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## FEBRUARY 2024

# THE IWADE OBSERVER

### IWADE MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

On Tuesday 5th December the Iwade Men's group held their Christmas party. It was a merry occasion swapping the usual bacon rolls for a festive Christmas buffet. Gifts were given to the lovely ladies who look after us each month and there was plenty of lively chatter all helped along with a glass or two of wine. With no meeting in January, our next meeting is on February 6th when Hilary (our very own crafter) will be joining us for an hour or so to help us make some secret goodies! So, if you are of a certain age and would like to join our merry band of gents do come along for a chat and fresh bacon and sausage rolls with a coffee 9.30 till 11.30. We meet at Iwade Barn every month on the first Tuesday.



Sorry, the pics don't look very merry, but I can assure it was!!



### HEDGEHOGS R US HIGHWAY PROJECT



With Hedgehog numbers in decline and Hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in Hedgehog conservation. A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates. Hedgehog shaped fence surrounds raise awareness to the plight of Hedgehogs, create a talking point and encourage others to take part in the project. Fence surrounds are made from recycled plastic and can themselves be recycled.

Each box of 50 is £150 and includes:

- \* 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds & 50 information leaflets
- \* A display box & window sticker showing you are part of the project.

Ideas of how to benefit your community include:

\*Donate the Highways and leaflets to your local school to educate in wildlife conservation

\*Swap the Highways for a donation of Hedgehog food which can then be given to your local Hedgehog Rescue Centre

My dream is to make the whole of the UK one giant Hedgehog Highway and for that dream to come true, it needs EVERYONE to take part.

Money is donated to Hedgehog Conservation for every box sold too! If you would like to order or have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch and thank you for caring.

[HedgehogsRus@mail.com](mailto:HedgehogsRus@mail.com)

### IWADE READING AND BOOK GROUP - JANUARY 2024 MEETING

This month we took a different approach to our usual discussion on books. We always discuss the books we have read, among other things. Usually, we decide between us on a book for the coming month. At our December meeting when we planned for January it was difficult to come up with ideas.

So, one of our members Jackie went out on a limb and offered members to come to her house and choose books from her bookcases and shelves. Jackie has a considerable range of books, fiction and non-fiction, and book titles spread over a considerable number of years.

It was very different, changing how we usually meet, but the result was that we have identified and chosen a range of books with a mix of new and old titles and authors. The books were taken home and will be returned to Jackie at our next

monthly meeting. There was a great atmosphere and a buzz of conversation as members moved around the house. By the end of the morning people within our group were going home to read and review their choices, and of course we had tea/coffee and cakes as usual.

At our next meeting on February 13th, we will be returning to The Barn, it will be interesting to hear about the range of books read. It will be good to return to our usual plan of choosing one title for all to read and bring discussion and feedback to our meeting. Meanwhile we are looking back to the feedback of the recent event. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Iwade Barn from 10:30 why not come along and give it a try!!

### ASSEMBLY on SUNDAY dates for 2024

Cakes and biscuits, songs and stories, make new friends! Children, parents, grandparents, family and friends.

All welcome!



14th January ... 4th February (1st Sunday)  
10th March ... 21st April (3rd Sunday)  
12th May ... 9th June  
14th July ... no AoS in August

All in Iwade School Hall at 3.00pm

ASSEMBLY ON SUNDAY is a joint project of All Saints Church and the Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust. Further details from: John Guest 07710 353461



## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH TOWER APPEAL

All Saints' Iwade recently had an architect's inspection which showed a number of issues in the building. One most pressing issue is the urgent repair of the church tower roof. The church building is Grade One listed and is probably the oldest building in the village. This inevitably means repairs are more expensive and difficult as we need to employ specialist contractors to do the work. The trees next to the tower were trimmed in November 2023 to prevent further damage to the tower and in preparation for the builders. The church council would like to invite anyone in the village, who wishes to contribute, to send donations towards the cost of the repairs. We currently have an estimate that the work will cost about £20,000 and we have started to apply to a number of philanthropic trusts to help us find that amount. In addition, we hope to have a number of fun activities in the building during 2024 which we hope will contribute towards the total. However, the church council believes that individuals in the village might like to donate so we are offering you the opportunity. If you would like to help secure the future of this beautiful ancient church you can do so by contacting Rev Julian Staniforth at [julian.staniforth@gmail.com](mailto:julian.staniforth@gmail.com) for details of how to donate

### BIKERS BEWARE!!

**Helen Brown**

Be aware, it could happen to you! A motorbike chained to our house, opposite The Woolpack pub, was stolen

on Sunday 3 December 2023 at 02:15 am. The thieves cut chains locks and brake levers and pushed it down the road. This is second time in 5 years. I feel anyone with a motorbike needs to be made aware. Thank you.

