

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 25 July 2018

Present: Cllr. M. Gale – Chair
Cllr. S. Cheeseman – Vice-Chair
Cllr. P. Horner
Cllr. R. Langham
Cllr. A. Dollimore

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
John Kelly, E.A
Louise Smith, KCC
14 Parishioners

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received from Parish Cllrs. Mitchell, Hyde, Mills and Dicker; County Cllr. Whiting and Borough Cllrs. Stokes and Dewar-Whalley.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Dispensations are in place for Members relating to The Barn and Iwade School. Cllr. Horner declared an interest in Item 6.3.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Horner and seconded by Cllr. Cheeseman, the Minutes of the Parish meeting held on the 13 June 2018 were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. **Visitors** – Residents raised the issue of maintenance of trees on the stream banks; this falls under riparian ownership and depends on what is shown on homeowners' deeds. The Environment Agency only maintains the streambed; they will only tackle trees if they are blocking the watercourse.
2. **County and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Whiting advised by letter that the Mobile Library paid its last visit to the village on 7 June. The nearest stops are now School Lane, Lower Halstow and Bobbing Hill, Bobbing. These are fortnightly and the times are Lower Halstow 13:50 to 14:30 and Bobbing 14:50 to 15:20. Anyone in Iwade who cannot get to the mobile library sessions can join the home Library Service and have books delivered by volunteers.

Young Person's Travel Pass is not valid during August or in the evenings. However, Arriva has taken the welcome decision to accept the pass at all times, it is their decision and KCC will not be paying the company for any journeys made during those times. Neither Chalkwell, or TravelMasters have voluntarily extended use of the pass in this way; therefore passes are not valid on buses run by these companies after 7pm or during August. Those entitled to free mainstream home to school transport will be getting letters in a couple of weeks explaining how their travel is arranged and with which company. He is currently dealing with a number of home to school transport appeals.

Received a complaint, via the Parish Council, about the flooding on 29 May. The tropical-style thunderstorms caused heavy rainfall with some areas of north Kent receiving 80mm of rainfall in three hours. The Iwade Stream catchment received between 60mm and 80mm of rainfall with the upper reaches of the catchment (around Stockbury) receiving the higher intensity rainfall, representing a 1 in 140 year event. Fourteen properties were flooded in Iwade from the main stream, with nine experiencing internal damage, and three properties in Meadow Brown and Purple Emperor reported surface water flooding. It has been claimed that the flooding was caused by the release of water from the brick earth workings at Orchard Farm. Cllr. Whiting visited the site with the relevant KCC officers who explained that, in their view, it was not possible to create such a deluge from the site as to cause the flooding downstream. Their view is the water levels in the stream were the cumulative effect of the rains at the upper catchment area flowing down to the village. Cllr. Whiting has written to both

Southern Water and to the Environment Agency for their views on what happened that day, and what if any action took then or since and is waiting on those replies. He would expect the insurance companies to investigate fully whether a third party can be held responsible for the damage and, if there is sufficient evidence, they would seek to recover their costs from that third party. He has received an assurance that a flow meter will now be installed on the lagoon at the brick earth site, and that plans for drainage of the later phases of the extraction process will be reviewed to continue to ensure all run off from the site flows into the lagoon. All changes to that drainage system to be agreed with KCC officers before work on those phases goes ahead.

3. **Community Warden/PCSO** – The Community Warden Checked fly tipping hot spots; reported fly tipping in Raspberry Hill Lane and Old Ferry Road to Swale Borough Council; attended school gate talked to Crossing Operative; dropped into Dementia café at the barn; carried out a scamming talk to Friendship Club at the Barn. ASB issues at Cairn, Woodpecker Park visited the site discussed how we could resolve the situation. Abandoned car about to report car to DVLA informed it had moved. Ferry road parking issues - visited area on a number of occasions could not see the vehicles parked in an unauthorised way.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Note the following amendments to the June 2018 Minutes –

Item 6.3 - 18/501883/FULL/MEHA: Roof alterations to provide first floor accommodation: 42 School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8SE – no objection but to ask that neighbours comments are taken into account and if possible acted upon – *should have read no objections*

Item 6.4 - 18/502643/FULL: Erection of a single storey side and rear extension with a pitched roof. Re-position of garden sidewall to boundary line: 3 Chetney View Iwade Kent ME9 8SQ – no objection – *should have read no objection but to ask that neighbours comments are taken into account and if possible acted upon.*

In both instances, the ‘should have read’ comments were lodged on the Planning Portal.

6. Planning

1. **KCC/SW/0103/2018** - Land North East of Kemsley Paper Mill, Ridham Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2TD – Agreed to object on the grounds that:
 - this is a huge increase in lorry movements of 90 vehicles per day.
 - The current highway infrastructure is unable to cope and this should be reconsidered when the improvements to the A249 Grovehurst and Key Street Roundabouts (funding for which is already being sought) have been carried out.
2. **18/503073/FULL:** Re-configuration and extension of parking courtyard to provide 1 No additional parking space: Land at Ferry Road Iwade Kent ME9 8RR – no objections.
3. **18/503285/FULL:** Erection of a single storey extension to provide a WC: All Saints Church The Street Iwade ME9 8SJ – no objections

7. Correspondence

1. **Flooding, Environment Agency** – The Chair outlined the events that happened within the village on 29 May 2018, when following a storm, 14 properties in Springvale and Sheerstone were flooded. The Chair advised that he and the Environment Agency (EA), together with an affected resident, walked the stream and looked at the trail of debris to try to ascertain what had happened. Along the stream vegetation was flattened and sediment left behind from the muddy water. They looked at the lagoon (which takes surface water run-off) created by the company extracting brick earth in School Lane, could the water released from this into the stream have been the cause of the flooding? The representative from KCC advised that 39 litres per second is released via a valve-controlled pipe into the stream; they did not think this was sufficient to cause the sudden flow of water and could find no

evidence to support the flooding theory. At this stage, they are still compiling information from the EA to see how the storm moved across the area and the flow.

