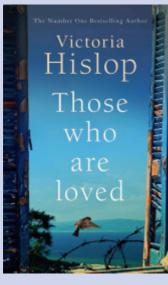
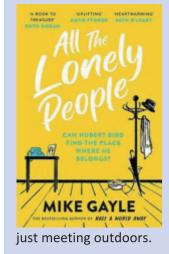
Iwade Reading and Book Club **By Jackie Kemp**

Despite lockdown restrictions Iwade Reading and Book club have continued to meet through Zoom. The book chosen this month, March, was 'Those

Who are Loved' by Victoria Hislop. She is renowned for writing books about Greece and is very good at researching for her novels. This is one of her most recent books, and it is set in Greece shortly before the start of Second World War and then on through to almost today.



Those who had read the book were shocked at the horrors that the Greeks had to live through in recent times and these were not known to so many of us. The German invasion of Greece in 1941 was brutal, as it was elsewhere in the western world. The people suffered from starvation, communism, civil war and military dictatorship. We seem to be told about Ancient Greece but the most recent history of Greece remains unknown to many. It was agreed that the book was well written but next month we are choosing a less horrific and sad book. (Ed's Note -As it happens I have just finished reading this book myself - highly recommended!)



Two titles have been chosen - 'All the Lonely People' by Mike Gayle, a Richard and Judy choice for April and 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens, the choice for May.

We are being optimistic and looking forward to returning to The Barn or

Tinkerbells Early Years – Mind the VHC* doesn't get into your veg!!

It has been a strange few months at the nursery due to COVID, we have been quiet due to lockdown however we are happy we have now welcomed back the majority of our children and the nursery is now buzzing again.

We have had to make various changes to our practices. Unfortunately, we have not been able to welcome new families for show-arounds throughout the day, but have now had virtual tours made of the settings enabling families to see our environment. We have missed lots of family days and celebrations but we are looking forward to being able to allow families back in the setting later on in the year. We have even pre-booked a date for our Christmas Fair hoping it can go ahead and be bigger and better than ever in celebration of normality :)

The children have been busy this term, they have planted the vegetables slightly earlier this year and we are hoping we will get a good pick of potatoes, carrots and beetroot this year.

Our story for the term has been The Very Hungry Caterpillar, the classic edition of a best- selling story written for the very young. A newly hatched caterpillar eats his way through a variety of foods getting bigger and bigger until eventually he turns into a beautiful butterfly. The story is one of our all-time favourites, the children went on to create our own very, very long caterpillar.

We celebrated World Book Day by dressing up and talking about our favourite books, characters and rhymes. It was a great day and everyone's costumes were amazing.

All our sessions at Iwade are full until September 2021, there is limited availability at our setting at the Clocktower. Our registers are filling fast for September and some sessionswe are at full capacity already. If you are interested in a place please email us for further information at enquiries@tinkerbellspreschool.co.uk

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody an Eggcellent Easter. We hope you all enjoy the holidays with your families and look forward to seeing you all in term 5.

*Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Disclaimer

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April 2021 The Iwade Observer

Hornbeam trees at The Cairn By Barrie Whiting

On Wednesday 17th February eight young hornbeam trees were planted either side of the path leading to the Village Cairn. Steve Allart and the lads of SK Gardening Services did the bulk of the work "assisted" by Parish Councillors Phil Hyde, Al Dollimore, Stuart Lancashire and myself.

Although the ground was muddy, digging holes in the clay soil large enough for the root balls was quite a task. Unloading and transporting the trees from the delivery lorry to the site was the next challenge; the trees were 4 metres tall with a rootball diameter of 50/60 cms. and they weighed a ton!

Although social distancing was difficult we tried our best to follow government guidelines in regard of current Covid restrictions.







With compost, support stakes and ties at the ready planting began and the trees were manhandled into position. After backfilling the holes and the exhausting job of hammering in the support stakes the job was complete and it was time to step back and admire a good mornings work. The Parish Council would like to thank Steve and the lads for all their hard work.

Let's hope that the trees are left alone to grow and flourish.



