

## IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Present:** Cllr. J. Hunt - Chair  
Cllr. S. Plumb – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. R. Rook  
Cllr. J. White  
Cllr. L. Mitchell  
Cllr. M. Gale  
Cllr. A. Jennings  
Cllr. D. Wastall

Lynda Fisher, Clerk  
Nick Mayatt, Community Warden  
3 Parishioners

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from County Cllrs Truelove and Burgess, Borough Cllr. Stokes and Parish Cllr. Hyde.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations - None**

#### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, were proposed by Cllr. Rook and seconded by Cllr. Mitchell; agreed and signed as a true transcript.

#### **4. Visitors/Public Time**

1. **Parishioners** – A resident raised the issue of flooding on the Grovehurst Road entrance into the village; the Clerk is chasing KCC regarding this problem. A query was raised regarding two trees that had been cut down in the park; these were removed due to Ash Dieback disease.
2. **County and Borough Councillors** – None present.
3. **Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO** – Nick's report has been circulated to Members and contents noted. He referred to the fallout from the farm raid at Raspberry Hill; quite often people spot issues and put them on Facebook can residents to report them direct to either him, Swale Borough Council or Kent Police.

#### **5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. **S.106 Agreements** – A meeting was held with Swale Borough Council to discuss funds held. Some delays in spending are due to a lengthy procurement process. The Parish Council asked if it would be possible to pass money over so that it can get the work done quickly; Swale agreed to look into this. Jess McMahon, representing Gordon Henderson M.P., attended the meeting to discuss Iwade's Management Companies and charges residents have to pay for land that should be passed over to the Borough Council for which money is available in the S.106 Agreement. The sum of £25,000 is being held for Iwade Stream, the deadline for spending this runs out next year. The Parish Council requested that this sum be passed to the Environment Agency who maintains the stream. There is £5,000 for the balancing ponds which the Borough Council will hold on to until the new Management Companies are set up. However, it looks as though Kent County Council is now taking on

maintenance of balancing ponds. All the above will need to be discussed with Swale's Legal Department.

2. **20 MPH Speed Limit in Iwade Village** – County Cllr. Truelove has brought this up again and recently met with the Clerk and the Chairman. Basically, if this is done it can only go ahead through his Members Fund. He will commit to the survey to see if this is possible.

## 6. **Planning**

1. **KCC/SW/0007/2014** – Revised surface water drainage scheme - Land at Ridham Dock, Iwade ME9 8SR – No objection.
2. **KCC/SW/0008/2014** – Variation of conditions 6 and 9 of planning permission SW/10/774 – Land at Ridham Dock, Iwade, ME9 8SR – No objection.
3. **SW/14/0006** – Erection of an office and facilities building (retrospective) in association with the existing commercial buildings at this site (Use Class B1) – Culnells Farm, School Lane, Iwade, ME9 8QJ – Members objected on the grounds that this is yet again a retrospective application and the footprint of the previous building has not been used; the new build is more than double the size of the original.
4. **SW/13/1375** - Change of use from agricultural to garden land as curtilage to Tiptree Cottage, School Lane, Iwade, ME9 8QE - Members raised no objection to this application providing a condition is contained within the consent to ensure that no future development takes place on the area of land that is changing from agricultural to garden
5. **KCC/SW/0339/2013** – Section 73 application to amend conditions (1) - site layout, (8) – delivery hours, (17) – vehicle movements and (24) – waste throughput of planning permission SW/12/445 – Countrystyle Recycling, Ridham Dock Road, Ridham, Iwade ME9 8SR – Members strongly objected on the following grounds –
  - SLR makes the statement “For clarity I should add that the Traffic and Transport Statement only used red to differentiate the northern route from the southern route. There was no intention that the red route would be the applicant’s preferred route to and from the site. In retrospect, a colour other than red should have been used to mark the northern route so that it was not interpreted as part of the application boundary”, this made their application misleading to all consultees.
  - Regarding SLR’s response to restricted hours; this is not true there are businesses at Ridham Dock that already exist and work with restricted hours. As regards to their comments relating to properties which back on to Swale Way; this is outside the Parish Boundary and no doubt those residents will wish to comment individually as they reside in an unparished area.
  - Relating to their statement regarding the impact on highway capacity and safety, see the Parish Council’s comments below.
  - Finally, their statement that “I do not believe that Iwade Parish Council’s comments constitute valid planning reasons for a refusal”, the comments in the paragraphs below from the Highway Agency and Government seem to contradict this.

