IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING

Held on Wednesday 4 May, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA 'ZOOM' DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Present: Cllr. A. Dollimore – Vice-Chair

Lynda Fisher, Clerk County Cllr. M. Whiting

Cllr. P. Hyde Cllr. B. Whiting Cllr. R. Langham

Cllr. S. Lancashire

This is a Parish Meeting called as required by the local Government Act, 1972. The meeting is an opportunity for the residents of the village who are registered electors to raise and discuss any subject affecting the village. Discussion and voting on any subject is restricted to electors, residents who are not registered as electors are welcome as observers. Residents wishing to speak are requested to give their name and the name of their road or street.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received from Parish Cllrs. Smith and Cheeseman and the PCSO (who could not attend due to Kent Police not supporting the use of Zoom because of security).

2. <u>REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR</u> (Read out by the Vice-Chair)

Over the past year the United Kingdom, along with the rest of the World, has faced the Covid-19 Pandemic and the impacts it has had on both health and the way everyone lives. We have now experienced two national Lockdowns, having to work from home, job losses, the loss of loved ones and not being able to mix with our families. The vaccination programme, which is currently being undertaken by the NHS, has reduced the number of Covid cases, but we are still warned to 'social distance' and the wearing of face masks has become a common sight.

The Parish Council last held a 'normal' face to face meeting in March 2020, then came three turbulent months of no meetings and having to find ways to make things work, within the confines of the 1972 Local Government Act. Central Government temporarily amended the Act to allow 'virtual meetings', which Iwade Parish Council took up and held its first such meeting in July 2020. Part of the new Legislation included not holding an Annual Parish Council meeting in 2020, with those in Office holding onto their posts until May 2021.

So, what have we been carrying out during the Covid restrictions? The Parish Clerk has worked as normal managing day to day items, whilst some Councillors for health reasons went into isolation. We had to cancel the 2020 Festive Lighting Up event but managed to have installed a further 15 new displays plus a new 3D Cone Christmas Tree and star. The lights were lit earlier to help bring some cheer to the village.

For the fourth year running, the Parish Council has taken over the grass cutting contract from Kent County Council, as a result of KCC reducing their cutting regime to only six times per year. The grass is now cut to a strict standard and far more frequently; I am sure residents are proud of the neatness and general appearance of the village.

We have tried to tackle parking issues in The Street resulting in the siting of 13 Planters. Some residents have adopted these and planted them, resulting in a beautiful display along our main road. Elsewhere other planters are still being maintained by sponsors.

We planted a further 8 Hornbeam trees either side of the footpath leading up to the Cairn, to create a peaceful avenue. Sadly, the stakes attached to each tree were ripped down and used as part of a bonfire. Kent Police are actively monitoring this, and residents were urged to report all incidents to the Police instead of using Facebook.

Our poor Handyman was faced with the task of planting a further 1400 Daffodil bulbs and 2000 Crocus bulbs in the village, but the resulting springtime display of flowers was wonderful and appreciated by many residents.

Members of the Parish Council are all volunteers, giving freely of their time and work with a strong commitment to enhance/fight on behalf of our community; here is hoping that in 2021/22, Covid permitting, the Parish Council can achieve even more.

3. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS

None.

4. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

None.

Meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.