

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 9th September, 2015

The Chair introduced John Lancaster from Mongoose Energy; who had come to outline proposals relating to Orchard Farm Solar Farm in School Lane. The company wishes to help the community set up a Benefits Society (which is a type of co-op) and raise money to buy the solar farm from the developer. They run the farm on behalf of the community and any profits go back to the shareholders (members of the community can invest in shares) and into a community fund (they estimate this will equate to £80,000 per year; the project will span 25 years) which can then pay out grants to organisations for projects such as efficient lighting, loft insulation, solar heating, etc. There is also the prospect of cheaper electricity for households. The developer of the farm is OPDE; they asked Mongoose Energy to help them convert the project from purely commercial into community owned. Mongoose will be aiming to launch a share offer at the end of October and will be inviting local people to become members of the Co-operative; they will also be holding local events in Iwade and the surrounds to promote this, the first one being in mid-October. Mongoose Energy will be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be on the Board of Directors.

Visitors/Public Time

- 1.Visitors** – A resident mentioned the Localism meeting and School Lane Playing Field/Pavilion; Clerk to arrange a meeting between the Iwade Herons and Parish Council and to organise a separate meeting with Persimmon to discuss this and other matters. *Action: Clerk*

A resident raised the issue of safety in Grovehurst Road; the problems pedestrians have crossing the A249 slip roads and the recent incident. The Chair advised that the Parish Council has consistently raised this in the past and KCC always waits for something to happen! The latest incident was reported to the Police. It was suggested arranging a meeting with the Highway Agency and others to look at the area and to see what can be done; the person involved in the incident is willing to attend the meeting. *Action: Clerk*

- 2.County and Borough Councillors** – As he could not attend County Cllr. Truelove forwarded the following details: “He has arranged for improved signage and markings at the junction of Sanderling and the Street and will show the Parish Council what is planned. On School Lane, he is going to get the KCC Development team to discuss with the developers the lack of a good sight line for pedestrians and to look further at extra yellow markings.”

- 3.Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO** - The Community Warden’s report had been circulated. There are on-going problems on the new development (CSU, PCSO and Amicus are aware); fly tipping incidents in Sheppey Way and Old Ferry Road; incidents with youths in Woodpecker Park (he will speak to the PCSO regarding these) and there have been problems with the new road layout near to the Medical Centre.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 1.Grovehurst Road Resurfacing and renewing White lining in the Village** – Clerk has received a response from KCC: “At the December 2014 meeting, the condition of Grovehurst Road Gateway was part of the list of around twenty sites that were discussed. As with many sites, there was not the funding to carry out works there this year but rest assured the site will not be removed from the list until improvement work has been carried out. KCC will also be looking at the white lining.”

Planning

- 2.15/505339/FULL:** Application for conversion of existing loft space with new obscure glazed window to rear elevation & roof lights: 24 Kingfisher Close Iwade ME9 8LY – no objections.

Correspondence

1. **Kent County Council Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2013-30 - Proposed Modifications Consultation** – Bring back to the October meeting. *Action: Clerk*

Finance

1. **2014/15 Internal Audit Report** – Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Gale, all agreed to note and accept the Internal Audit Report for the year ended 31st March, 2015, prepared by David Buckett, the Internal Auditor.
2. **Extra grass cutting area School Lane** – Proposed by Cllr. Plumb and seconded by Cllr. Mitchell, all agreed to request Swale Borough Council to include this in the cutting programme at a cost of £0.40212 extra for the entire year.
3. **KALC Finance Conference 22nd October** – Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Clark, all agreed Cllrs. Mitchell and Plumb to attend at a cost of £72 each (includes V.A.T. which is reclaimable) *Action: Cllrs. Plumb/Mitchell/Clerk*
4. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Members agreed the following cheques, to include an extra £10 (Cyan) relating to the cost of a brass plaque for one of the two bench seats being donated to the Church, and accounts to the 31st August 2015

Iwade Localism Project (Swale Borough Council)

The Minutes of Localism Meeting held on Monday 7th September, 2015, were circulated. The Parish Council to sit down with Iwade Herons to look at how the Pavilion and field will be managed; there is a need to ensure that the field is open for everyone to use. Swale Borough Council is writing to the landowner of the Allotments to see if they will pass the lease on to either the Allotment Association or the Parish Council.