Residents expressed their anger at what happened on the day, many lost personal items, which were irreplaceable. One resident – 33 Sheerstone – had drain problems but could not get assistance from anyone and had to try to resolve this himself. Another mentioned the stream was blocked at the Mansfield Road Bridge. Others were concerned about the trees on the stream bank, who maintains them? They had seen branches fall into the streambed and left there. The Chair advised residents to check their Deeds to see if the banks fall within their boundary. The EA representative will look into taking vegetation away. Another expressed concern that the stream grills are not regularly cleared of debris. The Clerk mentioned that in the past there was often reference to the culverts being too small, but KCC always stated it was too costly to increase the size of these. The KCC and EA representatives advised that one solution would be to look at attenuation ponds, reed beds, etc. The Chair thought that procedures needed to be looked at and tightened up; we cannot go back but need to look forward to the future, so that residents do not have to face this again. The following was agreed:

- To look at increasing the height of the bund surrounding the lagoon.
- To look at issues surrounding vegetation left on the banks going into the culverts/grills.
- To ask Sanjay Nohal from the National Flooding Forum to attend a meeting to talk/assist those residents affected by the flooding.
- To look at future proofing vulnerable homes
- To look at Water attenuation/other solutions
- Gathering video evidence.

Finally, the Chair advised that this will be back on the Agenda in September (no meeting in August) and he is hoping that things will have moved forward by then. He thanked everyone for attending to put forward their views and asked those affected by the flooding to let the Clerk have their addresses for passing on to KCC. **Action: Clerk**

2. **KCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)** – noted.

PROW advised that ZR92 signpost is not in the correct place at the bottom of School Lane; it needs to be moved from its location at the side of the pumping station, one metre further down School Lane. This is peculiar because it has been in this position for many years and no one has complained.

8. **Finance**

1. **Request for Donation CAB** – proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Langham; agreed to donate £50, under S.137
2. **Request for Donation Kent Air Ambulance** – Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Cheeseman; agreed to donate £100, under S.137
3. **Request for Donation Carers’ Support** – agreed to ask for further information.
4. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Horner agreed the following cheques and accounts to the 30 June 2018:

Date	Chq.	Details		Amount
12.07.18	2040	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax Due July	£317.98p
25.07.18	2041	Clerk’s Expenses	Tele, Use of Office, 12x1 st 12x2 nd Stamps, Stationery, Ink Cartridges, IT Specialist to sort out issues with Outlook	£100.78p
25.07.18	2042	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax due August	£299.81p
25.07.18	2043	Steve Wakeling	Work carried out in June	£222.00p
25.07.18	2044	McCabe Ford Williams	Quarterly Payroll Preparation	£39.00p
25.07.18	2045	M. Gale	Reimbursement re Leaving Gift For long serving Councillor	£33.75p

25.07.18	2046	Playsafety Limited	ROSPA Inspection – Village Hall Garden	£79.80p
25.07.18	2047	ARC Creative	Iwade Stone Cairn with Bronze Memorial Plaques	£8760.00p
25.07.18	2048	Iwade Village Hall	Hall Hire April to June	£63.75p
Nine cheques in total				

Plus:

Staff Wages July (inc back pay)	£1226.63p	Paid by Standing Order
Staff Wages August (in cost of living rise)	£1183.25p	Paid by Standing Order
Eon: Energy Supply, Street Lighting – July	£58.61p	Paid by Direct Debit
Countrystyle Hire of 110 Ltr. Envirobin – July	£51.41p	Paid by Direct Debit

Paid In:

HMRC VAT Refund 2017/18	£4630.82p	Paid by BACs
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9. Projects/Project Updates

Christmas Lights Project – Lights now ordered and will sort out which columns are to be utilised. Have also ordered the snow machine at a cost of £586.40p, cost covered by grant funding. Members agreed to switch on the lights on the 25 November 2018. **Action: Cllr. Gale/Clerk**

The Cairn Project – Despite ASB problems, the Cairn is now finished. Because of the issues, ARC had to work on the Cairn an extra two days, at a cost to themselves. Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Langham, agreed to contribute £500 towards this additional cost. **Action: Clerk**

10. GDPR

Members noted the Audit Report from GDPR-info and the items that need action. The Clerk has added the privacy clauses to the Hall Garden Hiring form and the Volunteers Sheet for the Village Clean-up Day. Is seeking quotes for setting up e-mails with .org.uk or .gov.uk suffixes. Has updated the Privacy Policy on the website and uploaded the Data Retention and Disposal Policy, which will tie in with the Data Audit. Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Horner, agreed to adopt the following policies:

- Breach Notification Policy
- Document Retention and Disposal Policy
- Internal Privacy Notice
- Subject Access Request Policy
- Training Policy.

Action: All Councillors/Clerk

11. Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Langham; agreed to adopt the amended Standing Orders as presented by the Clerk. **Action: Clerk**

12. Reports from Representatives

1. Hall – All going well, Karaoke night successful. The Chair advised that the Clerk looked for advice from the Insurers and KALC regarding Bouncy Castles. Agreed to await further guidance/directives from the Government.
2. KALC – nothing to report.

12. Any Other Matters Arising - None

13. Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday 12 September 2018, commencing at 7.30 pm in Iwade Village Hall – no meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.