013. The play equipment needs to be removed from the site (the School has expressed an interest in some pieces) and the Clerk was instructed to obtain a quote from the Village Handyman for the removal and storage of the Kick Walls and to talk to Graeme Tuff, Green Spaces Officer at Swale Borough Council, to see if he can advise on disposal. The majority of the equipment on the site was purchased through grants obtained by the Parish Council, and not out of funds raised through the precept. In light of the above the grounds maintenance contract for 2013 will not need to be renewed. **Action: Clerk**

8. **Precept/Budget** – Cllr. White presented the draft 2013/14 Budget. It is proposed that there will be no increase in the Precept for 2013/14, making this being the fourth year that the figure has remained unchanged. The figures appear inflated due to the Broadband grant which stands at £16,623 (this will be reclaimed by Kent County Council in due course, although Members are hoping approval will be given to use this to purchase additional ‘Green Cabinets’ if required in the new housing developments) and grants for other projects, such as the Picnic Benches, Fingerposts and Jubilee Trees, totalling £4,674. Money ‘ring-fenced’ in the Reserve Account stands at £14,000 and £4,521.27 will be used from the Current Account to balance the required income against anticipated expenditure. It was proposed by Cllr. Rook, seconded by Cllr. Hunt and agreed by all that the Parish Council is minded to propose a Precept of £29500 and request a lighting grant of £2620 for the financial year 2013/14. This to be formally agreed at the January meeting, following receipt of funding details from Swale Borough Council

9. **Cheques signed at this meeting:**

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
22.11.12	1579	Rumwood Nurseries	Jubilee Trees	£1045.01p
12.12.12	1580	Swale Borough Council	Printing of Iwade Observer – Dec.	£269.27p
12.12.12	1581	L. Fisher	Wages – November	£536.88p
12.12.12	1582	L. Fisher – Expenses	Tele/Broadband/office - Nov	£20.45p
12.12.12	1583	Unipar Services	Genesis Radar and Display Sign Equipment	£1758.00p
12.12.12	1584	Steve Wakeling	Handyman duties November	£209.00p
12.12.12	1585	Stiddard Kent Ltd.	Preparation of Wages - Nov 2012	£15.00p
Seven cheques in total				

8. **Correspondence**

1. **Towards 2020" Update: Kent Fire & Rescue Service** – noted.
2. **DCLG Consultation: Technical Review of Planning Appeal Procedures** – noted.
3. **Swale Borough Council Commissioning Framework Consultation** – The Chairman to prepare a response to this consultation. **Action: Cllr. Plumb**

9. **Village Hall Update**

Cllr. Hunt had nothing to report on progress. Clerk stated that she has contacted the Solicitor; he will put the matter on hold until he hears further and there is no fee due at the present time.

10. **Meeting with Justin Thomas re. Countrystyle Waste to Energy Facility**

Justin Thomas represents a firm that is taking on this proposed facility at Ridham Dock. Countrystyle originally submitted the planning application, which was approved, but the new company will need to submit a revised application because of the variation in design; the main the building will be twice the

height because of the new burner design and the stack will be higher. Of additional interest was the fact that this facility could heat homes built in the future in Iwade (it would be impossible with existing properties because of the cost of converting the current systems). If the facility comes into operation it will reduce the amount of wood stockpiled by Countrystyle at Ridham. Councillors also suggested that if these revisions go ahead; the buildings will be painted blue, the same as Morrisons, to blend in with the skyline and reduce the visual impact.

11. Request from Laura Cheeseman for the Parish Council's support to open up access from Fans Lane to nearby Byway

Members agreed to support Laura's request to open up access from Fans Lane to the nearby Byway for use by horse riders and pedestrians. Clerk to write confirming this. ***Action: Clerk***

11. Planning

1. **SW/12/1392:** – Outline application for the erection of a 60 bed care home with amenity space, car and cycle parking, associated development, landscaping and access: – Land at Coleshall Farm, Sheppey Way, Iwade, ME9 8QY – although Members did not object to the application, they did raise the following concerns:

The siting of the care home; Members are concerned that this will have a hard visual impact when approaching the village, particularly as land to the south beyond the private road to Coleshall Farm is open countryside.

There is insufficient car parking spaces (18 plus 2 disabled bays) bearing in mind the number of proposed staff (54) mentioned in the Planning Statement and families/others visiting the 60 residents.

2. **SW/12/1494:** Erection of iron fence (less than 3 feet high) around the front border of the property: 24 Sharfleet Crescent, Iwade, ME9 8UQ – no objection.
3. **SW/12/927/R16 & R17:** Details of Dust Management Plan and details of External Lighting pursuant to conditions (16) and (17) of planning permission SW/12/027: Building 17, Ridham Dock, Iwade, ME9 8SR: Members raised the following concerns/comments:

Spontaneous combustion of wood stockpiles: Fire and Rescue Service recommend that wood stock piles, such as those on this site, are turned and dampened on a regular basis, particularly if they have been sitting there for quite a while and during dry conditions. This is because bacteria flourishing in the stockpiles builds up and then ignites.

There have been incidents of fire involving wood stockpiles at Ridham and the Parish Council is worried that these fires release toxic fumes from chemicals/glues contained in some of the wood. This concern has been expressed in previous correspondence to Sharon Thompson and Angela Watts.

The Parish Council would like KCC to ensure that turning and regular damping down is included in the application conditions.

4. **SW/12/167R12 & R13** – Discharge of conditions 12 (landscaping scheme) and 13 (flood) warning and evacuation plan) of planning permission SW/12/167: No objection, but Members ask for the following comment to be relayed to KCC:

Evacuation Plan: Phase two: Evacuation: (Page 5) - if staff are directed to head inland to Iwade via the Sheppey Crossing; they will be entering an area which will be flooded - refer to Environment Agency's flood maps. The Plan will need to be revised to include an escape route that is not prone to flooding.

5. **KCC/SW/0089/2012** – Section 73 application to continue development without complying with conditions 3 (Site Layout) 21 (External Wood Shredding/storage) and 24 (operations under cover of MRD building) of planning Permission SW/10/1436 - Countrystyle Group - Building 17, Ridham Dock, Iwade – noted.

9. Other Matters Arising

Members raised the issue of an increase in dog fouling in the village; residents have been voicing their concern that people are not clearing up after their animals. Cllr. Hunt advised that there are two people interested in the Green dog Walking Scheme and they hope to get this up and running soon.

12. Next Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 9th January, 2013, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.