

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8 May 2024

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Acting Chair	Cllr. D. Waters
	Cllr. T. Guest	Samantha Gray, Clerk
	Cllr. P Holowczycki	PC Phil Clemens
	Cllr. S. Lancashire	Reverend Julian Staniforth
	Cllr. R. Langham	2 Residents

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 Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received from Parish Cllrs. Dollimore, Fuszard and Hyde.

2. REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Acting Chair Cllr. Steve Tolhurst provided the following report:

The Parish Council has helped achieve and put in place many things throughout the year.

After contacting the four main mobile service providers, Hutchison Three UK Ltd installed a 5G mobile phone mast. It is currently not live and waiting on a fibre cable connection.

Village Repairs are ongoing. The Council continue to do a good job at keeping on top of things that need maintenance or repair. Things like the staining of planters and bollards, two dead trees replaced by the Cairn, vandalism to one of the bus shelters has been repaired, repair of fence posts, the Grovehurst Road Gateway entrance repaired, to name a few.

The litter situation in the Village Precinct is ongoing. The Parish Council has been speaking with the shop and the staff were emptying their own bins regularly. The area did improve but recently there has been an increase in litter. This may be due to the change of ownership of the shop, so we should go back and talk to them.

The damaged wall in the precinct was finally repaired after contacting the management company many times and constantly following this up with them.

On the 19th of June, we held the second Beacon Lighting to celebrate the King's Coronation.

The Iwade Clean Up Event was held on 22nd October. This was a success with over 30 volunteers helping with litter picking.

A litter picking scheme has been introduced where residents can borrow a litter picker any time throughout the year. This is in addition to the by-annual litter picking events.

You may be aware of the CCTV cameras that have been installed in the village. They have a direct link to Kent Police and are monitored 24 hours/7 days a week by the Control Room at Swale Borough Council. A fifth CCTV camera has been purchased and will be installed soon.

The Parish Council has purchased a defibrillator and gifted it to the Village Hall.

We are in ongoing discussions with KCC Highways regarding speed limits in the village. The 20mph zone for the village seems to be a losing battle, but we may get a temporary 20mph speed limit in School Lane during school hours, similar to outside Bobbing Primary School, but this is an ongoing discussion at the moment.

There are a few frustrations:

The water leak in Ferry Road is still ongoing. We have had several onsite meetings with Southern Water and now waiting for KCC Highways and Southern Water to carry out work to fix this. Other leaks in The Street, and School Lane were reported and repaired.

The traffic congestion situation though the village is a real concern, and we have had several meetings with KCC Highways on how this might be improved.

We would have liked to get the pond reed mace cleared, and a number of lamp posts need painting. There is damage to the grass verges throughout the village caused by vehicles bumping up the kerb and churning them up, and then when reported and repaired it happens again.

3. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS

Reverend Julian Staniforth spoke to the Parish Council about raising awareness of Swale Food Bank which is under pressure. Council members will consider how the council can work with the Church to raise the profile of the food bank and encourage donations.

A resident of The Street spoke to the Parish Council about the traffic congestion seen regularly outside of homes along this road. They have witnessed vehicles driving on the pavement and verbally abusing each other. Council members sympathise with residents and advised we have been discussing the traffic congestion along The Street with KCC Highways. A solution put forward is to change the bus timetable, so that buses are not trying to pass each other on The Street which contributes to the congestion. KCC have contacted Chalkwell to discuss this change.

4. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

None.

Meeting closed at 7.47 p.m.