

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11th January, 2012

Present:

Cllr. S. Plumb – Chairman	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Cllr. J. Gregory - Vice-Chair	County Cllr. M. Whiting
Cllr. R. Phillips	Community Warden, Nick Mayatt
Cllr. P. Hyde	1 Parishioner
Cllr. S. Harris	
Cllr. R. Jones	
Cllr. J. White	
Cllr. J. Hunt	

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed Members and Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Hunt (would will be arriving late); Avron-Cotton and Borough Cllr. Stokes.

2. Declarations of Interest – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Harris, the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 14th December, 2011, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Gregory and seconded by Cllr. White, the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 22nd December, 2011 were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

Clerk advised that there was an error in the monthly minutes of the 9th November, 2011, under Finance, the item relating to the new 4 drawer Filing Cabinet – the cost put to Members and minuted in her notes was £149.99p, plus V.A.T., the typed figure of £129.49p plus V.A.T. was a mistake and was for a three drawer unit.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Village Park/Pond – Cllr. Hunt has spoken to Kent Reptiles and Amphibian Group (KRAG) who are keen to come and hold a meeting to talk to all villagers about Great Crested Newts and other wildlife within Iwade. Villagers are also coming forward, eager to be involved in environmental projects within Iwade and help with any surveys.

Cllr. Hunt also mentioned that during a meeting with officers from Swale Borough Council it was discovered that the pond in the Village Park is silting up and becoming overgrown with vegetation (Swale is responsible for the maintenance of this and the park). Cllr. Hunt expressed his concern that this will eventually prevent water from draining via an outfall pipe into Iwade Stream, with the result that flooding could occur during periods of heavy rainfall. Parish Council to pursue this with Swale Borough Council. *Action: Cllr. Hunt/Clerk*

Salt Bags – Cllr. Gregory and the Clerk met with a KCC Engineer (Ian Young) today to look at possible sites for salt bins. It appears that the Parish Council will have to purchase these bins as there is a strict points system which has to be met if they are installed and paid for by K.C.C. Seventy-five percent of these points are allocated to ‘steep inclines’ which Iwade does not have. The Officer took photographs of the suggested sites and will be forwarding details of costs to the Clerk. These costs include the bins being filled on three occasions after which the Parish Council will have to pay for the salt.

Roundabout Sponsorship – Cllr. Whiting has been looking into the matter and there does not appear to be a problem with K.C.C. He will contact Swale Borough Council to see if he can try and assist the Parish Council with its desire to see the roundabouts on the A249 planted to enhance their appearance; the hope is to get this project funded by sponsorship.

Mobile Phone Reception – Cllr. Phillips reported that he has been advised that the problems within the village are due to the smart phone usage that is operating on a different signal. A new type of technology is being introduced to cope with this but is not available at the present time. The problem users in Iwade experience is also widespread across the country and won't be solved until the new technology is up and running.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trees – Cllr. Hyde has spoken to Jon Bourne, Technical Director at Knauf and brought him up to date on the matter. He has also contacted the Nursery regarding the trees. They have suggested Birch root balls with an 18 cm girth and recommended planting from the middle of February onwards.

Councillors thought that during the Jubilee weekend it might be nice to invite the Mayor to unveil the tree commemoration plaque and if finished open the School's Sensory Garden at the same time, if the Headteacher is agreeable. A further suggestion was to turn this into a Diamond Jubilee celebration for the whole of the village - perhaps the Village Hall could have a barbeque with entertainment in the garden area? We could also approach Wards to see if they are willing to use one of their JCBs to dig some of the holes for the trees. All of this will need to be investigated further, agreed/coordinated with the Mayor, Iwade Community Primary School, the Village Hall Committee, Graeme Tuff of Swale Borough Council, Wards and Knauf.

Action: Cllr. Hyde/Clerk

5. Visitors/Public Time

Parishioners – A resident queried why the traffic lights had been out in Ferry Road – Councillors assumed there was a problem with the units.

County Councillor and Borough Councillors – County Cllr. Whiting has already advised on the roundabout sponsorship. He thought the community groups within the village would also like to be involved in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – A copy of the Warden’s report has been circulated to all Members. The Warden advised that he will be calling on homes in areas affected by dogs’ mess asking for people to come forward with details of offenders. There are problems with cars parking on pavements and traffic speeding through the village. He will check on the parking problem and County Councillor Whiting volunteered the use of the mobile speed sign he has available for problems such as this. Proposed by Cllr. Gregory and seconded by Cllr. Jones that we request that Iwade be placed on the waiting list for this piece of equipment; Clerk to e-mail County Councillor Whiting with this request and seeking the instigation of a 20 m.p.h. speed limit in Iwade. *Action: Clerk*

6. **Finance**

Budget 2012/13 – Proposed by Cllr. Harris and seconded by Cllr. Hunt, the figures put forward in the proposed budget were agreed.

Precept 2012/13 – It was agreed that the Parish Precept remain the same amount as for 2011/12; this means that for the past three years there has been no increase. Clerk to submit figures to Swale Borough Council. *Action: Clerk*

Replacement of old Parish Lighting – Clerk suggested updating the old Parish lighting. She has received complaints that there are ‘dark areas’ in Sheerstone; the lighting comprises of a variety of columns (concrete, aluminium and fibreglass) and some of the lamps are becoming difficult to replace when they need repairing.

