

## **IWADE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 10 July 2025**

**Present:** Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair  
Cllr. S. Waters – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. M. Baldock  
Cllr. P Holowczycki  
Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson  
Cllr. D. Waters  
Samantha Gray, Clerk  
PC Neil  
6 Residents

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Hyde and Gomez due to work commitments, and PC Philip Clemens. Cllr. Hartley was absent.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.**

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 11 June 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**4. Visitors/Public Time**

- 1. Visitors:** Residents discussed the parish boundary; the featherbed farm development is not included in the boundary and residents asked how this could be included. The chair advised the parish council has applied to Swale Borough Council (SBC) for an amendment to the parish boundary.

A resident reported that fencing has been placed on a public right of way nearby to Bewick Walk, obstructing the pathway and cordoning off the small pond. This appears to be one foot outside of the boundary of land acquired by Bellway Homes. The Clerk will contact the Planning Department at SBC.

**Action: Clerk**

The Chair introduced Mike Babic who is now the tree warden for Iwade.

- 2. County and Borough Councillors:** None attended.

- 3. Police Constable:** PC Neil reported there have been issues with drug taking in a local park and nuisance vehicles. If residents can provide any evidence of nuisance vehicles in Iwade please forward onto Kent Police.

Neil also advised that going forward when local officers are unable to attend parish council meetings a colleague will attend in their place if possible. The Chair asked for regular reports of local issues.

**5. Village Matters**

- 1. CCTV –** Members discussed the operational effectiveness and position of cameras. The chair asked the Clerk to arrange a visit to the CCTV control room. **Action: Clerk**
- 2. Ownership of Country Park, Land East of Iwade –** Bellway Homes would like to arrange a meeting with the parish council to discuss the planned Country Park and the Village Hall plans. The Clerk will respond to arrange a meeting and will ask if members of the public can be present. **Action: Clerk**
- 3. Request to Jackson Civils – Grovehurst Road entrance/exit –** Members noted that Jackson Civils have kindly agreed to extend clearing vegetation beyond the entrance of Grovehurst Road on both sides of the road up to the footpath leading to Pintail Drive. This can be carried out in the autumn at the end of nesting season. The Clerk will respond to Jackson Civils. **Action: Clerk**

Members asked the Clerk to arrange for a hedge in Cormorant Road to be cut back to improve sight lines for drivers.

**Action: Clerk**

6. **Planning** – applications are viewable on Swale: <http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications>; KCC: <https://cloud2.atriumsoft.com/KCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do>

1. **KCC/SW/0067/2025: Temporary waste storage facility including the erection of four fire water storage tanks. Countrystyle Recycling, Kemsley Fields Business Park, Ridham Dock, Ridham Dock Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8SR** - Members made no comments.
2. **25/501248/FULL: Erection of a single storey rear extension. 26 Sheerstone Iwade Kent ME9 8RN** - Members made no comments.
3. **25/502628/FULL: Conversion of garage space to new kitchen with windows to front and new double doors to rear. 11 Ringlet Grove Iwade Kent ME9 8XE.** Members made no comments.

7. **Correspondence**

1. **Local Government Reorganisation Survey** – Members agreed the Chair and Clerk will complete a first draft of the survey and circulate to council members for their input and approval. The clerk will also find out the deadline for submitting the survey to Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC).

**Action: Clerk**

2. **Community Infrastructure Grants** – Members discussed applying for a grant towards the cost of a speed indicator device.

**Action: Clerk**

Members also suggested looking into installing a CCTV camera in Raspberry Hill Lane to tackle the issue of fly-tipping. The Chair asked the Clerk to add fly-tipping to the next agenda.

**Action: Clerk**

8. **Parish Council Matters**

1. **Domain Name Renewal** – The Clerk advised the parish councils domain name renewal is due by 23 July, members agreed to renew with the council's website provider Hugofox who offer this service free of charge to their members. Proposed by Cllr. S. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson.