### Highway and Safety Issues

Members note that the Highway Agency has concerns about the cumulative effect on the A249 and Grovehurst Roundabout; the Parish Council has argued this point upon receipt of many applications recently, which put added pressure on the this highway. We believe the Highway Agency’s comments should be taken seriously by Kent County Council and we second their request that a condition be

placed on any planning permission which would restrict the applicant's vehicles to using the old Ridham Dock vehicle route (i.e. the Northern SLR Access marked in red on Figure 1 of the SLR Traffic and Transport Statement).

Ironically KCC's Road Casualty Reduction Strategy states: "In Kent in 2012, 50 people died, 474 people were seriously injured and 5231 people received a slight injury as a consequence of a road traffic crash. Whilst the long term trend in our county is down, for death and serious injury, this represents a 1% increase over the previous year, mirroring national figures for 2011."

If Kent County Council want to keep this down Members should not be considering putting extra Lorries on roads in areas that already have concerns. It is therefore vital that death and injury on Kent roads continues to be tackled as effectively as possible by all agencies involved and that we all recognise that the way we drive, ride or walk around Kent streets plays a huge part in avoiding becoming one of these statistics. Iwade Parish Council wishes to point out the residents cannot walk safely from Iwade across the busy Grovehurst roundabouts.

In May 2011 the Government produced its Strategic Framework for Road Safety and stated that "Road Safety is a priority for the Government. Great Britain has one of the leading road safety records in the world and we want to maintain this record and build on it."

All of the above can be used as an argument for safety especially for children/teenagers in Iwade who would like more freedom to go places either by cycling in to town or crossing the Grovehurst roundabouts, which is difficult now without with more and more Lorries using our junction. Residents complain there is nothing for the youth in Iwade and our busy roads are trapping them here.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eris Pickles) has said "Meeting our energy goals should not be used to justify the wrong development in the wrong location" so this application should not be approved just because the company is a recycling firm. Swale BC and the Highways Agency both recognise that the Grovehurst Road roundabouts are at capacity and Kent County Council's Planning Committee need to listen to them, the Parish Council and residents of Iwade. If there was no issue with the roundabouts and junction it wouldn't be included in the £200 million bid to the LEP for road improvements across Swale.

Eric Pickles has made it clear that decisions should be made by locally accountable elected members, not officers or the courts. It's now time for members of Kent County Council's Planning Committee to listen to Iwade residents and do what's right. Do not allow planning applications such as this to carry on being approved until the infrastructure is in place to support it. By making sure these issues are raised now the more reasons there are for bids such as the £200 million to the LEP to be accepted and successful.

One thing that is a problem is that each planning application is looked at separately; the cumulative impact is never taken into account; the Parish Council knows this because we have raised it time and time again! This is happening again with the traffic impact of this application. The Highway Agency's recommendation that a condition is put on the permission that the Ridham Dock Road is used is a very good one. It's not our problem that the road is not in good condition – if companies want to use Ridham Dock then the owners should pay to have the road resurfaced or upgraded. If other road users will be travelling in the other direction then maybe they need to have some sort of traffic control?

The main thing is that KCC Councillors don't need to listen to their Highways Officers; they should be listening to those people who have local experience and see the issues.

## **7. Date for Parish Meeting and Arrangements**

Clerk to check to see if the hall is available on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. It was agreed to have an informal get together with parishioners for a chat and refreshments from 7.00 p.m. and then formally opening up the

proceedings at 7.30 p.m. It was suggested that the Parish Council invite Nicola McKenzie to give a slideshow and talk on The Barn project. *Action: Clerk*

## **8. Medical Centre**

The Chairman and Clerk met with Tom Reichhelm, Managing and Medical Director of Malling Health. He was very open and honest about the situation at Iwade Medical Centre and at the end of the conversation assured that two new Doctors were being appointed and that he is confident that Iwade Surgery will have a complete permanently employed and dedicated clinical team from April.

## **9. Ward Homes Development**

Clerk instructed to write to Swale Borough Council asking them to enforce the removal of the temporary haul road (3 years), permission for which was granted whilst land to the west of Woodpecker Drive/Helen Thompson Close was developed. Stating that the development has been completed for some time and this road has not been removed as per the condition set out in the notification of grant of permission, dated 14th January 2010.

