

## IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

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

Lynda Fisher, Clerk  
Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes  
County Cllr. Lee Burgess  
5 Parishioners  
Debbie McNamara from the Environment Agency

Debbie McNamara, who works for the Environment Agency (EA) at the branch located in Stickfast Lane, Bobbing, was introduced by the Chairman. She has attended the meeting to answer any questions on flooding, the stream and the Agency's work within the village.

Cllr. Rook, who has been trying to create an Emergency Plan, asked about evacuation and the problems with not being able to use the Village Hall as it's sited on a flood plain. Debbie responded that Swale Borough Council has a Flood Resilience Group that can assist in times of need and she can provide a Flood Map which will show the areas that could be affected in Iwade. The Chairman mentioned the recent flood and asked if the CCTV cameras that monitor the stream are now working; she replied the one in Sheerstone is but there is no connection as yet to the bottom one, they are waiting for BT to do this. Debbie commented that when there is an incident with the stream they automatically send people out to clear all the screens; with the recent heavy rain the incident room has been open continuously.

Although only a few houses flooded this time; Cllr. Hyde asked if there was anything else that can be done. Debbie stated that the EA only ensures that the water flows properly. Residents can undertake individual property protection if they are at risk of flooding; there is a page on the EA website on how to protect properties. Sandbags are down to the Borough Council and they should set up a protection point from which to collect these in the village. She added it would be a good idea to have a stock of unfilled bags (filled bags deteriorate over time) and a supply of sand; these can then be used in the future. When needed the bags should only be half filled with sand, then laid as though building a brick wall and tamped down flat.

A resident asked about the planned cut-backs within the EA and how the local group would be able to cope? Debbie responded that the EA has been going through cut-backs over the last five years and believes it is likely the regional sections will be the next area to be affected. She has been told that next year there is no funding for maintenance.

A question was raised regarding the sea wall. She said the EA are responsible for the sea wall from Bretts along to the pier and there are a lot of ruts in the wall caused by motor bikes using this area. The EA has found some holes in the front, but nothing to cause a breach and she has put in for some funding to get this done. At the moment the sea wall is functional. Cllr. Plumb asked if inspections are carried out on reservoirs; he was referring to the one sited at the top of School Lane, near Culnells Farm; if this breaches most of Iwade could be affected. Debbie will check on how often Reservoirs are inspected and advise the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Debbie for her valuable input on matters affecting Iwade.

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

The Chair welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Wastall and Nick Mayatt, the Community Warden.

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

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2013, were proposed by Cllr. Rook and seconded by Cllr. Plumb; agreed and signed as a true transcript.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. **S.106 Agreements, Phase 8 Wards Homes** –this was discussed at this morning’s Localism meeting and James Freeman, from Swale Borough Council (SBC), will arrange a meeting with Carole Williams (SBC) to discuss the money contained within these agreements.
2. **20 MPH Speed Limit in Iwade Village** – County Cllr. Truelove was dealing with this, but despite chasing him he has not been in contact with the Parish Council. Cllr. Jennings thought Iwade would not meet the criteria for the speed limit.

5. **Visitors/Public Time**

1. **Parishioners** – Nothing from residents.
2. **County and Borough Councillors** – Cllr. Stokes has had two site visits with the developers in School Lane regarding the flooding in Springvale; it was not very productive. The developers did say they would go down and have a look at the area that had been flooded. He has chased Wards regarding remedial work to The Barn; it would appear that Swale Borough Council has not had any contact from this company. He referred to the boiler problem raised at this morning’s Localism Meeting; the Chairman will send the resident’s contact details to Cllr. Stokes so that he can look into this matter.

**Action: Cllr. Hunt**

County Cllr. Burgess had a meeting with County Cllr. Roger Gough at KCC just before Christmas and raised concerns regarding the Iwade School expansion; he was not aware of the problem with school dinners or the changing facilities problem. Cllr. Gough said he will look at this at the Education Cabinet meeting, which takes place on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. County Cllr. Burgess confirmed he will support the Parish Council in this matter.

Cllr. Plumb thanked Cllr. Stokes and County Cllr. Burgess for their regular commitment to the Parish and also registered disappointment that the other County representative has not made an appearance for several months.

The Chairman referred to All Saints Close; the road has not been finished and the same is happening in Kingsferry Road although he believes the developers have had problems joining this to Woodpecker because the roads are on different levels! Cllr. Stokes will try to ascertain when this work will be completed.

3. **Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO** – Nick’s report has been circulated to Members and contents noted. He referred to the dead horse; pleased to see no fly tipping; checked water levels during heavy rain; placed more dog fouling stickers around Fans Lane area and supported the School Crossing Patrol, amongst other things.

6. **Finance**

1. **WWI Commemorative Trees, 2014-2018** – Agreed trees should be planted from the bridge by the stream and along to form an avenue of remembrance; Clerk to check this with Graeme Tuff at Swale Borough Council. It was proposed by Cllr. Rook and seconded by Cllr. Plumb, all agreed, to purchase 7 Hornbeam Trees; Cllr. Hyde to contact the nursery used previously to ascertain current costs; which could be in the order of £150 per tree.