The cost per column of the ‘swan-necked’ lighting in the new parts of the village is £1,500, on top of which there is an approximate cost of £600 for disconnection/reconnection of the electrical supply. At present there are 26 old columns in the village. It might be possible to obtain match funding towards this cost and the fraud money repaid to the Parish Council could be put towards the project. Clerk to investigate further and report back. *Action: Clerk*

Fidelity Guarantee Insurance – Clerk advised the premium has been reduced to £235.68p.

Interim Audit – Clerk advised she is still awaiting the interim audit report from David Buckett.

Donations, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Iwade W.I. and Iwade Parent and Toddler Group for the Financial Year 2012/13 – It was agreed that the sums allocated in the 2012/13 budget of £820 for the Parent and Toddler Group; £252 for Iwade W.I. and £1596 for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, as a result of requests submitted by the groups via the new Parish Council Application for Financial Assistance, to meet such costs as hall hire fees, be paid in one lump sum in the new financial year.

Cheques raised at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
11.01.12	1492	PFL Electrical Limited	£111.60p
11.01.12	1493	Stiddard Maidstone	£15.00p
11.01.12	1494	Wages	£453.00p
11.01.12	1495	British Telecommunications Plc	£12677.00p

11.01.12	1496	Cancelled	-
11.01.12	1497	Aon Limited	£235.68p
11.01.12	1498	Cancelled	-
11.01.12	1499	L. Fisher - Expenses	£155.22p
11.01.12	1500	Steve Wakeling	£110.00p
Nine cheques in total (including two cancelled)			

7. Swale RAHM (Core Strategy)

Cllr. Gregory advised nothing to report at the present time. An update meeting will be held shortly and she will report back on the outcome of this. *Action: Cllr. Gregory*

8. Village Hall Updates

Cllr. Hunt stated that it was hoped that the outline application would be submitted to the January meeting of Swale’s Planning Committee, but he understands the report was not written in time. Clerk instructed to write to James Freeman, Head of Development Control, and expressing concern that the delay could damage this community project. Cllr. Gregory suggested putting an item on Swale’s L.E.F. Agenda ‘Community Approach to the New Village Hall’; Clerk to action. *Action: Clerk*

9. Complaints Regarding Dogs’ Mess

Cllr. Hunt informed that there have been numerous complaints on ‘Iwade does Facebook’ regarding dogs’ mess within the village, particularly in School Lane and Dunlin Walk. See item 5, and the Community Warden’s plan of action. *Action: Community Warden*

10. Hedgerow Survey

Councillors are concerned at the loss of established hedgerows and trees within the village and as a result of this would like to try and keep some type of a record of those remaining. Clerk to investigate the possibility of having Tree Wardens within the village and report back to the next meeting. *Action: Clerk*

11. Correspondence

Gas Main work – The Street, Iwade – Clerk reported that the contractors, Morrisons, have been liaising with her (due to complaints received from residents) and as a result of this the work will now go ahead at the end of January. The contractors have contacted The Woolpack Inn, Rev. Partridge, the primary school (and handed in 400 leaflets for distribution to parents), secondary schools in Sittingbourne, bus services, Village Hall and other businesses within Iwade. They have also informed the Police, Fire and Ambulance services. Notices have been displayed and placed on the village website.

D.S. Smith Paper – engaging with the local community – D.S. Smith Paper of Kemsley would like to engage with the local community and it has been suggested that the General Manager, Mark Steadman, attends the next meeting to discuss this with Parish Councillors and

Parishioners. In the meantime Councillors will consider ways that this company could help Iwade.

Action: Councillors/Clerk

12. Planning

SW/11/1405 – Greenhouse on allotment site (retrospective) – Land at end of Elm Tree Avenue, Iwade, ME9 8UH – Members raised no objection, providing the building meets with the criteria of the Allotment Association.

SW/11/1470 – Application for a Lawful Development Certificate to establish the lawful use of land as residential garden – 1 Swaysdown Game Farm, School Lane, Iwade, ME9 8QH. – Members objected to the application on the grounds that approval will open up the site for possible future housing development, which would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the rural area, contrary to Policy E6 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2008 and the aims and objectives of Policy E7 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2008. They are also concerned at the further loss of agricultural land in this area.

SW/11/147 – Application for a Lawful Development Certificate to establish the lawful use of land as residential garden – 2 Swaysdown Game Farm, School Lane, Iwade, ME9 8QH - Members objected to the application on the grounds that approval will open up the site for possible future housing development, which would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the rural area, contrary to Policy E6 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2008 and the aims and objectives of Policy E7 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2008. They are also concerned at the further loss of agricultural land in this area.

SW/11/1552 – Lawful Development Certificate for the construction of a farm shop (Existing) – Bassier Hill Farm, Bassier Hill, Iwade, ME9 8GY – Members raised no objection to this application.

SW/11/503/R13 – Details of dust management plan pursuant to condition (13) of planning permission SW/11/503 – Unit 15A Ridham Dock Industrial Estate, Ridham Dock, Iwade – Before Members can put forward their comments, Clerk to write to Kent County Council's Planning Section requesting the following information:

- a) How will airborne dust be monitored and controlled, both within and outside the building?
- b) Does the Environment Agency set limits on p.p.m. of dust in the air?
- c) What triggers alarms above prescribed limits?
- d) What controls will be put in place if limits are exceeded?

SW/11/1122 – New detached three storey office building to provide training, office, conference and showroom space with associated amendments to existing vehicle access arrangements and landscape; and single-storey detached energy centre and bicycle shelter – Knauf UK Ltd., Ridham Dock, Iwade, ME9 8SR – This application has now been approved by Swale Borough Council.

13. Next Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 8th February, 2012, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 09.40 p.m.