## **10. Village Clean Up/May Celebrations**

Members agreed to hold this event on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. Chairman has already made arrangements with Litter Angels; Dean Stickells will be contacted to see if the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers want to be involved. Cllr. Wastall and Cllr. Gale will look into Morris Dancers; Cllr. Rook will investigate obtaining a May Pole. It was agreed to walk around the village beforehand to see what needs to be done. Clerk to bring this item back to the March meeting. *Action: Councillors/Clerk*

## **11. Correspondence**

- 1. Public Consultation on the Pre Submission Draft of the Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan -** Document noted; to be placed on the village website.
- 2. Consultation on outpatient services in east Kent** – Noted; to be placed on village website.
- 3. Changes to Planning Department Operations - Swale Borough Council** – Changes to the system and implications of internet access noted.
- 4. KCC Consultation - Road Casualty Reduction Strategy for Kent** – Strategy details noted.
- 5. KCC's Safe & Sensible Street Lighting Plan** – Noted, does not affect this area as yet.
- 6. Christmas and New Year Storms** – Cllr. Rook agreed to again look at formulating an Emergency Plan for Iwade. Clerk to chase Environment Agency for flood maps. Cllr. Plum referred to the Flood Resilience Group and suggested contacting Alex Hill. *Action: Cllr. Rook/Clerk*

## **12. Finance**

- 1. WWI Commemorative Trees, 2014-2018** – Proposed by Cllr. Jennings and seconded by Cllr. Rook, agreed the sum of £1000 for the purchase of 7 Hornbean Trees, stakes, ties and compost from Rumwood Nursery. Clerk to place the order. The Chairman will arrange for a plaque. *Action: Cllr. Hunt/Clerk*
- 2. Resident Group's Meeting – Hire of Hall** – Members agreed to pay for the hire of the hall for the group's meeting; details to be passed to Cllr. Jennings. Cllr. Wastall agreed to attend as a representative of the Parish Council. *Action: Cllrs. Jennings and Wastall/Clerk*

3. **Clerk's Salary 2014/15** – Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Jennings; agreed the Clerk to progress two points on the salary scale, to Point 27 (top of Scale), an increase of £471.74p per annum, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014.
4. **Cheques signed at this meeting** - Members agreed signing of the following cheques and the accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 were accepted.

Date	Chq.	Details		Amount
08.01.14	1670	L. Fisher – Expenses	Refreshments & hire of room for Iwade Localism Meeting, Car Parking ticket (visiting Council's Bank)	£31.00p
12.02.14	1671	L. Fisher – Expenses	Telephone; Home as office – Jan 2014	£11.83p
12.02.14	1672	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax due January 2014	£111.80p
12.02.14	1673	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Duties and Materials Dec 2013 and Jan 2014	£418.13p
12.02.14	1674	Rogers Stevens & Chance	Surveyors Fees – The Barn	£540.00p
<b>Four cheques in total at this meeting, one at the meeting held on 8.1.2014</b>				

Cheque No. 1670 details erroneously omitted from the Minutes dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, but it did appear on the cheques list presented and agreed at that meeting.

The following payments were made by Direct Debit: L. Fisher: Wages, December, 2013, £486.98p; Eon: Energy Supply, Street Lighting, £37.08p; Countrystyle, Hire of Envirobin Jan 2014, £47.76p

## 8. Iwade Localism Project (Swale Borough Council)

1. **10 Point Plan** – Next meeting due in April; to decide on the Agenda at that time.
2. **The Barn** – Wards Homes have been given four weeks to do the remedial work. An approach has been made to KCC to see if the left over money from the Broadband Grant can be used for ICT equipment for the Barn. We have been told there is a really good risk of this going forward; has also mentioned some of the money being used for the same purpose for the new hall.

Written confirmation has been received from the Surveyor that his fees will be £540 to carry out a survey on the Barn and it was agreed that a cheque for this amount be raised at tonight's meeting. The Barn proposal goes to Cabinet in March for approval. David Buckett, the Council's internal Auditor has advised on the way to proceed as regards the Parish Council taking this on. It has been suggested that the Parish Council takes it on because we can claim back V.A.T; once the conversion work is done the Trust can be set up and will take over the running of the facility.

**The New Hall** – A pre-planning meeting was held in January with Planners, Len Mayatt, Paul Osborne from Persimmon and members of the New Barn Committee. It was agreed that details be forwarded to Swale showing how the proposed new hall will sit on site. It was interesting to hear that the site is considered amenity land and is not for use as a sports field. The Hall Committee will need to contact the various service providers to ascertain how a vehicle cross over will affect their facilities. Also to check with Tony Hillier to see if it will be possible to work together and for the hall and medical centre to share car parking and perhaps an entrance.

11. Any Other Matters Arising – None.

12. Next Meeting

The next Meeting will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in Iwade Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.**