

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 14th November, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. Plumb -Chair
Cllr. J. Hunt
Cllr. P. Hyde
Cllr. M. Gale
Cllr. J. White
Cllr. R. Rook
Lynda Fisher, Clerk

County Cllr. Mike Whiting
County Cllr. Alan Willicombe
Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes
Nick Mayatt, Community Warden
Melanie Fuller, Environment Agency
Steve Ingram, PCT
Dr. Gareth Parry, Fleet Healthcare
15 Parishioners

The Chairman introduced Melanie Fuller, a Technical Advisor with the Partnership and Strategic Overview Team, West Kent Flood Risk Management section of the Environment Agency (E.A.) who had come to talk on drainage issues in the village and in particular Iwade stream.

Environment Agency - Melanie explained that her work involves talking to Borough Councils, communities, planning applications and flood defences, but she had come along to talk about what is being planned for this area for the next few years.

She is working on a project to install weed screens on two culverts – one in Sheerstone and one in the alleyway behind properties in Springvale through which the stream runs, these will catch any debris before it enters the culverts and prevent blockages. The E.A. will maintain the weed screens to start with on a weekly basis, but they are hoping to install CCTV cameras to monitor them. Their contractors ‘Johnsons’ will be in the area and owners of properties that back onto the watercourse have been sent a letter informing them of the work. The footpath to the rear of properties in Springvale will be closed during the work, which it is aimed to complete by the end of the financial year.

The E.A. is hoping to do some modelling of the Iwade stream to update the flood map and to try and get as much information as possible. They are hoping to install a telemetry system to do the monitoring. This will take a couple of years and then will hopefully feed into the modelling.

The E.A. is familiar with the Coleshall development. They have also been dealing with a couple of incidents around the pond, namely fishing and sewage problems (the local E.A. team are aware of this). Melanie also mentioned an E.A. booklet (which is available to download from their website) entitled ‘Living on the Edge’ which gives information for riparian owners living adjacent to a stream.

The Chairman thanked Melanie for her valuable input and for updating the Council on future plans for Iwade Stream

He then introduced Steve Ingram from the PCT, who had come along at the request of the Parish Council to update Members and Parishioners on the current situation at Iwade Medical Centre.

PCT - Steve thanked the Parish Council for inviting him and his colleagues along to the meeting; he introduced himself as the Associate Director for Primary Care for the NHS Kent and Medway, and

explained that he has responsibility for the contracting of G.P. services. He also introduced Dr. Gareth Parry, the Medical Director for Fleet Healthcare, who is running Iwade Medical Centre on a temporary basis whilst the PCT goes out for tender.

Steve referred to the Question and Answer sheet which had been circulated to all present at the meeting and informed that this will be sent by the PCT to every patient registered with the Medical Centre; he believes it covers most of the questions/concerns. The sheet gives the following information, which basically is a short summary of where they are now:

- The current provider is Fleet Healthcare, who is running the practice under a temporary contract until the middle of next June;
- Confirms the PCT are committed to provide care to the community;
- Accepts that some patients have not had good service over the past few months;
- A number of changes have already been made, both in services and the fabric of the building;
- The new telephone system will be coming on-line on the 10th December;
- Extra Receptionists have been brought in to assist until the new telephone system is operational;
- There have been changes to the appointments system
- They have put on some extra clinical sessions meaning extra appointments per week; 72 appointments per thousand patients registered; this should meet most requests. Mondays are busy and usually need more appointments than any other day of the week. These changes should take place in December
- The NHS will undertake a tender procurement through which it will secure longer-term contracting arrangements. This takes six months, but the new contract should commence mid-June possibly sooner. The contract will require the practice:
 1. to be open between 8.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding Bank and public holidays);
 2. patients to be able to consult a health care professional within 24 hours and a GP within 48 hours; appointments lengths to be tailored to the needs of individual patients – registered patients no less than 10 minutes for a GP appointment and no less than 15 minutes for a nurse appointment;
 3. Consultations for patients who are booked to see a GP to commence within 30 minutes of the scheduled appointment time.

The Chairman then opened the floor to residents to raise any questions:

County Cllr. Whiting stated that GP retention is an issue, what is being done to solve this? The PCT responded that contracts do not concentrate on this. Current staff has TUPE rights with the new contractor; it is down to the new management to decide on staff organisation; of importance is to deliver the service output. As a starting point the new contractor will have to keep the existing staff.

