

## IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13 November 2024

#### Present:

Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair	Cllr. P. Hyde	Cllr. S. Waters
Cllr. S. Fuszard	Cllr. R. Langham	Samantha Gray, Clerk
Cllr. P. Holowczycki	Cllr. D. Waters	4 Residents

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

#### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. S. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Fuszard, the minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 9 October 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

#### 4. Visitors/Public Time

1. **Visitors:** Nothing to report.

2. **County and Borough Councillors:** No report received.

3. **Community Warden/Police Constable:** No report received.

#### 5. Election of Vice-Chair and Acceptance of Office

Cllr. Fuszard was elected as Vice-Chair and duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office form.

#### 6. Village Matters

1. **Ferry Road Leak** – Kent County Council (KCC) installed a perforated drain pipe in October which has taken the water away from the surface of the road. The Parish Council have been advised that if there are no water leaks on Southern Water's pipework the water must be surface water. Council members feel residents need an explanation about where the water is coming from and some reassurance about this issue. In previous discussions members were advised a donation would be made to the community for the inconvenience to the village. Members asked the Clerk to organise an online meeting with KCC and Southern Water within the next two weeks. ***Action: Clerk***

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

1. **To decide whether to call planning application 22/504781/OUT to the planning committee** - Council members decided not to request the application to be taken to the planning committee. Council members commented that since submitting their objections, work has begun on the improvement to the Grovehurst junction and understand this will improve capacity within the road network.

#### 8. Correspondence

1. **Mansfield Drive Hedges** – A resident reported that hedges have been damaged by the stream in Mansfield Drive and as a result there is a gap in the hedge which attracts anti-social behaviour. The Chairman asked the Clerk to organise a meeting with the resident to discuss the anti-social behaviour issues. ***Action: Clerk/Cllr. Tolhurst***

- 2. Kent Community Warden Service Review** – KCC informed the Parish Council that a Community Warden will not be provided for our area. KCC advised there are options to directly employ a Warden or sponsor a Warden. Members agreed the Parish Council do not have the finances available to provide a Warden.
- 3. Parish Councillor Resignation** – Stuart Lancashire has resigned from the Parish Council. The vacancy has been advertised and no petition for election was received. The vacancy can now be filled by co-option. Members asked the Clerk to write to members who have recently resigned to thank them for their service. **Action: Clerk**
- 4. Response from Omnicroft management company regarding the Village Centre** – Omnicroft management company advised they have not received funds from First Port since taking over management of the Village Centre. As a result they have not reinstated regular litter collections and litter picking in the Village Centre. Members agreed this is unacceptable and asked the Clerk to contact the local Borough Councillors for their help to hold Omnicroft accountable for the service they should be providing. **Action: Clerk**
- 5. Parking restrictions issued by HML management company** – Council members noted the correspondence advising that HML management company have written to residents to inform them parking restriction have been issued on private roads on the Iwade Meadows housing estate.
- 6. Public consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan** – Consultation circulated to members and noted.
- 7. Raspberry Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – A project manager from RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd has contacted the Parish Council and asks for ideas for community benefit projects. Council members asked the Clerk to respond with the following: community gardens, Iwade pond, solar panels for the new Village Hall, and planting of tree's. **Action: Clerk**
- 8. Village Hall regarding the salt bins** – Council members will organise a working party to tidy up the salt bin area in the Village Hall car park. **Action: Council members**
- 9. Parish Council Matters**
- 1. To discuss and decide on storage of Parish Council equipment** – Members asked the Clerk to speak to Gala Lights to enquire about storing the snow machine with the Christmas Lights. Members also asked the Clerk to look into past research for installation of a container or shed at the Village Hall. **Action: Clerk**
- 2. To discuss installation of Christmas Lights** – Members discussed concerns about the installation of the Christmas Tree. The Clerk informed members the Christmas Tree adheres to insurance regulations and measures are in place to secure the tree and carry out regular inspections. It was agreed to ask for CCTV to monitor the Christmas Tree when installed and to keep records of regular inspections. Members held a vote and agreed to for the installation of the tree to go ahead as planned. **Action: Clerk**
- 3. To receive an update on 'Tracker' document** –
- Item 14.5 Grovehurst entrance bushes and undergrowth need cutting back – work completed.
  - Item 14.15 Lamp posts on Peach Blossom Drive – work completed.
  - Item 9 Highway Improvement Plan – Funding for the 20mph temporary speed limit is now in place. KCC Highways, County Cllr. Mike Baldock, Borough Cllrs. Clark and Chapman, and Iwade School have all agreed a donation to fund the project.
  - School Lane Double Yellow Lines – Council members reported the double yellow lines in School Lanes have not been refreshed properly and the paint quality appears to be poor. The Clerk will contact KCC Highways. **Action: Clerk**
- 4. To appoint members to the following committees:**
- a) **Planning committee** – Cllr. Tolhurst agreed to join the committee.
  - b) **Finance committee** – Cllr. Fuszard agreed to join the committee.

c) **HIPs committee** – Cllr. Hyde agreed to join the committee.