**Action: Clerk**

2. **Community Governance** – Cllr. Baldock advised that Queenborough councillor Mike Whiting is currently petitioning for unparished area Halfway on the Isle of Sheppey, this may trigger a Community Governance review. Iwade Parish Council has submitted an expression of interest to Swale Borough Council, Cllr. Baldock advised the areas to be included in the Iwade boundary are in Kemsley Ward which would create a separate Ward in the parish if the boundary change is permitted.

3. **Local Government Review** – Cllr. Tolhurst discussed engaging with residents regarding the local government review. Members agreed to contact residents with a list of the top five things the parish would like to work towards, Cllr. Tolhurst will write the first draft and circulate to members.

**Action: Cllr. Tolhurst**

Members advised the current issue of The Iwade Observer is the last one as there is no longer a volunteer to edit and write this. The Parish Council funds the printing of the newsletter, members asked the Clerk to contact SBC regarding the fee paid this year.

**Action: Clerk**

9. **Finance**

1. **Updated Financial Regulations 2025** – Members agreed to adopt the updated financial regulations, proposed by Cllr. S. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Baldock.

**Action: RFO**

2. **Councillor training – Beyond the precept: exploring alternative income sources** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Baldock members agreed to the cost of £35.00p plus VAT for Cllr. Holowczycki to attend the training course. Cllrs. Baldock and Rivers-Simpson expressed an interest in attending the course, the Clerk will book places for them.

**Action: Clerk/RFO**

3. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. S. Waters, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 30 June 2025. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Holowczycki and Tolhurst to log in and authorise payments.

**Action: Cllrs. Holowczycki/ Tolhurst**

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
10.07.25	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Tele., home as office, Overtime – June	£18.00p
10.07.25	BACs	S. Gray	Expenses – Tele., home as office - June	£44.00p
10.07.25	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax June	£269.19p
10.07.25	BACs	N.A.L.C.	Beyond the Precept – training Cllr. Holowczycki	£42.00p
10.07.25	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Fee - 11.03.25 to 17.06.25 (59 hours)	£914.00p
10.07.25	BACs	Brunel Engraving Company	Memorial Plaque – Elliott	£84.56p
01.07.25	SO	Staff Salaries	June	£1560.42p
01.07.25	DD	NEST	Pension contributions June	£74.59p
01.07.25	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
26.07.25	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply	Awaited
31.07.25	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£40.63p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount

## 10. **Projects – Updates on Current and New**

1. **Future public events** – Cllr. Rivers-Simpson advised the Iwade Barn trustees are planning a Rum & Reggae event on 30 August, there will be a regular Shepherd Crook evening on 26 July.

Trustees considered quotations for an LED cone Christmas tree and reported they do not have the budget to cover the cost and are considering an 8ft or 10ft real Christmas tree instead. The lantern parade will start at the Church and proceed to the barn.

Cllr. Baldock discussed loneliness cafes, which offer a service for people to contact a group member, so that when they meet the group for the first time they can be introduced to people. Cllr. Rivers-Simpson advised the following groups run in Iwade: Friendship meeting, Men's group, knit and natter and reading clubs. Cllr. Baldock and Rivers-Simpson will discuss this further.

2. **Tracker** – Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document to members. He advised he has added the crocus bulb project to the document.
3. **Planting Crocus Bulbs** - Cllr. Rivers-Simpson approached Iwade School to discuss planting the bulbs and was advised to speak to them again after the summer holidays. Members discussed planting the bulbs in grass verges around the village and asked the Clerk to find out who to contact for permission to carry this out.

**Action: Clerk**

## 11. **Reports from Representatives**

1. **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr. Gomez met with the Chair of the village hall committee to discuss working more closely with them. The village hall committee are currently advertising for trustees.
2. **KALC Area Representative** – Cllr. Holowczycki advised that Chair Jeff Tutt has resigned and Vice-Chair Richard Palmer is too busy to attend the meetings. With no support from other parishes it is not possible to hold meetings. KALC will contact other parishes.

12. **Items for the Next Agenda**

- Traffic survey – may need to call an Extraordinary meeting to make a decision on the quotation when this is received.

13. **Next Meeting(s)**

Full Council meeting, Thursday 11 September 2025, 8.00 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

**The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.**