Dr. Parry commented that Fleet Healthcare in North Fleet is a combination of GP Practice and Walk in Centre, it has ten GPs and one Practice Manager; Iwade now has three whole time GPs and it will remain with this number; however they believe more nursing help is needed. Another service they are looking at is telephone consultations.

Cllr. Rook asked why most patients know nothing about the Patient Participation Group (PPG); there has been no communication. The PCT responded that the group originated from the first PCT meeting at the Medical Centre, but was actually formed about six weeks ago. Three people turned up at the first meeting; at the second meeting tonight nine were present. The PPG will have an input into the

procurement process and it is important that this group is in place by June 2013, the start of the new contract. The group will mainly carry information between the PCT and the surgery.

Cllr. White queried the distance Locums travel to work at the surgery. Dr. Parry responded that this is not an ideal situation, but he assumes the new contract will set the amount of locums. The PCT stated that practices normally build up a relationship with a small number of locums and try to keep to these GPs when covering staff absence – he added that GPs have eight weeks holiday per year. At present there are 5,000 patients registered with the practice; with the village expanding it could accommodate 8,000 patients, which means four to five GPs will be needed.

County Cllr. Willicombe thanked the PCT for attending the meeting, but wished communication had been a bit swifter. He was pleased that the Questions and Answers sheet answered a lot of people fears. Going back to Question 5; the practice being open from 8.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, will it close for lunchtime, is a Doctor present during all of that time? The PCT responded that the building will be open during these hours and a Doctor will be available, either in the building or on-call. The practice will not close at lunchtime, and it does not mean that appointments will necessarily be available during that time, but patients can go in and make an appointment or collect a prescription, etc. The contractors would determine the hours and staffing levels.

County Cllr. Whiting asked what evidence is there that this time the tender will work. The PCT stated that they believe ‘Minster’ resigned because of a particular set of circumstances, which they cannot envisage with any other provider; and added terms this time are much more generous.

Cllr. Gale asked once the procedure is in place, will they be regularly audited. The PCT mentioned that GPs are required to go through revalidating: care quality and contractual relationship. There will be a performance regime within the contract which will be monitored on a six monthly basis. There can be sanctions if there is consistent non-delivery of services. He added that the PCT will only exist until the end of March, 2013.

Cllr. Hunt stated that it would be good for patients to know exactly what Doctors will be there. Some patients are waiting four weeks for appointments; others are sitting for a long time in the waiting room waiting to see a Doctor. The PCT responded that they would like to know what the service is like today. If people can make their experiences known to them it would be helpful as they need feedback.

The Chairman then thanked the PCT and Fleet Healthcare for coming to the meeting and informing residents about the hopes for the provision of healthcare for the village (the PCT responded that they hope to come back in the spring, after the tender process has been completed). He went on to add that he hoped the discussions with the Environment Agency and the PCT had been helpful and informative for residents. He then formally opened the monthly meeting.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Jones.

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy

Three candidates had applied; two attended tonight’s meeting and addressed the Members. A paper ballot was held, following which David Wastall was co-opted onto the Council and invited to join the meeting. The unsuccessful applicant who attended the meeting, Les Mitchell,

accepted the Parish Council's invitation to become a non-voting public member of the Planning Committee.

The Chairman then reported that Councillor Terri Avron-Cotton had tendered her resignation and the Clerk will be advertising this vacancy.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. Hyde declared an interest in Planning; 12.1.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 10th October, 2012 were proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Gale; agreed by all and signed as a true transcript.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 24th October, 2012 were proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Rook; agreed by all and signed as a true transcript.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. **Diamond Jubilee Trees; Pond Dipping Platform - Updates** – Cllr. Hyde has been informed that the trees are being delivered on the 30th November; they are due to be lifted out of the ground shortly; the delay has been caused by the Nursery waiting for the leaves to drop. The Clerk advised that Wards and Graeme Tuff, Green Spaces Officer, Swale Borough Council, are now discussing the installation of the Pond Dipping Platform and it is hoped this will be carried out soon.
2. **Iwade Medical Centre Update** – See discussions above.
3. **Village Clean up Day – feedback** – Another successful event, although the Clerk had the problem of disposal of three large gas cylinders removed from the wooded area behind The Woolpack. Alan Turner, Cleaning Manager at Swale Borough Council kindly sorted the matter out at no cost to the Parish Council. Cllr. Hyde suggested looking at holding the Village Clean up Day earlier in the year in 2013.
4. **Skateboard Park Update** – The Clerk has been approached by Groundwork who had heard of the proposal and was under the impression it was connected with Iwade; the Clerk suggested they contact Swale Borough Council, who is looking for a suitable site. It is understood this matter is being discussed at the Local Engagement Forum.
5. **Definitive Footpaths** – Cllr. Hunt and the PROW Officer, Michael Ellis, met and looked at the problem with a footpath at Raspberry Hill. Michael will get the landowners to clear the Byway; if this is not done he will get contractors to move the obstructions. He will install new footpath signposts and contact the farm owners regarding the ploughed fields. The Byway which runs through Raspberry Hill Farm is actually maintained by Highways. He will also install 'Saxon Shore' footpath signs.
6. **S.106 Money held by Swale Borough Council (Bridge over stream/matting on park entrances)** – It was proposed by Cllr. Hyde and seconded by Cllr. Hunt; agreed by all; that the Parish Council write to Graeme Tuff, Green Spaces Officer, asking for a bridge over the stream (near to the outfall from the Village Pond), to join one part of the park to the other

