

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING****Held on Wednesday 9 March 2022**

Present:

Cllr. A. Dollimore – Chair	Cllr. S. Cheeseman
Cllr. B. Whiting - Vice-Chair	Borough Cllr. M. Baldock
Cllr. S. Lancashire	Samantha Gray
Cllr. R. Langham	New Cllr S. Tolhurst
Cllr. S. Waters	3 Residents
Cllr. B. Smith	

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Parish Cllr. Hyde, and Borough Cllr. Woodford, and PCSO Linge.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, the Minutes of the Parish meeting held on the 9 February 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. **Visitors** – A resident attended to raise their concerns regarding the Village Hall. They said that for some time, we have found emails from the Village Hall representatives to be increasingly unfriendly, unwelcoming and on occasion accusatory. On 22nd Feb, a message was received from the Village Hall Chair advising that the hall would be closing to all afternoon and evening hirers after Easter if no volunteers came forward to be trustees and that weekend hirings had already ceased.

In the past when advised that the trustees were struggling with the workload, we have asked if we could attend the Village Hall Committee meetings as regular hirers to see if we could help in any way but were told that we are not allowed to attend as they were for trustees only. Following the recent email, a request was made for an open meeting but were once again told by the chair that "meetings are not open and only for trustees". It was asked if given the circumstances, an extraordinary meeting could be called but no response was received. Several requests for a job description were then made so that we could understand what was involved with a view to stepping forward despite our own existing work, volunteering, and family commitments.

On 8th March (yesterday, two weeks later), the Chair advised that a decision would be made that evening in a closed trustees meeting as to the future of regular hirer use. No other responses had been received to the requests for a meeting or provision of the trustee job description.

Despite our lower, post pandemic numbers, the proposed eviction would mean the closure of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, and Brownies disadvantaging over 120 young people in the village and that's not including the "Strictly fitness group" the "Elite Dance Company", the "Train Master group" and others I am sure I have missed.

Happily, we had word this morning that new trustees have been found and the closure will no longer go ahead. We are of course delighted, however the poor communication and willingness to work with us regular hirers has become a big concern.

We have several unanswered questions including:

Why are the regular hirers being shunned despite offers to help?

Why has a job description still not been made available?

Why are only afternoon and evening hirers being targeted but Tinkerbells are being allowed to operate as normal?

Why are messages so oppositional?

We are all volunteers and all we want to do is work together for the good of the community and we strongly believe that a face-to-face meeting is required to rebuild bridges and make that happen. As the committee are to date, still refusing to meet with us to discuss our concerns, we are seeking support from the Parish Council to encourage the Village Hall Committee to work with us, potentially mediate and resolve this unnecessary discord.

2. County and Borough Councillors

a. Borough Cllr. Baldock:

- I. Kent County Council has released a new budget, which includes details of funding cuts for bus services, but fortunately Iwade bus services are currently not affected.
- II. Cllr. Baldock has asked for extra Community Wardens which he is hopeful will happen in the coming year.
- III. The Highways maintenance budget has increased but this is below the budget that is needed to keep County roads up to a good standard. He also advised that the County has several concrete roads which are coming up to 50/60 years old which have been patched up but currently there is no funding to replace them.
- IV. Iwade council could nominate potential quiet lanes, which would require less maintenance and make the road safer for cyclists, pedestrians, and horse riders.
- V. He is currently putting forward a motion for assisted travel to gramma schools. Currently when a child is allocated a gramma school their assisted travel is allocated to the nearest appropriate school, which may be a non-gramma school. He is trying to change this so that assisted travel is allocated to the nearest gramma school.
- VI. Cllr Baldock informed the council that the Western Area Committee met and has advised that they would like to award some money to the Iwade Barn.
- VII. Swale Borough Council are responsible for closed church yards which have a back log of 1.25 million pounds of work which needs to be done. The Western Area Committee have allocated around £5,000 to Iwade Church yard to address several defects. M. Baldock agreed to forward a copy of the minutes from Western Area committee to the Iwade Clerk which details the works required.
- VIII. The next Western Area Committee meeting is Tuesday 22 March, a speaker will attend the meeting from Age UK to speak about loneliness which has been highlighted since the pandemic.