Iwade School

The Iwade Observer received this piece from Iwade School for publication after Christmas. Unfortunately, due to very high Covid infection rates locally, and the subsequent lockdown we suspended publication for a couple of months. So, although this story is a bit out of date we still wanted to show you a bit of normality and anyway who could resist a Year R Nativity?? Thank you Iwade School and your Year R children for sharing this with us.

> "After a difficult year, here at Iwade we wanted to do something really special for our new Year R classes. We decided we wanted to give them the 'real' nativity experience. We therefore liaised with Iwade Barn and they kindly donated the barn space to us to use as our backdrop to this magical story. This was the children's first school trip and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They loved being out and about exploring their village, while dressed up as their characters. Many villagers smiled and waved as they saw us which all added to the experience. But to us this still wasn't

'real' enough... we therefore got in contact with a lovely lady called Grace who brought her donkey, 'Rag' to visit us. All the children got to meet Rag, from a social distance, and Mary and Joseph were the lucky few who got to meet her up close.

The scenes were all shot by Early Years and Art Team staff members and culminated in three great videos that will be shared with the children's parents. We would like to say a massive thank you to Iwade Barn committee, Grace and Rag and our reception parents - without you, none of this would have been possible."

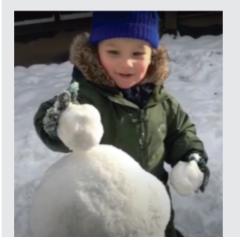
Happy Days - There's snow business like snow business! **By Caroline Wiles**

Having been open throughout the current lockdown, life at Happy Days Nursery may be a little hectic but we know how lucky we are to see so many of our children during the current difficulties. Of course, February added to life's complications with the arrival of heavy snowfall. Cuehuge excitement across Happy Days!

We embraced the children's fascination and natural curiosity with lots of outdoor activities, followed by scrummy soup and hot chocolate to warm up. Many families shared their photos of snowy adventures and their children's snowmen entries for our snowman building competition. These images were too cute to keep to ourselves, and with thanks to our families for their permission, we can share them with you via our website:https://www.happydays.co.uk Happy Days Nursery is becoming busier by the week; a sign life is returning to something a little more normal we hope. Spaces for September and beyond are filling up quickly so please contact us as soon as possible to enquire about availability and/or put your name down for an out of hours tour. Use the contact form on our website:

https://www.happydaysuk.co.uk/apply -for-a-place or call the office on 01795 424348 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fingers crossed the recent glimpses of Spring continue and warmer, healthier, and fun times are just around the corner. In the meantime, keep safe and stay well.



My name is Jules and I have lived in the village of Iwade with my wife Chris since 1998. We love the village and the friendliness of the people who live here. I have been approached by several people over the years to put pen to paper and write a short article for the Observer about my 'Vintage' interests. Due to my own tardiness, this has not happened until now, although I have contributed the odd missive to motorcycle publications over the years. Having read with great interest a recent article by Karen & Gary about their vintage repurposing business Whitechapels of Kent, gave me the prompt I needed. So, here goes.

We have all been affected by this awful pandemic and I'm sure many people have developed their hobbies and interests or indeed found new ones during the last year or so of lockdowns and restrictions. Having worked in the Engineering Department at Kemsley Paper Mill for forty years, my interest in vintage engineering has developed and ranges from mechanical music in the form of gramophones and phonographs, to steam engines and vintage vehicles of all types, in particular, motor cycles. Being lucky enough to have retired early, I have been able to indulge my passion in restoring, repairing and riding these wonderful machines, (all with The Wife's permission of course).







Iwade's very own Repair Shop!!

Having repaired and restored a couple of phonographs from the late 19th century to gramophones up to the 1930's, it is very fulfilling to breathe life back into long dead machines.Steam engines are another passion and I feel privileged to work as a volunteer at the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway.

Many of you have probably seen me riding around the village on my small collection of bikes ranging from 1913 up to 1999. Many of the older machines don't come with manuals so spare parts can be as rare as 'hen's teeth' at best, or totally unobtainable at worst, so I sometimes have to make the required parts using home-made patterns, often gleaned from contemporary photographs. I suppose it's a bit like doing a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle with no picture to guide you!