1. The Barn – The Barn Trust is now a registered Charity and is hoping that the building will be handed over soon to Swale Borough Council and then the Trust. Draft plans for the internal work have been drawn up and passed to Peter Bell, Swale's Conservation Officer, who has agreed that it all looks good; there are a few final details to agree and hopefully it might not need to go to Swale's Planning Committee. Now looking at Broadband as KCC has given the go ahead for this.
2. Neighbourhood Plan – The address problem has now been solved. However there is an extra cost of £150 relating to postage as the number of households has increased; this was agreed by Members. Nothing as yet from Ward Homes regarding a proposed meeting.

Mansfield Drive Bridge

The Parish Council met with the Police, Environment Agency and Swale Borough Council to look at the bridge. The Police, Parish Council and residents don't want it opened but unfortunately the Environment Agency has now confirmed that they will be opening it on Health and Safety grounds.

Village Maintenance

The Chair mentioned weeds, the way grass cutting is being done, etc.; there are a lot of things that are not being carried out properly that the Parish Council could organise better. Going forward it looks as though more things will be pushed on to Parish Councils with cuts at KCC and the Borough Council; it might therefore be appropriate to employ someone as a general Handyman; perhaps something to look at when preparing next year's Budget.

Grovehurst Roundabout

In light of the most recent incident it was agreed to arrange a site meeting with Kent Police, the Highways Agency, Iwade and Kemsley Borough Councillors, County Councillors and Gordon Henderson M.P. to look at what can be done to enhance pedestrian safety. **Action: Clerk**

Reports from Representatives (Village Hall and KALC)

- 1.Hall – Cllr. Gale reported that a Spiritual evening has been arranged; the smoke detector issue has been resolved and the Christmas Grotto is moving forward. He is still awaiting a response from the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers regarding garden use.
- 2.KALC – Cllr. Wastall advised that a meeting took place last week.

Any Other Matters Arising

- 1.The Chair wished to place on record thanks to Rynn and Jackie Kemp, Graham Horner, Stephen Plumb and Matt Gale for helping move the compost into the planters and for Jamie Dicker for the use of his tipper truck. The Church is keen to adopt a planter and Tinkerbells are happy to look after one if someone sponsors it; they are keen on a wildlife garden. The Chair will speak to Ickles Pickles and Happy Days to see if they will sponsor/maintain the Grovehurst Road planters. Iwade Garage might be willing to sponsor a planter with one of the Nurseries maintaining it. Clerk to place this on the October Agenda. **Action: Cllr. Hunt/Clerk**
- 2.Cllr. Gale advised that the draft contracts have now been received for the Vodafone Rural Signal, which just needs to be returned. Once up and running (hopefully by Christmas) it will cover the whole of the village.
- 3.The Chair advised that County Cllr. Roger Truelove has looked into parking outside the School and one of the Planning Conditions is that there should be a consultation with the residents and the Parish Council to see what needs to be done. Nothing can go ahead until this matter goes to the Joint Transportation Board. So far KCC Planning has not received anything from KCC Infrastructure.
- 4.The Chairman has received an e-mail today from the Principal Planner for Persimmon, regarding the planning application 15/505910/REM - Approval of Reserved Matters including details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 86 dwellings pursuant to outline application SW/08/1127 - Coleshall Farm Ferry Road Iwade Kent ME9 8QY. The plans have now been amended in line with the comments raised in the Parish Council's objections. In light of time constraints, Members were 'minded to' withdraw the objections provided it is done exactly as stated on the amended plans. Members would also want to see the landscaping and the plans come forward. Once these are received the Parish Council will then write to Swale Planners. It was also agreed to ask who will be responsible in the future for maintaining the hedging. Clerk to respond, copying in Jim Wilson, Principal Planner at Swale Borough Council. **Action: Clerk**
- 5.Cllr. Plumb mentioned that he had been approached by a resident from All Saints Close who has received an invoice from Nation Spaces; the Chair suggested that the resident get in touch with Gordon Henderson's office.