

## IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8 May 2024

#### Present:

Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Acting Chair	Cllr. R. Langham	PC Phil Clemens
Cllr. T. Guest	Cllr. D. Waters	1 Resident
Cllr. P. Holowczycki	Samantha Gray, Clerk	
Cllr. S. Lancashire	County Cllr. M. Baldock	

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

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

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

#### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 April 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

#### **4. Visitors/Public Time**

**1. Visitors:** No comments.

**2. County and Borough Councillors:** Cllr. Baldock reported that he is assisting parents with appeals on school applications. Bin collections are still an issue in Iwade, with some areas not receiving a collection for 6 weeks. He is reporting the issues and hopes that all areas that have been missed will have their bin collections caught up with soon.

**3. Community Warden/Police Constable:** PC Phil Clemens gave an update on the following issues and also provided a written report – see appendix A:

- Lamppost knocked down on the corner of Grovehurst Road/Sheppey Way (Telly Tubby Hill)
- Raspberry Hill illegal waste burning
- Animals escaped from Happy Pants Animal Sanctuary
- Fly tipping on Iwade Road

#### **5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**1. Jackson Civil Donation** – Due to limited resources the reedmace clearance in the pond at Woodpecker Park is unlikely to be organised by March 2025. Members agreed to ask Jackson Civil for the donation of £1,000 to be spent on an alternative lighting method for the Beacon at Woodpecker Park, such as electric or gas. **Action: Clerk**

**2. To approve the Memorial Plaque Policy** – Proposed by Cllr. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members approved the Memorial Plaque Policy. Members agreed for all plaque bases to be supplied in the colour Light Oak. The Clerk collated a list of volunteers who maintain planters in the village. There are currently 16 planters with no volunteers. The Clerk will ask Cllr. Fuszard to carry out an inspection to confirm those planters are not maintained, then advertise the scheme. **Action: Clerk**

**3. Highways Improvement Plan** – Cllr. Langham, Cllr. Holowczycki and the Clerk met with KCC Highways to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan requests. KCC advised the following:

- **20mph zone** – KCC advised the average speeds taken from traffic survey results do not support a 20mph speed limit on the main roads in Iwade. They will look at introducing a temporary 20mph

speed limit during school hours outside Iwade School. They will also look at the possibility of priority signs at build-outs.

- **Sheppey Way (between The Street and Old Ferry Road)** – KCC has not received the Police report for the fatality involving a pedestrian. A new footway would be very costly and not regularly used by pedestrians.
- **Stangate Drive – parking on the junction** – Not a safety issue but will be monitored.
- **The Street – Regular traffic congestion** – A potential solution is to change the bus timetable. KCC will speak to Chalkwell Buses.
- **Bus Stop – Ferry Road junction with School Lane** – The bus stop is close to the junction. When cars try to pass at busy times this adds to the congestion caused by the A249 roadworks. KCC will speak to Chalkwell Buses to request a temporary closure of the bus stop during the A249 improvement works.

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

1. **24/501367/FULL:** Demolition of agricultural building and erection of one dwelling with associated landscaping. School Lane Farm School Lane Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8SG.

No comments.

2. **22/504781/OUT:** Sittingbourne Logistics Park Swale Way Sittingbourne Kent ME10 2FF. Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for erection of up to 2,800m<sup>2</sup> of additional storage and distribution (B8 use) warehouse floorspace and HGV parking including access, parking, landscaping and other associated works.

Comment: Council members are concerned about the impact additional HGV's will have on traffic and infrastructure and stand by their comments made in December 2022:

Iwade Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds of increased HGVs on the already congested road system in this area. Concerned that no details of number of extra HGVs are shown on the application or within the Planning Statement - can we request sight of these details. If approved and extra HGVs are permitted the Council requests that as part of the conditions, vehicles only be permitted to exit the site, turning left to go down to around the roundabout in Swale Way and then come up to Grovehurst Roundabout. At the present time vehicles coming out of the site turn right and cross the traffic stream causing queues.

3. **24/501589/FULL:** Erection of extension to create a small office to the front of the school building. Iwade County Primary School School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8RS.

No comments.

4. **24/500019/OUT:** Land At Sleepy Meadows Sheppey Way Bobbing Kent ME9 8QX. Outline application for the erection of 6no. dwellings (Access being sought).

