

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 9 October 2024

Present:

Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair	Cllr. D. Waters	County Cllr. M. Baldock
Cllr. P. Holowczycki	Cllr. S. Waters	6 Residents
Cllr. S. Lancashire	Samantha Gray, Clerk	
Cllr. R. Langham	Lynda Ives, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)	

1. Election of Chair and Acceptance of Office

Due to a resignation the election of Chair is required. Cllr. Tolhurst was elected as Chair and duly signed the acceptance of office form.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Fuszard and Cllr. Hyde due to work commitments.

3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs. Langham and Lancashire declared an interest item 6.3.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, the minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 11 September 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

The Chair brought item 7 on the agenda forward.

7. Parish Council Vacancies

1. Parish Councillor Application – Scott Waters was co-opted onto the Parish Council and duly signed the acceptance of office form.

2. Parish Councillor Resignation – Al Dollimore has resigned from the Parish Council. The vacancy has been advertised and the notice to call an election ends on Thursday 10 October. After this date the position can be filled by co-option.

5. Visitors/Public Time

1. Visitors: A resident asked for advice regarding an issue in Stangate Drive.

2. County and Borough Councillors: Cllr. Baldock reported he recently held a Swale West Parishes Group meeting at which they discussed the issue of loneliness for people in the community. The group plan to create a website to advertise and view community events and also create chat benches.

Cllr. Baldock advised he is Chair of the planning committee and will not comment on the planning applications on the agenda for this meeting.

He also advised it is coming up to the time of year the council will review their budget.

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

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. **Southern Water Leak Investigation** – Southern Water have advised no water leaks could be found on their pipework during the recent road closure. Members asked the Clerk to organise a meeting with Southern Water and KCC. **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. **24/503809/FULL:** Erection of proposed single car port with log store. Culnells Farm School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8QJ. Members discussed the application and advised no comments to be made.

2. **24/503312/REM:** Approval of reserved matters (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale sought) for sites E1 and E2 for residential development comprising 455no. dwellings and erection of a community hall, together with associated access, landscaping, drainage, infrastructure and earthworks, pursuant to 19/503974/HYBRID.

This is a repeat application of earlier planning application 24/502881/REM which members have commented on. Members advised the Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council regarding ownership of the Country Park. **Action: Clerk**

3. New Village Hall amended design plans – email 30.09. Members made no comments. The design plans have been passed onto the Village Hall committee.

4. **22/505076/OUT:** Outline application for the erection of up to 42no. residential dwellings, including open space, drainage, infrastructure and other associated works (Access being sought). Land At Pheasant Farm Bramblefield Lane West Of Iwade Bypass Sittingbourne.

Members stand by their comments made on 15th December 2022, in particular concern regarding the strategic gap between Bobbing and Iwade:

Iwade Parish Council objects on the following grounds:

- Concern over Lack of infrastructure
- Traffic and pressure on local roads, which are already over capacity.
- Medical Facilities – limited capacity, backed up by the NHS, and a worrying shortage/difficulty in recruiting Doctors.
- Concern over water supplies.
- Further loss of Agricultural land.
- No sewage pipe drainage, the land drains on to the A249; Highways England might have concerns regarding this.
- The applicant points out that a larger adjacent area is also under their ownership and indeed the area is highlighted on the plan. This is of concern to the Parish Council as it seems to indicate that they will be looking to submit a possible future planning application on this land, further eroding the countryside gap.

We would refer you to Appeal Ref: APP/V2255/W/16/3153537 Land at Church Farm, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Kent, ME9 8RJ – it refers to the Sheppey Way, the area between Bobbing and Iwade settlements - the Inspector's decision states:

Character and appearance:

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.

17. Within the Swale Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal (LCA) the site is located within the 'Iwade Arable Farmlands'. The LCA describes the area as a gentle undulating rural landscape. It also identifies that housing is clearly evident in views across the surrounding landscape and that several major transport routes cut through the area. One of these routes is the A249 which is adjacent to the appeal site. Nevertheless, it goes on to set out that '...in spite of the intrusive effects of

these heavily trafficked routes, many parts of this character area retain a sense of isolation and tranquillity...’

18. The LCA identifies that the landscape is generally in ‘poor’ condition and that this is in part to residential ribbon development that has taken place in a number of styles thus creating an incoherent character. However, this does not alter the importance of the site as a gap. In addition, the LCA is clear that the areas strength and character should be restored.

8. Committees

1. **Appoint member to the Finance Committee** – Cllr. S. Waters was appointed to the finance committee.
2. **Appoint member to the Planning Committee** – Cllr. Holowczycki was appointed to the Planning Committee.
3. **Appoint member to the Highway Improvement Plan Committee** – Cllr. S. Waters was appointed to the Highway Improvement Plan Committee.