People sometimes ask "what is the most interesting job you have done". I suppose the strangest one was a chap who phoned to ask if I worked on cars from the 1970's and 80's. I explained that that era of car was a little too modern for me, but he said he'd got one of the KITT's. He explained that he had bought it from an American auction, one of the three Pontiac Trans Am cars that were used in the TV series Knightrider, and he needed the dashboard sorted as the many gadget lights did not work. Obviously, I then agreed to take a look! There was something surreal about this experience as that old series was one of my favourite TV shows. Sitting in the same seat that Michael Hasselhof had sat in with that haunting theme tune going through my head, I was in my element. Anyway, at the risk of waxing too much lyrically, here are some pictures of a few of my bikes. If anyone ever fancies a chat, please flag me down. At a safe distance please though, social distancing and vintage brakes can be a problem!!

Iwade W.I.

It is with regret and sadness that after eighty-eight years of being part of village life Iwade W.I. will be closing at the end of March.

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the existing committee are unable to continue, with the exception of our treasurer who would be happy to stay and help a new group of women to form a committee. There are existing funds available to help with this, so any ladies in the village who feel they want to take up the challenge and keep the club going please get in touch with our membership secretary, Christine tel. 01795 410321.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee and members, past and present, for their support and loyalty over the years and I sincerely hope that we will stay in touch and meet again very soon.

Sandra Wilkinson President

Easter at All Saints' **By Carole Wiles**

Due to the pandemic All Saints' Church has not been able to hold any services for what feels like forever. The building has been opened on a Wednesday and Saturday for food bank donations and as a place of hope and reflection, a place where one can just sit and be.

As Spring has sprung, we're looking forward to Easter. Plans are being put into place to hold a service at All Saints' on Easter Sunday, possibly in the grounds of the church, weather permitting. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page or website, details below.

The pandemic has changed all of our lives in different ways and as the people of the church in Iwade we want to offer support, friendship and a listening ear to the community in whatever form that you want. So below is a list of contacts from the church or benefice (TheSix), for you to contact as needed.

- Carole Wiles, Church Warden: chutson@sky.com
- Reverend Julian Staniforth, Rector: julian.staniforth@gmail.com
- http://www.thesix.org.uk
- https://youtube.com/channel/UCKD6ga6GRfO6js8jEAiAVfQ
- Facebook search-All Saints Church Iwade

Enquiries for Marriage, Baptisms or funerals please mail: officeofthesix@gmail.com

"Being people who bless"

I wonder what you have given up for this season of Lent? Areyou grappling like me as someone with a sweet tooth, with the temptation of anything sweet, like chocolate! And if we do succeed, who knows we may shed a few pounds round the waist and find extra ones in our pockets as a result!

Most of us see Lent as being about giving something up, like Jesus spending40 days fasting in the desert. We are encouraged to consider some kind of sacrifice. Yet Lent is about much more. For Christians it is a time of reflection on who we are before the Lord.

When Jesus was led into the desert he went with the powerful words "you are my Beloved Son" ringing in his ears; words spoken over him as he stood in the waters of baptism. They affirmed who he was. Before he had done anything, he heard that he was deeply loved by his Father. They provided the foundation for his life especially from that moment on, in living out the overwhelming, reckless, never-ending love of God*, in seeinglives transformed as he encountered people and in having the strength to resist other destructive forces and voices.

I wonder how many of us have heard such words spoken over us?

What are the words that resonate in our ears?

This year I am challenged to think about who I am, who I want to be. This is because of the witness of someone close, namely my father-in-law Dennis, a retired priest (if there is such a thing!), who died recently. His last words spoken over us as a family, which continue to resonate, were those of this blessing: "the Lord bless us and keep us, make his face to shine on us and be gracious to us, look kindly on us and give us peace".

Life hadn't always been easy for him.Yet wherever he went he sought to bless people. For the words Jesus heard, were also true for him: "you are my beloved child". His life was rooted in his identity as someone blessed by the gracious love of God, who could not help but offer the same to others.

So, who do we want to be, what difference do we want to make in life? Will it be as someone who blesses, because of these words "you are my beloved child" ringing in our ears? Whoever we are, Jesus invites us to stand where he does, to hear and know these same words for ourselves, so we also can be "the people who bless".