## THE LEAK!!!

The following email has been received at Gordon Henderson's office from John Mealey, Stakeholder Engagement Manager for Southern Water, Kent. *"Following extensive leakage detection for a number of months, our expert leakage survey specialists have now completed a report into their investigation. The report confirms there is no indication of a fresh water leak in the area.*

*Please be assured we will continue to monitor the area, as part of our proactive leakage activities, and will act upon any positive leak indicators.*

*Thank you for your continuous patience since I have been involved with this issue."*

The issue has now been reported to the Kent County Council in order for them to check if there is an issue underground in or close to their drainage system.

Watch this space!!

## IWADE BROWNIES

### Planning for World Thinking Day

**Kerry Holman**

We have welcomed five new Brownies into the unit this year, and said farewell to some of our oldest! Having ended our last term with a trip to Little Potters and a wonderfully cosy Christmas Camp, we are busy making exciting plans for this term. As part of World Thinking Day on February 22nd, we are exchanging cards with 24 other units in the country, so we will each have one to take home from a Brownie somewhere in the country – last year we really enjoyed figuring out where they all had come from. We are also looking forward to lighter evenings and will be doing some work towards our Be Well theme award too, including a trip to learn some Taekwondo!

## IWADE INSPIRATION: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The phrase "Make a Difference" has been somewhat overused since I stuck the words on a banner suspended from scaffolding in the middle of my town at the start of 2000. Nevertheless, it is a valuable aspiration; something we strive for so that the world we live in can be just the tiniest bit better by the time we leave it. Nowadays, there are all kinds of ways of expressing it from change management in the business world to influencers in the arena of social media. In my background which is metaphysics or "Faith" if you like, the vision is to bring about lifestyle and relationship alteration, so that people see things differently and aim for community cohesion and acts of random kindness.

A few weeks ago, Kim and I found ourselves at Iwade Health Centre, having finally secured a meeting with the Area Practice Manager after no less than seven months of unreturned messages! I won't go into all the shortcomings of our local clinic: I've met enough local patients who have all but given up on the practice without rehearsing all my complaints. However, I must say that not only did they give us an unreserved apology but (LOL) asked us to join the Patient Participation Group. My initial inclination was a short sharp response but then I thought about the possibilities for change, the chance to make a difference. So ... deep breath ... despite massive reservations and probably being too busy, I said YES. At the first meeting they asked me to be the chair. So, there it is. Would you be willing to draw a line under what's gone before and try to make a difference in the future? I know our local clinic have not done well in the past and also that our last PPG walked out in despair but could we just turn things around? The folk at the practice say they are changing for the better and I'm trying to put together a team to work on your behalf. They say "a community coming apart needs a people coming together" and I know the folk of our village really want to work in partnership. How about it?

If you have any complaints, suggestions or encouragements, please post them in the counter metal box at Iwade Pharmacy. The new Patient Participation Group will try to make a difference!

God bless you.

**John Guest**

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## DECEMBER 2023 IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES CONTINUED...

Clerk will contact Southern Water.

Action: Clerk

**5. Highway Improvement Plan** – A meeting is booked with KCC highways for 19 December. The Clerk, Cllr. Tolhurst and Cllr. Langham will attend.

Action: Clerk/Cllrs. Tolhurst and Langham

**6. Update: contacting local businesses regarding litter in the Village Centre** – No update received – Keep on the Agenda.

Action: Clerk

### Planning

For planning details please refer to <https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2022/> for full minutes for this meeting

### Correspondence

**1. KALC Community Awards Scheme 2024** – Members discussed the scheme and were advised the deadline to submit nominations is 2 February. Members will consider nominations. Keep on the Agenda.

Action: Clerk

**2. Parish Councillor Resignation** - Members noted Scott Waters has resigned from his position of Parish Councillor. All members would like to thank Scott for his work and contributions to the Parish Council. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy.

Action: Clerk

**3. Elect Vice Chair** – Due to the resignation of Scott Waters the Vice Chair position is vacant. Steve Tolhurst was elected and will sign his Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.

### 4. Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024-2034:

Consultation information – Council members noted the consultation. Members discussed that they have tried to form a flood action group but unfortunately no residents came forward.

**5. Parish Litter Picking Scheme** – Swale Borough Council confirmed they will supply waste sacks and collect the waste. Members discussed ordering items required for the scheme, advertising, and the logistics of the scheme.

Action: Clerk/Stalley-Moores/Fuszard

**6. Civil Jackson – A249 Grovehurst Road Construction** – The Parish Council have been advised that in the New Year Civil Jackson will be hosting monthly drop in sessions for stakeholders/residents to attend and ask questions, have an overview of programme drawing/schedules, and discuss the scheme. Civil Jackson also contacted the Parish Council to find out if they can support activities that will impact

residents affected by the works or anything they can support the Parish Council with in providing for the residents. The Clerk will collate a list from members suggestions.

Action: Clerk

### Finance

#### 1. Quote to repair picnic bench in Woodpecker Park

– Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed the cost of £325.00p to repair the picnic bench. The repair has already been carried out due to health and safety concerns.