**Action: Cllr. Hyde/Clerk**

2. **2014/15 Budget/Precept and impact of loss of Support Grant from Swale Borough Council** – It was proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Mitchel, all agreed; Members approved the proposed Budget for 2014/15 and agreed to request a Precept for 2014/15 of £34500, which means an increase of £3.12p per year or 0.06p per week for a Band D property. Part of this increase is due to the loss of the £2625 Support Grant given by Swale Borough Council in 2013/14. Clerk to now lodge the necessary paperwork with Swale Borough Council and to request that should there be a change in their decision and a Support Grant is given for 2014/15, that the figures be adjusted accordingly to reflect an overall amount of £34500 including the grant, which will then show a smaller increase to Band D properties. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Cheques signed at this meeting** - Members agreed signing of the following cheques and the accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 were accepted.

Date	Chq.	Details		Amount
08.01.14	1665	L. Fisher – Expenses	Telephone; home as office, Stationery; less overpaid salary – Dec 2013	£1.12p
08.01.14	1666	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax due December 2013	£111.80p
08.01.14	1667	J. Hunt	Customised sign for Christmas Tree	£23.96p
08.01.14	1668	McCabe Ford Williams	Preparation of salary quarter ended December 2013	£39.00p
08.01.14	1669	A. Jennings	Donation towards Insurance cost re McMillan Fundraising	£50.00p
<b>Five cheques in total</b>				

The following payments were made by Direct Debit: L. Fisher: Wages, December, 2013, £581.62p; should be £486.98p - overpayment adjusted against expenses claim; Eon: Energy Supply, Street Lighting, £58.59p.

## 7. **Correspondence**

1. **KALC Training - Conference, February 2014. Resilience and Reassurance for Local Councils** - none to attend
2. **KALC Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency** - Noted; this will not apply to the Parish Council as Iwade falls under the financial limit.
3. **KALC Summary of response and Government response on the registration of new town and village greens** - Noted.
4. **Shaping the Future of Children's Centres in Kent** – Members were pleased to see all of Swale's Centres were saved.
5. **Lower Thames Crossing** – Details of sites noted.
6. **KALC Government Consultation on Local Authority Parking Strategies** – Document noted.
7. **KALC Finance Update (Winter 2013): DCLG Local Government Finance Statement** – Finance Statement issued by the Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government (Mr Brandon Lewis) noted.

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

1. **10 Point Plan** – A meeting took place this morning when it was agreed to:
  - Get together with Swale Borough Council to discuss the S.106 Agreements;

- raise the subject of the 20 m.p.h. speed limit when the planning application is received in respect of the School and request that it is installed on the stretch of road outside the School;
  - make Planners aware of the lack of parking (particularly outside the School). Persimmons properties only have a parking area for one car and in some cases there are no garages.
2. **The Barn** – The lease has been drawn up, the Committee is almost happy with it but a couple of things need to be checked on - the gaps in the weatherboard on the Barn (Swale Borough Council is having difficulty getting Wards to do the remedial work) and the fencing. A meeting is being arranged with David Bucket, the Parish Council's Internal Auditor, to talk about a Business Plan and going forward. Cllr. Plumb has spoken to someone who could do some drawings for the Committee and there is the possibility that a lot of the materials, e.g. plasterboard, etc., might be free. The only thing that then would be needed is trades persons to do the work.

Clerk to obtain fees for a Solicitor and it would also be prudent to enlist a Surveyor to do a check on things; Clerk to check to see if Swale Borough Council has one they could recommend. The item on the lease goes to Swale's Cabinet in March, 2014.

It was proposed by Cllr. Jennings and seconded by Cllr. Mitchell, all agreed, to enlist the services of a Surveyor at a hoped for cost of £500.

## 9. Planning

Current applications:

1. **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. Agreed to object on the following grounds:

- **Condition 8 - External waste activities at the site shall only take place between the following hours: 05.30 to 20.00 hours Monday to Sunday and Public Holidays (excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day). No operations other than waste deliveries, transportation of materials off site, processing of compostable materials within the in vessel system and processing of materials within the MRF building shall take place outside these hours except for essential plant maintenance up to 23.00 hours between Monday and Saturday only':**

Objection as this would mean that waste deliveries, transportation of materials off site, processing of compostable materials within the in vessel system could happen 24 hours a day. There are reasons why the original planning permission had restrictions between 05.30 and 20.00 and this should be kept to. The increase in lorry movements outside of these hours would have detrimental impact to properties nearby in Iwade due to extra noise of lorries as they come off of the A249 and to those properties in Kemsley especially those that back on to Swale Way.

- **Condition 17 - No more than a combined total of 280 vehicle movements (140 in/140 out) associated with the operations hereby permitted shall enter or leave the site in any one day:**

Objection as Grovehurst roundabout is over capacity as identified in Swale Borough Council's Core Strategy and that any extra vehicles of any time in this area would compromise highway safety: traffic generation, road capacity and effects on pedestrians/cyclists.

- **Condition 24 - The maximum throughput of waste processed within the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) shall not exceed 200,000 tonnes per annum:**

Objection for the same reasons as condition 17 – If tonnage increased then vehicle movements would need to be too.

Determined applications:

2. None.

**11. Other Matters Arising**

As Cllr. Jennings is now the Chair of the Village Hall Committee; it was agreed he should no longer act at the Parish Council's representative for this organization. **Action: Clerk**

The Chairman suggested changing the format of the current Agenda; agreed to discuss this with the Clerk. **Action: Chairman/Clerk**

**12. Next Meeting**

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

**The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.**