Every Blessing!

- Julian
- Rev Julian Staniforth

*Listen to 'Reckless Love' by Cory Asbury (easily found on YouTube or Spotify)

News from The Woolpack

We look forward to welcoming back old and new customers alike and plan to reopen on the 12th of April for outside only. We have now increased our outside seating to accommodate up to 200 people including undercover seating within the marguee and arbour.

Our opening hours, as follows, will be subject to the weather and possible change without notice

BAR

Monday - Thursday: 12noon - 9pm Friday & Saturday: 12noon - 10pm Sunday: 12noon - 8pm

> For more information closer to the time please keep an eye on our Facebook page. Stay safe everyone and we look forward to seeing you soon.

> > Thank you The Woolpack

KCC report Kent County Councillor for Iwade, Mike Whiting.

I want to start by thanking everyone in the NHS and care ser for the tremendous work they have done during lockd Thankfully, the vaccine programme is being ramped up dail there is real hope that we can come out of lockdown and sta return to a more normal life.

KCC has agreed to fund a 2% pay rise for all of its staff and I the national pay review body recommends the same for workers.

I have been working with the council to get our country cleared of fly-tipping and litter. Swale Council has agreed to su residents with litter pickers and bag, for those who want to do bit in keeping the area litter free.

If you want to help then please email vikkisedgwick@swale.g who will arrange to deliver to your home.

I continue to discuss the unauthorised activities at Raspberry Farm with the relevant authorities. I know they are working ha address the concerns of residents, but I remind them regularly residents are not seeing any change, which is frustrating everyone. Thank you to everyone who has sent me reports photographs. I have forwarded these to the authorities.

Finally, with the elections in May, can I say what a privilege been to serve Iwade and represent you at Kent County Cound the past four years, and I very much hope to continue to be representative, standing up for the community, after May.

CLLR MIKE WHITING

FOOD Monday - Thursday: 12noon - 7.30 pm Friday & Saturday: 12noon - 8pm Sunday: 12noon - 6pm

Queenborough **Fishery Trust**

rvices down. ilyand art to	Queenborough Fishery Trust (QFT) is a charitable organisation which can provide financial grants to eligible organisations and individuals in the local area, including in lwade. We're particularly keen to reach out to organisations who may not be aware of
hope NHS	the trust or would benefit from support with specific projects/activities.
lanes supply o their	The QFT Grant Application Form is available on our website: <u>www.queenboroughfisherytrust.org/how-to-</u> apply/
<u>gov.uk</u> ry Hill	Applicants must be active within the area of benefit and meet the objects of the trust – this information is available on the website and on the grant form.
ard to y that ng for is and	In the coming 12 months the QFT board will hold grant meetings on: 8 June 2021, 21 September 2021, 7 December 2021 and 15 March 2022.
it has cil for your	Applications must be received one month before the date of the grant meeting. If you have any queries regarding the grant application process, please email: info@queenboroughfisherytrust.org
	Ted Wilcox - Chairman Laurence Young - Secretary

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING **COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING** Weds 17 February 2021

Planning

20/502879/FULL: Erection of single dwelling house (Revision of house type following 17/503442/LDCEX): Plot 1 Land South Of 10 Ferry Road Iwade Kent ME9 8RR - The Parish Council's previous objections, lodged on the Planning Portal on 13 August 2020, still stand; and they are as follows:

It is inappropriate development in an area at risk of flooding. The site is located within Flood Zone 3 and is adjacent to the Iwade Stream, a main river. The submitted Flood Risk Assessment shows the site to be located within Flood Zone 3 and we note the Environment Agency has concerns over the proximity of the proposed development to the Iwade Stream. The E.A. goes on to state that any works within 8 metres of the top of bank of the main river would require a Flood Risk Activity Permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations and that they would be unlikely to grant such a permit where development is located within the 8-metre byelaw margin, as this would restrict maintenance access to the watercourse.