9. Correspondence

1. **Jackson Civil Engineering** – Jackson Civil Engineering advised they will not provide financial support for the temporary 20mph zone planned for School Lane, and would like to donate their time and resources instead. Council members noted this response.

10. Finance

1. **Updating Financial Regulations** – The RFO circulated the updated financial regulations for local councils to members prior to the meeting and discussed updates with members present at the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. S. Waters and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to adopt the financial regulations. **Action: RFO**
2. **Quotes to repair or replace ‘Village Centre’ finger post sign** – Awaiting cost. Bring back to next meeting. **Action: RFO**
3. **Gas burner for Beacon Lighting** – To convert the Beacon to gas lit instead of bonfire lit three burners are required at a cost of £300 + VAT for each burner. This cost does not include installation. Members will compare this to the cost of event insurance for a bonfire lit beacon. Bring back to next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
4. **Insurance cover for Beacon Lighting** – The Clerk has sourced an Events quotation from Unity for £461.76p. Members asked for two additional quotations to be sourced. **Action: Clerk**
5. **Quote to install tree guards** – Members asked the Clerk to write to Swale Borough Council for permission to install tree guards around trees in Woodpecker Park which comes under their maintenance. **Action: Clerk**
6. **Annual CCTV monitoring and network charge** – Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. S. Waters, members agreed to the cost of £3,500.00p + VAT which includes an £875.00p discount due to issues in the last 12 months. **Action: RFO**
7. **Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration book** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to purchase the 13th edition book for £137.00p + VAT. **Action: Clerk**
8. **Quote to remove trees in village hall garden** – Members asked for a quotation to be sourced to carry out an annual tree safety inspection. Keep on the agenda. **Action: RFO/Clerk**

- 9. 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 September 2024. The RFO advised members to be wary of expenditure. Cllrs. Lancashire and Langham will log in and authorise the following payments: **Action: Cllrs. Lancashire/Langham**

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
09.10.24	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Telephone, home as office–September	£18.00p
09.10.24	BACs	S. Grey	Expenses – Telephone, home as office –September	£44.00p
09.10.24	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax September	£156.15p
09.10.24	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Fee May, June and July	£418.50p
09.10.24	BACs	Swale Borough Council	CCTV Monitoring charge 2024/25 and Wireless Network	£4200.00p
09.10.24	BACs	Electrical Testing Ltd	Electrical Inspection and Test 4 Columns	£205.10p
09.10.24	BACs	Viking	Stationery	£54.22p
09.10.24	BACs	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath and Donation	£50.00p
01.10.24	SO	Staff Salaries	September	£1475.25p
01.10.24	DD	NEST	Pension contributions September	£65.67p
01.10.24	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
25.10.24	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply September	Awaited
30.10.24	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£40.63p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount
20.09.24	BACs	Swale Borough Council	Grant 20mph School Lane o/s School – Cllr. Chapman	£500.00p
30.09.24	BACs	Swale Borough Council	2 nd Instalment Precept	£30500.00p
30.09.24	BACs	Swale Borough Council	2 nd Instalment Lighting Grant (final payment, grants ceased)	£275.00p

10. Projects – Updates on Current and New

- 1. Christmas Event 2024** – Members deferred this item to the end of the meeting, to be discussed in closed session.
- 2. Parish Council ‘Tracker’ update** - Cllr. Tolhurst circulated updates to members and staff prior to the meeting.
- 3. Village Clean-up October 2024** – The Council decided not to hold a litter picking event due to a recent litter pick being undertaken in the community by volunteers in connection with Iwade School. A resident advised the litter bin is missing in Sheerstone which the Clerk will report to Swale Borough Council. **Action: Clerk**
- 4. VE Day 8th May 2025** – Covered in items 10.3 and 10.4 above.

11. Reports from Representatives

- 1. Village Hall Committee** – Cllr. Lancashire advised the Chair of the committee and the bookings Clerk have resigned. Due to the resignations casual bookings cannot be taken. Regular hires will continue.
- 2. KALC Area Representative** – Cllr. Holowczycki discussed the meeting arrangements for the February 2025 meeting.
- 3. Swale Western Area Committee** – The next meeting will be 28th November. Add to the December agenda. **Action: Clerk**
- 4. Swale West Parishes Group** – see Cllr. Baldock’s report in item 5.2 – County and Borough Councillors.

12. Any Other Matters Arising

Nothing to report.

13. Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday 13 November 2024, 7.30 p.m., in Iwade Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 09.18 p.m.

14. Closed Session

1. To agree decision on response to insurer – members discussed and advised the Clerk to request further information from the insurance company. **Action: Clerk**

10.1 – Christmas Event 2024 – Members decided not to hold a Christmas Lights switch on event this year. The Christmas lights will be installed for the festive period. **Action: Clerk**