

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 16 September 2020

MEETING HELD VIA 'ZOOM' DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Present:

Cllr. A. Dollimore – Vice-Chair	Cllr. B. Smith
Cllr. S. Lancashire	Cllr. R. Clark
Cllr. R. Langham	Cllr. P. De Fede
Cllr. B. Whiting	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Cllr. P. Hyde	County Cllr. M. Whiting

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Vice-Chair formally welcomed everyone to the Zoom video conferencing meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Parish Cllr. Cheeseman and the PCSO (who could not attend due to Kent Police not supporting the use of Zoom because of security).

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations - None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12 August 2020 were agreed and will be signed by the Vice-Chair as a true transcript.

4. Visitors/Public Time

Residents, County and Borough Councillors, PCSOs and Community Wardens were advised that they could attend as normal but public speaking time might be limited; they were also invited to forward reports/questions to the Clerk beforehand.

1. **Visitors** – No visitors.

2. **County and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Whiting advised - the issues relating to activities at Raspberry Hill Farm in Iwade continue to be of huge concern to residents, in particular in Iwade. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to address any illegal or unauthorised activity, but I will continue to press the agencies to take urgent action. One example is HGVs using our country lanes to access the site. Unless their purpose in visiting the site is a lawful one then they can be prosecuted for using the lanes, which are restricted. That is one example of the practical steps I have suggested to the police chief at Sittingbourne. There are also some existing planning enforcements dating back years. I have asked Cllr Mike Baldock, cabinet member for planning enforcement at Swale Council, to look at this and at the time of writing await a reply. Cllr. Whiting would still like to receive any photographic evidence from residents.

Also, in Iwade there has been some anti-social and threatening behaviour by a small group of youths. Matters were reported to the police and a dispersal order was put in place over one weekend during August. Police and other agencies are involved. It is vital that people report these sort of issues directly to the police via 101 or using their online reporting page (<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>) or even 999 if the crime is happening. Another avenue for complete anonymity is Crimestoppers - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>. The police do not monitor Facebook or other Social media and unless it reported properly there is no official record.

The issue of lorries mistakenly entering the Village and turning in Chetney View, with near misses to property and vehicles, was raised. Cllr. Whiting has received videos and photos from residents and passed these on to KCC, asking the Officers to confirm that all of the lanes into the Village are 7.5t restrictions and that all aggregators are aware. Cllr. Whiting again mentioned the Highway Improvement Plan (the Clerk expressed concern that this was double taxation on residents); it was agreed to invite the Officer concerned to attend a meeting to discuss the scheme. **Action: Clerk**

As part of its environment strategy, KCC has published the Kent and Medway Climate Change impact assessment. Details are at https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf with further appendices at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-wasteand-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kents-changing-climate>. It is an extensive piece of work and if the public have questions or want to know more then please email climate.change@kent.gov.uk.

During my time as KCC's Environment Cabinet Member I proposed a Pollinator Strategy known as Plan Bee. To help Parishes and other groups get involved I am making available grants of up to £200 to organisations to plant more wild flowers or create bee hotels (yes there are such things for those solitary bees) and bee highways. It's all in the Plan, details at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kents-plan-bee-pollinator-actionplan>. If you want to apply for assistance in setting up a pollinator-friendly environment, or know of a community group, youth organisation or other, then please ask them to email me or fill out a grant application form which can be downloaded at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/combined-members-grant>.

3. **Community Warden/PCSO – Community Warden – no report**

The PCSO written report – Crimes of note: Assault in the Village Square by a group of youths on a male – a crime report has been submitted. Report of someone possibly tampering with a vehicle on Ferry Road. However, on attendance, police found no-one in the area and no damage caused. A vehicle was reversed into near the main car park while another vehicle was trying to get away from a group. The windscreen on the other vehicle was smashed. A crime report was submitted and is being investigated. There was a fight between older males on Sanderling Way. Police attended and a person was taken to hospital for a check-up. The incident is being investigated. A car's wing mirror was broken on the road up to the main car park, and a group of youths were seen nearby. A crime report has been submitted. Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note: Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour in the village again became an increasing issue over the past month, with groups of youths hanging around the bus shelter and village square, creating a nuisance for residents. A dispersal order was put in place by police for three weekends, which had some effect on the volume of calls, as has the return to school. A number of dead birds have been found around the Woodpecker Park area, and some youths have been seen holding these. There has been no evidence to suggest the birds were actually killed by the youths, despite a small trial by Facebook. Words of advice have been given to individuals about potential diseases these birds could be carrying. The small stream that runs along the bottom of Mansfield Drive is being used by youths as a gathering place. There is also evidence of nitrous oxide use, and reports of people smoking drugs in the area. Residents have planted shrubs to deter anyone getting down to the stream, as the steep banks could easily lead to an accident. However, the Environment Agency, Southern Water and Swale Borough Council have all said the land does not belong to them. A resident has complained about the number of large lorries entering the village and then having to turn around at the top of School Lane when they realise, they cannot get through. The resident mentioned the lack of signage on the approach to the village, warning drivers that it is not suitable, and that some of the signage in place is covered by vegetation.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. Ponds and Hedgerows – Cllr Langham still carrying out the survey; bring back to next meeting.