3. Community Warden/PCSO

1. Community Warden – Report not received.

2. PCSO –

a. Crimes of note:

- I. 05/02/22 – Swallow Avenue – reported burglary which turned out to be a domestic issue.
- II. 14/02/22 –The Street - Lead Flashing Stolen from the building. Under investigation.
- III. 28/02/22 – School Mews (Square) – ASB/shoplifting/public order – Male youth was drunk causing issues in the shop and hairdressers. Local officer attended; Crime report details were taken for various offences. Male has been identified. Crime reports are being investigated and various plans are in place to deal with the youth involved.
- IV. 28/02/22 – Chalkhill Close – 2 males entered flats causing damage to the building, males have been identified and the reports are under investigation.

- v. 01/03/22 – School Lane – Dog stolen from owner’s land. Crime report was taken and is being investigated.
- vi. 04/03/22 – School Lane/School Mews – reports of males causing ASB which lead to them fighting with a member of the public. Crime report is being investigated.
- vii. 05/03/22 – School Mews - Shoplifting from shop. Male was identified by Police. Crime reported and is being investigated.

b. Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- I. 04/02/22 – Holly Blue Drive - ASB, youths were kicking in front door. Youths were stopped by Police taken home and parents were spoken with.
- II. 05/02/22 Ridham Dock – Multiple reports of ASB involving cars being driven at speed along the Dock Road and A249. Due to these special operations were run. Several drivers have been stopped and spoken to. Tickets were issued where appropriate.
- III. 06/02/22, 09/02/22, 26/02/22, 02/03/22 – Sheppey Way – Reports of male causing damage and appearance of caravan on land. The male was spoken to and claimed he owns the land. This was challenged and no proof was provided, however male refused to leave. He was later advised to leave by Police which he did. I then spoke with the male who was still claiming to own the land. I requested proof of this which the male failed to provide.
After speaking with the actual landowner advice was given for her to start legal proceedings against the male and to try and obtain a court order to keep it off the land.
Advice was also given that the caravan could be removed by the landowner or someone acting on their behalf as long as no damage was caused.
This then happened, and the Caravan was removed. I was present for this process.
I have since been led to believe the male has since returned. Unfortunately, this is still very much a civil issue, and the landowner needs to take the lead in dealing with the removal of this male legally and permanently.
- IV. 11/02/22 – Raspberry Hill Lane – Fly tipping. Witness saw a truck pull up and dump skip load at the side of the road.
- V. 13/02/22 – Old Ferry Road – Poaching. Person was seen Hare Coursing. Officers attended and the suspects were spoken to.
- VI. 22/02/22 – Woodpecker Drive Park – reports of a suspicious male seen in the area. Male was gone before police arrived.
- VII. 23/02/22 – Mansfield Drive – Reports of a ball bearing being shot at the address. No suspects were seen. Discussed with local officer. No further reports were made since.
- VIII. 27/02/22 – Chalkhill Close - Nuisance youths gathering in the park causing ASB possibly smoking drugs. Local officer is aware and is looking into this.
- IX. 04/03/22 – Mallard Crescent – Suspicious male looking in car windows. No further reports.

c. Items of good work/other items of note:

- I. Meeting with First port in relation to having CCTV installed. It is being looked at by management however early indications appear to be promising.
- II. Youths causing issues in the village identified and home visits either have or will be carried out imminently.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 1. **20 MPH Zones** and Highway Improvement Plans/Yellow lines – Clerk to forward a copy of the proposal to County Cllr. Baldock. Ongoing, keep on the agenda. **Action: Clerk**
- 2. **Planters, The Street/Mansfield Drive** – No updates. Clerk to forward information regarding planters to County Cllr. Baldock. Keep on the agenda. **Action: Clerk**

6. Planning

1. 21/505408/FULL: 59 School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8SD: Insertion of 2no. pitched roof rear dormers, Juliet balconies to the front of the property, windows and doors to the rear and side of the property. Removal of front boundary fence and erection of front boundary wall. Already agreed. No comments.
2. 22/500551/FULL: 25 Sheerstone Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8RN: Demolition of side/rear extension and removal of 1no. rear rooflight. Erection of front porch and single storey side extension, with alterations and insertion of new front and rear dormers. No comments.
3. 22/500670/FULL: Halfway Egg Farm Featherbed Lane Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8RA: Change of use of existing toilet block to a farm store and conversion of existing attached garage to farm storage, including alterations to fenestration. No comments.
4. 22/500791/FULL: 42 Teal Way Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8QU: Part conversion of garage into a habitable space and erection of a single storey front extension. erection of single storey rear extension with roof lantern. No comments.