Recent heavy rainfall events and flooding incidents within Iwade have shown the importance of maintenance access in order to keep the stream clear of debris and blockages. The stream has often flooded areas of Iwade, including The Waterway – as both Swale Borough Council and KCC are aware. The E.A. has quite clearly stated in its letter regarding this application "that in light of the above, we feel that this proposed development has the potential to increase flood risk from the Iwade Stream to the existing properties within Iwade." This is something that residents who have suffered flooding and damage to their properties in the past will be very by the resident of No 10, who states "we much opposed to

We note that Natural England's advice is that this proposed development, and the application of these measures to avoid or reduce the likely harmful effects from it, may need to be formally checked and confirmed by Swale B.C., as the competent authority, via an appropriate

assessment in view of the European Site's conservation objectives and in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017. This is because Natural England notes that the recent People Over Wind Ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union concluded that, when interpreting article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, it is not appropriate when determining whether or not a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a site and requires an appropriate assessment, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site. They go on to state "that ruling also concluded that such measures can however be considered during an appropriate assessment to determine whether a plan standard back garden without or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site. Your Authority should have regard to this and may wish to seek its own legal advice to fully understand the implications of this ruling in this context."

Objections by adjacent properties are very valid and the Parish Council would draw your attention to their letters and in particular the following concerns: No 10 - Concerns over privacy and safeguarding their young children; it appears that the building in the proposed position as indicated would very likely impede upon their privacy due to the angled positioning implied on the plan. The build appears to overlook their bathroom and/or the bedrooms of their children. In addition to direct loss of privacy, it appears that any sunlight would be completely, or at the very least significantly, blocked up unto the height of the second floor.

he resident of No 8 states that "when my husband and I purchased 8 Ferry Road in 2018 we were made aware of moderate ground instability due to the local conditions which could cause subsidence. It is likely that the site will also be affected by this ground instability, especially as it is nearer to the stream." This is comment is backed up have been duly warned that our family home would be at a significant risk of being negatively impacted by the build of a new property in such close proximity to the two properties could be larger than the waterway and that any disturbance could put our home at greater risk of repeated, perpetual flooding and/or subsidence in direct relation to the

instability and disruption caused by any new build. It seems counterproductive to permit the build of one further home at the risk of losing all 3 (and potentially more) through the disruption of the very fine balance the marshland is currently upholding in its current state." Protection of PROW ZR92 and the safety of its users – this footpath has a high footfall as it is constantly used by children/parents going to and from Iwade School and the Nursery and from residents using the Village Centre, to add further vehicles using this access is of a health and safety concern. Concern over adequate parking for this 3-bed property – no garage is shown on the plans, car parking cannot take place to the front of the site nor the subencroaching on the fenced boundaries of 10 Ferry Road and 5 School Lane. The small area to the back of 8 and 10 Ferry Road is being landscaped with two distinct parking spaces (for The Waterway residents) and shrubbery and plants. This will negatively impact the amount of room to access the property and manoeuvre cars to ensure pedestrian safety. The question remains where will cars belonging to the new property park without inconveniencing users of the public right of way; School Lane has double yellow lines and zig-zag lines for the School; to the front of the site there are guard rails and a bus stop. We understand that the site is located within a Nature Improvement Area (Greater Thames Marshes) and therefore the ecological habitats need due consideration. The stream is home to Water Voles (highly protected), frogs and Great Crested Newts (again highly protected). This development (particularly during construction) will disturb the important ecological balance of the area.

In terms of public visual amenity, the proposed dwelling house is not in keeping with 8 and 10 Ferry Road these properties are mirror images of each other which is aesthetically pleasing. When permission for 8 and 10 Ferry Road was granted in 1999, the Parish Council strongly objected to any dwellings. However, it was agreed that originally envisaged in the pre-1990 planning application for four properties on the basis that the other plots would not be developed.

Additional Comments following receipt of the revised details:

• The Environment Agency's letter of the 4 February 2021, date-wise received after the amendments, states: "The proposed development, as currently positioned, has the potential to increase flood risk from the Iwade Stream to existing properties within Iwade".

his proposal is of very real concern to the Parish Council and will be to the residents of Iwade who have suffered flooding in the past. Swale Borough Council's Officers and some Members are very aware of the flooding issues within the Village. In light of the Environment Agency's expert advice, if permitted both the Planning Officers and Planning Committee will be answerable to those residents.

• Concern over access to the site.