Action: Cllr. Langham/ Clerk

6. Planning

1. **20/502421/FULL:** 10 Stangate Drive Iwade Kent ME9 8UH: Change of use of residential garage and part of driveway to provide a cattery including the erection of new boundary fence – agree to object on the following grounds:
 - Noise (cats can be very noisy) and the impact this will have on neighbouring properties.
 - Odours that are produced from faeces and urine produced by the cats that are boarding at the property.
 - Possible attraction of vermin (Rats & Mice) due to food, stored or left out for feeding.
 - The sharing of a drive and the impact this will have on the neighbouring property.
 - Members do not feel this is a suitable site for a cattery
2. **KCC/SW/0166/2020:** Section 73 application to vary condition 6 of planning permission SW/19/504616 to extend the completion of extraction and restoration by 1 year: Orchard Farm, School Lane, Iwade, Kent, ME9 8QH - no objections to this application, provided the conditions, as per the previous application, remain the same.
3. **20/503569/FULL:** 68 Mallard Crescent Iwade Kent ME9 8TJ: Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension – no objections.
4. **KCC/SW/0008/2020:** Construction and operation of an Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) recycling facility: Plot 6B Ridham Dock Estate, Iwade, Kent ME9 8FQ – further details received – the Parish Council's objections, as per our email of the 13 August 2020 (Item 6.2 of the August 2020 Minutes refer), still stand and to add lorry movements, on an already congested area of Sittingbourne, to these objections.
5. **20/503839/FULL:** Conversion of the attached garage to a habitable room replacing the garage door with a window and the addition of a window to the rear: 17 Purple Emperor Grove Iwade Kent ME9 8XD - If this application makes no impact on parking provision, then the Parish Council will raise no objection to it.

7. Correspondence

1. **Housing allocations policy** – No comments.
2. **Call for sites to be submitted as proposed Local Green Spaces** – agreed to respond - Iwade Parish Council, in addition to the play areas (including both sides of Woodpecker Park, maintained by the Borough Council, which we assume are already included) would like to put forward the area of land to the rear of The Woolpack Public House; the area of land between Dunlin Walk and the rear of Iwade School, which is already used as a recreational area and the area at the top of Evergreen Close, which backs onto Fans Lane. We assume the area to the side of the Medical Centre, which will eventually be handed over by Persimmons to Swale Borough Council, will also be included.
3. **Government consultations on reforming the planning system** – Agreed to go with the response from NALC.

8. Finance

1. **Unity Bank** – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Langham, agreed to close the NatWest Business Reserve Account and transfer the funds over into the NatWest Current Account, in readiness for the Switch Agreement with Unity Bank. Once funds have been transferred to Unity Bank, they will be again split into a Current and a Savings Account. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Whiting, Members noted the budget figures, agreed the accounts to the 31 August 2020 and the following cheques were agreed and signed:

Date	Chq.	Details		Amount
16.09.20	2214	L. Fisher	Expenses: August – Telephone, office use	£23.00p
16.09.20	2215	H.M. Revenue and Customs	Tax August	£305.97p
16.09.20	2216	Steve Wakeling	Handyman duties August	£343.00p
16.09.20	2217	David Buckett	Internal Audit 2019/20	£329.95p
16.09.20	2218	Associated British Bulbs	4 x 25kg nets Daffodils; 2000 crocus bulbs	£314.40p
16.09.20	2219	Kent County Council	Load Testing lighting columns	£975.00p
16.09.20	2220	Playsafety Limited	Annual ROSPA Village Hall Garden Inspection	£82.20p
Seven cheques in total				

Other outgoings during month:

Staff Wages: August	£1214.34p	Paid by Standing Order
Eon: Energy Supply, Street Lighting	£74.78p	Paid by Direct Debit
Countrystyle: Hire of 110 Ltr. Envirobin	£34.27p	Paid by Direct Debit
Invicta IT Solutions: 12 Microsoft 365 Mailboxes	£54.72p	Paid by Standing Order

Paid In:

KCC - Grant Grass/Hedge maintenance 2020/21	£2830.85p	Paid by BACs
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9. Projects – Updates on Current and New

- Hornbeam Trees Woodpecker Park – No update, bring back to next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- Village Hall Site – Members accepted the plans forwarded by the developer. **Action: Clerk**

10. Reports from Representatives

- Hall – still closed. Tinkerbells Nursery still using it, but no other users because of the present Covid-19 restrictions.
- KALC – nothing to report

11. Any Other Matters Arising

Cllr. B. Whiting mentioned the school entrance signs can only be seen from one side. Clerk to check with Community Warden/KCC as to progress on this matter. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. De Fede suggested writing to the School to see if the Council can assist in any way to help it to remain open during the Covid-19 crisis. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Langham will contact Kent Police to see if he can get the Speedwatch Group up and working.

12. Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday 14 October 2020, commencing at 7.30 pm, due to Covid-19 restrictions venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 9.14 p.m.