7. Correspondence –

1. Scope charity textile back - Council agreed not required in the village, there are plenty in the local area.
2. Signpost Sheppey Way – Council members advised that a composite replacement will be more suitable, Clerk to reach out to local schools and youth groups for designs. **Action: Clerk**
3. The gateway needs to be repaired, 1 rail & post. Clerk to contact handy man and arrange road closure if needed. **Action: Clerk**

8. Finance

1. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon** – Cllr Cheeseman advised he has received a quote of £300 plus VAT for installing the post, Cllr Cheeseman will pass on the details to the Clerk. Clerk to confirm with Swale Borough Council that Woodpecker Park can be used for the Beacon. Cllr. Lancashire advised he will find out when the Beacon will be ready. **Action: Cllr. Cheeseman/Lancashire/Clerk**
2. **Christmas Tree Fencing** – KCC have agreed to a 3-foot picket style fence to be erected around the bottom of Telly Tubby Hill if this is close to the mound, therefore not blocking any of the through site line; Clerk to source quotes. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Chairmanship Networking Day – Cllr. Whiting** – proposed on expenditure by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Whiting
4. **Audit Workshop AGAR – Clerk Samantha Gray** - proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Whiting at a cost of £60 to be shared 50% with Bobbing Parish Council.
5. **Devolved Maintenance of Highway Soft Landscape Assets 2022-2023 – email 28/02** – no additional comments made by the council.
6. **Computer chair for Parish Clerk** – Council members set a budget of £250 for a new computer chair, proposed by Cllr. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire.
7. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Whiting, members noted the budget figures, agreed the accounts to the 28 February 2022 and the

following payments were agreed. Cllrs Whiting and Langham to log in and authorize payments.

Action: Cllrs. Whiting/Langham

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
09.03.22	BACs	L. Fisher	Expenses – Telephone, use of home as Office, 50% cost of 10 Ink Cartridges, Laptop Bag	£46.36p
09.03.22	BACs	H.M. Revenue and Customs	Tax February	£353.45p
09.03.22	BACs	KALC	Chairmanship Networking – Cllr. Whiting	£60.00p
09.03.22	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman fees and materials February	£210.00p
09.03.22	BACs	Taylor & Sons	Timber Post for Beacon	£720.10p
09.03.22	BACs	Restore Datashred	Document Shredding (50% to be reimbursed by Bobbing P.C)	£96.00p
09.03.22	BACs	Swale Borough Council	Grounds Maintenance 2021/22	£8408.62p
01.03.22	SO	Staff Salary	February	£1322.52p
01.03.22	Invoice	Staff Salary	February	£709.10p
01.03.22	SO	Invicta IT Solutions	12 Microsoft 365 Mailboxes	£54.72p
01.02.22	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£29.99p
23.12.21	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply, monthly	t.b.a.
30.12.21	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin, monthly	£34.27p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount

9. Projects – Updates on Current and New

- Village clean up** – Council members discussed planning the first clean-up for May so that the village looks tidy for the Jubilee in June. The second will be planned for October. The council also discussed tidying up the pond, which may need to wait until the end of the season in October due to the Great Crested Newts which live in there. Cllr. Dollimore suggested the time of the clean-up could be 11am – 2pm. Council members agreed a budget of £300, proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Waters.

10. Village Hall

No updates on the new hall.

11. Reports from Representatives

- Hall** – Cllr. Langham advised the hall committee will carry on with the upkeep the hall requires; the boiler needs to be repaired, decorating work is needed, and a cleaner is required. The hall is now fully operational and open to occasion hirers. The hall committee have decided to delay raising the hiring fees.
- KALC** – No report.
- Swale Western Area Committee** – No report.

12. Any Other Matters Arising

- Cllr. Langham reported that he spoke at the Monday club about the council and advised them there are currently vacancies for Parish Councillors. Monday club members reported concerns of anti-social behaviour and litter in the village square.
- Cllr. Cheeseman reported an alarming number of Co2 cannisters on the ground around the benches at the Cairn.
- Cllr Langham advised that himself and Cllr Whiting will try and carry out a community Speedwatch in the village, volunteers for this are currently low in numbers.
- Mr. Tolhurst was invited to join the Parish council.

13. Next Meeting(s)

Next meeting Wednesday 13 April 2022, 7.30 p.m., Iwade Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 08.10 p.m.