and to stop children blocking the watercourse by building ‘dams’ to enable them to cross the water. Members suggested that the money for this work is taken out of the £225,000 S.106 money held by Swale Borough Council for recreational purposes. **Action: Clerk**

5. **Visitors/Public Time**

1. **Parishioners** – A resident queried why the Hillreed (now Persimmon) development was using School Lane as an access route. Members responded that in the planning approval, Hillreed are allowed to build a set amount of houses before commencing on the second phase adjacent to the Sheppey Way. Once these have been sold it will release money to build the haul road.

The same resident also asked Members to push Highways to make repairs to School Lane; areas of tarmac have been smashed; drains are broken and potholes create massive puddles when it rains. Cllr. Gale mentioned that he has spoken to Persimmon and they have now asked for an extension to the end of December to finish work to the road. County Cllr. Alan Willicombe agreed to pass on these concerns to Highways.

Cllr. White stated that Lorries are using Helen Thompson Close instead of the haul road to access the Wards development. When questioned drivers stated that their delivery instructions advised that access was via Helen Thompson Close. Clerk to raise this issue with Swale Borough Council Planning Officers. **Action: Clerk**

Reverend Partridge thanked the Parish Council for its wreath and support for Remembrance Sunday. The service was well attended by youth organisations and drew families together.

2. **County Councillor and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Willicombe apologised for the exercise equipment; this will now be supplied by Swale Borough Council and the money he promised will purchase a new lamp column to ‘kick start’ the Parish Council’s renewal scheme for parish lighting.

County Cllr. Mike Whiting had nothing to report. Cllr. Hunt queried ‘Lorry Watch’ and County Cllr. Whiting asked if the Clerk could drop him a line requesting details.

Action: Clerk

Borough Cllr. Stokes had nothing to report. He did mention the changes to Swale Naming Policy and will send a copy of this document to the Clerk.

3. **Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO** – Report circulated to Members. He enjoyed the Clean up Day; took part in ‘Operation Dark House’ in the Stangate Drive area of the village and found a ‘roof’ in Ferry Road, which Swale Borough Council removed.

6. **Finance**

1. **Speed Watch Equipment** – Members agreed that the Parish Council orders the equipment and pays the invoice; this will then be reimbursed by KCC by way of a grant approved by Cllr. Willicombe (see August 2012 Minutes).
2. **Quotes for replacement of old Parish Lighting** – Three quotes have now been received for the installation of three new columns to replace old parish columns. It was proposed by

Cllr. Gale and seconded by Cllr. Hunt that the lowest quote from Ditton Electrical, for the sum of £6989.66p be accepted. County Cllrs. Whiting and Willicombe have already agreed to approve a grant of £4000 from their Members’ fund towards this cost. **Action: Clerk**

3. **Commemorative Plaque for Jubilee Trees** – Proposed by Cllr. Hyde and seconded by Cllr. Rook that the quote from Shelley Signs of £895 (excluding V.A.T.), plus £50 postage and packing be agreed: approved by all Members. Clerk instructed to go ahead and place the order for the Plaque. **Action: Clerk**
4. **Wreath for Remembrance Sunday** – Clerk confirmed that the cost of the wreath was £50; see comments above from Reverend Partridge regarding the wreath and the Remembrance Sunday Service.
5. **Shrubs, corner of School Lane** – Agreed to look at planting a hedge to the outer edge of the area of grassed land on the corner of School Lane/Ferry Road. Clerk to obtain costs for shrubs from the Village Handyman. **Action: Clerk**
6. **Replacement of Notice Boards** – Two quotes for replacement notice boards made out of Oak have been received. Members requested that the Clerk obtain further quotes for notice boards manufactured from recycled materials (less maintenance) and bring the item back to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
7. **Hall Planning Fees** – item deferred. Clerk instructed to contact the Solicitors (Jarmans) and ask that the put this matter on hold until further details are received from the new developer, Persimmon, as to future proposals for the site. **Action: Clerk**
8. **Precept/Budget** – Precept update issued by NALC circulated to all Members and noted that work completed on the forthcoming budget should only result in a ‘minded to’ decision, which will be ratified by Council when the Tax Rate value is notified by Swale Borough Council.