Members have considered the new documents and note that from a parking point of view, it appears two parking spaces and 1 visitor space has been issued for each dwelling. The access entrance looks too narrow to accommodate any additional vehicles and other than the turning circle, cars would have to park in Featherbed Lane, causing possible parking access issues.

Members also stand by their previous objections made regarding the countryside gap between Iwade and Bobbing:

15/505488/OUT: Outline Application for residential development for 98 dwellings (access being sought): Land At Church Farm Sheppey Way Bobbing Kent ME9 8PL Planning Inspectorate Report States:

16. There is no dispute that the site is located in an area that is identified as an ‘important local countryside gap’ within the LP policy E7 and SLP policy DM25. The aim of the countryside gaps is to prevent settlement coalescence. LP policy E6 also seeks to protect the quality, character and amenity of the countryside. This is consistent with an aim of the Framework which is to the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

“I therefore conclude that the development of the site for 98 dwellings would harm the character and appearance of the area. It would be in conflict with LP policies E6, E7, SH1(6) and SLP policies DM24, DM25, DM31 and ST3(6).”

Swale Borough Council Planning Reference: 14/500144/FULL decision comments:

8.04:

Para 14 – “...the gap between Bobbing and Iwade is narrow and...the pockets of urban and suburban development embedded within it make it especially fragile.”

Para 15 – “...I consider it important that, given its significance as maintaining open land in the Iwade-Bobbing Gap, the appeal site maintains its attractive rural appearance... I am firmly of the opinion that this can be best achieved by ensuring that the greater part of the land is kept open and maintained in a positive countryside use.”

The Planning Officer goes on to state “Given the above, I am firmly of the view that the proposed development would harm the character and appearance of the countryside and would harm the open and undeveloped nature of the important local countryside gap, contrary to Policies E1, E6, E7 and E19 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2008.”

## **7. Correspondence**

- 1. Swale Food Bank** – discussed in Parish meeting item 3.
- 2. Parking Peach Blossom Drive** – A resident reported that vehicles are parking in the give-way bay in Peach Blossom Drive just before the small bridge that goes into Holly Blue Drive, and vehicles also park on the pavement. There is a concern that vehicles cannot pass safely and access is blocked for pedestrians, prams and wheelchairs. The Clerk has advised the resident to report this to HML management company. Council members asked the Clerk to follow this up with the management company. **Action: Clerk**
- 3. Councillor Resignation** – Members noted Cllr. Stalley-Moores has resigned from the Parish Council. There are now two vacancies which the Clerk will advertise. **Action: Clerk**
- 4. Chapter 8 Training – 1 Day Course** – Faversham Town Council are running a one day course for traffic management and Cllr. Holowczycki volunteered to attend. Proposed by Cllr. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Guest, members agreed to the cost of £183.29 + VAT for the training course. **Action: Clerk/RFO**

## **8. Finance**

- 1. Insurance Renewal 2024/25** – Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, members agreed to renew the Parish Council insurance for 2024/25 at the cost of £2,295.89. **Action: RFO**
- 2. Financial Risk Assessment 2023/24** - Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst the 2023/24 Assessment was agreed and adopted.
- 3. Statement of Internal Control 2023/24** – Acting Chair Cllr. Tolhurst signed the Statement of Internal Control 2023/24 which the RFO previously circulated to all council members.

4. **Grounds Maintenance 2024/25** - Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Waters, members agreed to renew the grounds maintenance contract for 2024/25 at a cost of £8,639.82 + VAT. KCC will pay a grant to the Parish Council of £3,783.00p, therefore the cost to the Parish Council will be £4,856.82. **Action: RFO**
5. **KALC subscription for 2024/25** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed to renew the KALC subscription at a cost of £1,383.24 incl. VAT. **Action: RFO**
6. **Bank signatories** – An amendment is required on the bank signatories submission form. Bring back to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk/RFO**
7. **Street Lighting Structural/Electrical Survey** – The electrical survey shows faults on four lamp columns. Awaiting a quote for repair from UK Power Network. **Action: RFO**
8. **Christmas Lights** – Sittingbourne Christmas Lights Committee has approximately 20 Christmas Lights available for a donation of £20.00p each. Members decided not to take on any more lights due to the cost of installing lights and power on additional lamp columns. **Action: Clerk**
9. **ILCA to CiLCA training course – Clerk** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed to the cost of £120 + VAT for the training course. **Action: Clerk/RFO**
10. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** - Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 30 April 2024. Cllrs. Lancashire and Langham to log in and authorise the following payments: **Action: Cllrs. Lancashire/Langham**