5. **Grounds maintenance renewal** – Members asked the Clerk to look into when the grass cutting contract was last tendered. Members agreed to include grounds maintenance in the budget for 2025/26 but want to note they are not happy with the service from the current contractor. **Action: RFO/Clerk**

## 10. Finance

1. **Quote to repair or replace ‘Village Centre’ finger post sign** – Proposed by Cllr. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Langham, members agreed the quote from KSM to repair the finger post sign at a cost of £155.00p. **Action: RFO**

2. **Quotes to carry out annual inspections/remove trees in village hall garden** – Proposed by Cllr. Fuszard and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed the quote from Treetops at a cost of £675.00p + VAT. **Action: RFO**

### 3. **Beacon Lighting:**

a) **Insurance cover for Beacon Lighting** – defer to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

b) **Gas burner for Beacon Lighting** – agreed not to install a gas burner for the Beacon.

4. **Quote to install tree guards** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to order 8 strong strimmer guards at a cost of £42.50p. **Action: RFO**

5. **To set date for the Finance committee meeting:** Members agreed to hold a meeting on Wednesday 20 November. The Clerk will book the village hall. **Action: Clerk/RFO**

6. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** - Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 31 October 2024. Cllrs. Holowczycki and Tolhurst will log in and authorise the following payments:

**Action: Cllrs. Holowczycki/ Tolhurst**

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
13.11.24	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Telephone, home as office–October	£18.00p
13.11.24	BACs	S. Grey	Expenses – Telephone, home as office –October	£44.00p
13.11.24	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax October	£156.35p
13.11.24	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Fee July (part), August, September and part October	£635.50p
13.11.24	BACs	Greenbarnes Ltd	Replacement lock for Village Centre Noticeboard	£17.41p
13.11.24	BACs	McCabe Ford Williams	Quarterly Payroll Preparation	£125.33p
13.11.24	BACs	S.L.C.C.	13 <sup>th</sup> Edition Local Council Administration	£142.40p
01.11.24	SO	Staff Salaries	October	£1475.05p
01.11.24	DD	NEST	Pension contributions October	£65.67p
01.11.24	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
25.11.24	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply October	£155.88p
30.11.24	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£40.63p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount

## 11. Projects – Updates on Current and New

1. **VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025** – Members discussed forming a sub-committee and inviting residents to join the committee to plan the VE Day Event on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr. Tolhurst will write up an article for the newsletter. Keep on the agenda. **Action: Clerk/Cllr. Tolhurst**

## 12. Reports from Representatives

1. **Village Hall Committee** – Stuart Lancashire is the new Chair of the Village Hall Committee and advised the committee are happy with the new hall plans. Cllr. Fuszard is now a village hall volunteer and will be the Parish Council representative. He advised that bookings can now be made digitally.
2. **KALC Area Representative** – Cllr. Holowczycki advised the Swale Area Committee meeting due to be held on Thursday 7 November was cancelled and has been rescheduled for 19 November at Lower Halstow memorial hall. A speaker from community speed watch has been arranged for the meeting.

### 13. Items for the Next Agenda

- Advertisement board in Iwade Pharmacy
- KCC permits for carrying out work

**Action: Clerk**

### 14. Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday 11 December 2024, 7.30 p.m., in Iwade Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 09.15 p.m.**

### 15. Closed Session

1. **Exclusion of Press and Public from items on the agenda** – members resolved to exclude the press and public from items 15.2 and 15.3.
2. **Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25** – The Clerk advised the pay agreement that would normally be awarded in April was delayed. Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Fuszard, members agreed to the pay agreement for the Clerk on SCP 21 and the RFO on SCP 24. Members noted the pay award would be back dated to April. **Action: RFO**
3. **To agree decision on response to insurer relating to a public liability claim** – members discussed and agreed on a response to the insurance company. **Action: Clerk**