Members also noted that they will need to be granted a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) Dispensation if they take part in meetings relating to the setting of the Council’s Precept.

9. Cheques signed at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
14.11.12	1572	Stiddard Kent Ltd	£15.00p
14.11.12	1573	PFL Electrical Limited	£121.92p
14.11.12	1574	L. Fisher	£666.65p
14.11.12	1575	L. Fisher – Expenses	£78.37p
14.11.12	1576	HMRC	£6.50p
14.11.12	1577	Steve Wakeling	£338.52p
14.11.12	1578	PFL	£56.71p
Seven cheques in total			

7. Correspondence

1. **Kent Lane Consultation Scheme** – details circulated noted.

2. **Health and Wellbeing Board Draft Strategy for Consultation** – details circulated noted.
3. **Insurance for Representatives on outside organisations** – Clerk advised that Council Members are covered under the ‘Official Indemnity’ section of the Council’s insurance; providing they have been elected to do so by the Parish Council (this is normally done at the Annual Meeting and minuted).

The article circulated really relates to outside bodies/committees themselves on which Members are representatives having their own public liability insurance, and that Councillors should ask the question whether the body/committee has this insurance. Public liability insurance is not compulsory so they can refuse to obtain it but it is wise in light of the current 'suing' climate; if this is the case, providing the Councillor has made a written note of this (e.g. in particular noting date, where and who was approached), then they are still covered by the Parish Council's official indemnity in the event of a claim.

4. **DCLG Consultation - Making it Easier to set up new Town and Parish Councils** – document noted.

8. **Village Hall Update**

Cllr. Hunt commented that they have looked at the concerns raised by residents at the Hall meeting and put these forward to Tony Hillier, but had no reply. A meeting had been arranged with County Cllr. Whiting, Planning Officers from Swale Borough Council, people from Persimmon and the Hall Committee, but on Monday evening Persimmon cancelled it; stating that it was due to other meetings.

9. **Village Centre and CCTV Cameras**

Cllr. Hunt mentioned that there have been a couple of incidents in the car park, with some vehicles being damaged (one was written off) and others being broken into with items stolen. Residents and owners of vehicles have tried to find out who is responsible for the CCTV cameras.

Residents raised other concerns: sewage problems; faulty lighting; parking on the footpaths in the car park area; damage to block paving by vehicles driving over the area to the side of the ‘takeaway’; unit; the CCTV cameras are not connected, although this was mentioned in their agreements. They would like to have a site meeting with the landlord and management committee to discuss these issues; Members instructed the Clerk to contact Chamonix and ask them to arrange this. **Action: Clerk**

10. **Lorries in the Village**

Cllr. Hunt raised the issue of Lorries over 7.5 tonnes causing damage to verges, cars and property when they mistakenly drive through the village; possibly due to incorrect data given by SatNavs. The Clerk has raised this with KCC Highways, but they insist there is adequate signage advising that Lorries over 7.5 tonne are prohibited on all routes into Iwade, unless access is necessary. It was also suggested that ‘No Access to Ridham Dock’ signs be placed on strategic routes into the village. Clerk instructed to write to County Cllr. Whiting seeking assistance with this matter and obtain a quote for the signs. **Action: Clerk**

11. Planning

1. **SW/12/1361:** – Replacement extension to existing (removed) conservatory, conversion of part of garage as living space, relocate parking spaces to drive and erection of car port: Zilaross, 12 Church Mews, Iwade, ME9 8TH. Cllr. Hyde declared an interest under Item 3 above and did not take part in the discussion. Members raised no objection to this application.

9. Other Matters Arising

Members of the Parish Council wish to pass on their congratulations to the organisers of the Halloween events which took place in the village on the 31st October; they were certainly enjoyed by the community.

12. Next Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 12th December, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.