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
08.05.24	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Telephone, home as office – April	£18.00p
08.05.24	BACs	S. Grey	Expenses – Telephone, home as office - April	£44.00p
08.05.24	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax April	£155.95p
08.05.24	BACs	S.L.C.C.	Membership Fee 2024/25 S. Gray	£183.00p
08.05.24	BACs	Citizens Advice Bureau Swale	S.137 Donation	£100.00p
08.05.24	BACs	K.S.M.	Repair collision damage to Sheppey Way Gateway	£185.00p
08.05.24	BACs	KSS Air Ambulance	S.137 Donation	£250.00p
08.05.24	BACs	K.A.L.C.	Subscription 2024/25	£1152.70p
08.05.24	BAC s	K.A.L.C.	Dynamic Councillor Training – Cllr. Holowczycki	£60.00p
08.05.24	BAC s	Seve Wakeling	Handyman Fee March	£232.50p
08.05.24	BAC s	McCabe Ford Williams	Quarterly Payroll Preparation	£148.87p
01.0.24	SO	Staff Salaries	April	£1475.45p
01.05.24	DD	NEST	Pension contributions April	£65.67p
01.05.24	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
25.05.24	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply April	£155.67p
30.05.24	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	Awaited
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount
26.04.24	BACs	Swale Borough Council	1 <sup>st</sup> Instalment Precept	£30500.00p
26.04.24	BACs	Swale Borough Council	1 <sup>st</sup> Instalment Lighting Grant	£275.00p

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

1. **D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Beacon Lighting – 6 June 2024** – Council members made the difficult decision to cancel the Beacon Lighting Event planned for 6 June due to insurance regulations regarding the distance of bonfires from cars and properties. Council members will look into different methods of lighting the Beacon such as electric and gas. The Clerk will inform Bruno Peek of the cancelled event. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Christmas Event 2024 – Traffic Management** – Jackson Civil have confirmed they can loan the Parish Council diversion signs for the event. The Clerk will contact Jackson Civil to arrange the delivery of the signs when a date has been set for the Christmas Event. **Action: Clerk**

3. **Parish Council 'Tracker' update** – Cllr. Tolhurst has circulated the tracker document to all members with the latest updates. Cllr. Holowczycki commented that he finds this document very helpful as a new member.
4. **Village Clean-Up Event** – The Clerk has advertised the event on the Parish Council website, notice boards and Facebook. The council need a First Aid volunteer for the event, the Clerk will ask Cllr. Hyde if he is available. Cllr. Waters volunteered to be the coordinator for the clean-up event. Cllr. Tolhurst volunteered to collect/deliver the litter-picking equipment to Swale House. **Action: Clerk**

10. **Reports from Representatives**

1. **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr. Langham reported that regular hirers have been notified that hire fees will increase by approximately 10% due to energy costs rising.
2. **KALC Area Representative** – The KALC representative was unable to attend the last meeting. The KALC AGM will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 7 p.m. at Swale House.
3. **Swale Western Area Committee** – The full council meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May. The next Committee meeting will be held in June.

11. **Any Other Matters Arising** – Cllr. Lancashire would like the council to consider investing in an Emergency Trauma Pack. The Clerk will add this to the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

Cllrs. Tolhurst and Holowczycki volunteered to present the KALC Community Award to Pharmacist Obed Amoah. Cllr. Fuszard will take photos to forward to The Observer.

**Action: Cllrs. Tolhurst, Holowczycki/Fuszard**

12. **Next Meeting(s)**  
Wednesday 12 June 2024, 7.30 p.m., in Iwade Village Hall.

13. **Closed Session**

1. **Update regarding Telly Tubby Hill** – The Clerk updated members about an incident that occurred at Telly Tubby Hill.

**The meeting closed at 09.10 p.m.**