• Concern over access to the site for contractors' machinery and concern that said machinery will damage the stream banks.

 The Parish Council lodged a complaint with the Environment Agency on the 17 August 2020, copying in the Planning Officer, as contractors completely cleared the site of vegetation, including the stream banks and bed. This was despite the Environment Agency having advised that they need a permit to work near the stream. A highly protected species, the Water Vole can be found in this area.

21/500462/FULL: Demolition of 2no. chimneys, erection of single storey front, side and rear extensions together with alterations to roof including the creation of first floor, with insertion of side dormers and rear Juliet balcony. Erection of rear garden office, block paving to front and creation of 2no. additional parking spaces: 5 School Lane Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8RS - The Parish Council has no objections to this application. However, it does have concerns over the use of the office and toilet annexe (shed). Is this being used for more than one person, in which case should a Change of Use be considered, or it this just for the sole use of the occupants of the main property?

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MONTHLY PARISH **COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING** -Weds 10 February 2021

County and Borough Councillors

Cllr. Whiting reported as follows: There are rail works to repair the embankment at Newington. The line is closed until 8 February and a replacement bus services is operating. Network rail is organising Zoom meetings for members of the public to call in and get the latest updates, details, when received will be found on facebook.com/cllrmikewhiting. There is an unacceptable amount of litter on the A249 and at Junction 5, Stockbury. This has been raised this with Highways England, who plan a clean-up when they can get the necessary lane closures in place to make it safe for their operatives to work on the verges. KCC has also announced a further £5 million road resurfacing fund. The A2 from Medway to Newington has recently been resurfaced, and the stretch throughout to Keycol Hill is already programmed. The new fund will ensure the A2 along Key Street and London Road will also benefit. The Covid-19 vaccination programme in our area is now well underway. However, NHS do advise that the programme is "patchy" across Kent and Medway, including here in Sittingbourne. However, they are confident they will meet the national target of ensuring everyone in the top four groups will have their jab by the middle of February and are organising home visits for those who can't get out to get their jab. NHS managers are asking GPs to have reserve lists of people who can come in at short notice to ensure no doses of the vaccine go to waste. While this may mean some in lower priority groups get their vaccine ahead of those in higher risk groups, it is better than throwing doses away. Their priority is to ensure every available dose available is used. Full details at https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk /your-health/coronavirus/ covid19vaccine. Cllr. Whiting mentioned grit bins: Clerk advised that when she had requested more for the Village in previous years, but this had been refused. He suggested she write to him with this request. Action: Clerk

Community Warden/PCSO -

Community Warden – The Community Warden advised that there is a new management system, and that most of his time has not been spent in Iwade. However, in the near future he will be in Iwade more and the projects that he set out last year, but because of the Pandemic had to be put on hold, will be pursued. He reported that anti-social behaviour issues are not as bad as they have been in the past, although there are still some. Swale Borough Council is looking at CCTV for the Village Centre; he will chase.

Projects - Updates on Current and New

Hornbeam Trees are being delivered to the Woodpecker Park site Wednesday 17 February.

Village Hall

On the 25 January, representatives from the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee met with the Applicant and his Planning Consultant for an update on the proposed new Hall. It was confirmed that the hall will come under a S.106 Agreement between the Developer and Swale Borough Council, thus ensuring that it will be delivered and whoever develops the site cannot stop it happening. The new hall will be transferred to Iwade Parish Council at nil cost, will be constructed to practical completion (at no cost to the Parish Council) and Iwade Parish Council will thereafter take on the on-going management and maintenance of the area, the building being run and maintained by the Village Hall Committee. Members were in agreement with these proposals.

Any Other Matters Arising

Cllr. Hyde has been advised of a possible flooding issue affecting a property in the small new development in Peach Blossom Drive (adjacent to the new bridge over the stream). There is a ditch on land opposite Coleshall Farm, water from this is flowing up to the new fence either side of the Public Right of Way, underneath, across the footpath and into the rear garden of one of these properties. The owner of the property it affects is trying to contact the developer but has been unsuccessful so far.

Ed's Note – for space reasons these minutes are abbreviated - you can find full minutes of all meetings at : www.iwade-pc.gov.uk