**2. Quote to carry out ROSPA inspection repairs** – Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, members agreed the cost of £1,745.00p to carry out repairs in the Village Hall garden. The cost will be split between the Parish Council and The Village Hall trustees.

Action: RFO

#### 3. Dynamic Councillor Learning Event – Cllr. Guest

– Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed the cost of £60.00p incl. VAT for the learning event.

Action: RFO

#### 4. To purchase fifth CCTV camera

– Proposed by Cllr. Stalley-Moores and seconded by Cllr. Whiting, members agreed to purchase a fifth CCTV camera for the village. The cost is £2,572.00p, of which £1,673.71 will be funded by grants from County Councillor Mike Baldock and Borough Councillor Roger Clark. £898.29p will be funded by the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/ RFO

#### 5. Communicating with your Community Learning Event x 2 – Cllr. Tolhurst

– Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Fuszard, members agreed the cost of £88.00p incl. VAT for the learning events.

#### 6. Faulty streetlight in Sheerstone

- quote to lower lamp column and repair fault – Quotation not agreed. Cllr. Dollimore asked the RFO to ask for more information regarding the logistics of the repair and equipment required. Keep on the agenda.

Action: RFO/Clerk

#### 7. Quotation for 2 x St George flag

– Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed to purchase the flags at a cost of £152.64 incl. VAT.

Action: RFO

**8. Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** - Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and

seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 30 November. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Langham and Lancashire to log in and authorize payments.

Action: Cllrs. Langham and Lancashire

### Projects – Updates on Current and New

**1. Christmas Event 2023 – 3 December:** Parish Council members are very upset that the Switch Event could not go ahead this year. They had to make the difficult decision to cancel the event and allow enough time to notify residents. It is the first time the event has been cancelled and this decision was not made lightly but due to the weather forecast it was not safe to run electricity for the PA system and the lights for the dance performance. It was also unsafe for council members to switch on the Christmas lights, which involves the cover of the lamp columns being removed and members manually switching on lights in each lamp column. Safety is of paramount importance.

**2. D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon Lighting – 6 June 2024** – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Fuszard, members agreed to the cost of £100.00p to book a Buglar for the event. The Clerk will confirm the time the Beacon Lighting should take place. Members also asked the Clerk to invite the Mayor to the event.

Action: Cllr. Whiting/ RFO/Clerk

**3. Parish Council 'Tracker' update** – Cllr. Tolhurst previously circulated the document to members and explained that updates have been covered by the agenda items. Council members agreed to remove the parking in Sheerstone item from the tracker.

#### 4. Village Repairs:

a) Lamp column painting – No update received. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

b) To agree cost for planting up the Planters – Members agreed to advertise for volunteers in the New Year to plant and maintain planters, and also ask for existing volunteers to come forward.

Action: Cllr. Fuszard/ Clerk

c) Any other updates – Cllr. Tolhurst advised members Swale Borough Council have confirmed that lamp columns which have a CCTV camera installed will also have a CCTV sign installed.

#### Reports from Representatives

Please refer to <https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2022/> for full minutes

## NOVEMBER 2023 IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES CONTINUED...

volunteers helped out with the clean up.

- Council members discussed that two bins are missing, one outside of the Church and one by the bus stop in The Street. This has been reported to Swale Borough Council.
- Council members asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to SupaSweep for loaning a road sweeper for the event free of charge.

Action: Clerk

### 2. Christmas Event 2023 – 3 December:

- KCC have advised a signed diversion route needs to be in place for future events. This year can go ahead with the usual local notices.
- The Clerk to advertise the upcoming event.

Action: Clerk

- Road closure signs need to be arranged. Cllr. Dollimore volunteered to collect them from Swale House.

Action: Cllr. Dollimore

- Proposed by Cllr. Fuszard and seconded by Cllr. Dollimore, members agreed a budget of £150.00p to purchase food for the event.

### 3. D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon

**Lighting – 6 June 2024** – Cllr. Fuszard will contact mobile Fish and Chip vans owners.

Action: Cllr. Fuszard

### 4. Parish Council 'Tracker' update – Cllr.

Tolhurst discussed the following:

- Flood action group – there has been no

interest from residents. Members agreed to keep this item open on the tracker.

- Pond management – the outlets have been cleared. The reedmace needs to be cleared next and a new duck house is needed. Clerk to add this to the January agenda.

### 5. Village Repairs:

a) Lamp column painting – No update from KCC. Inspections on lamp posts are due this month. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

Action: Clerk

b) To agree cost for planting up the Planters –

- The RFO has contacted a nursery for advice on plants and costs.
- Two planters are rotting, a quotation to replace them has been supplied and members agreed to consider this in the budget for next year.

Action: RFO

• Cllr. Fuszard has been working on a map of the planters to be added to the Parish Council website with an application form to volunteer to maintain a planter. Members agreed a paper copy of the application form should be made available and terms and conditions need to be written up.

c) Any other updates – none.

### Reports from Representatives

1. **Hall** – Cllr. Dollimore reported regular

bookings for hire have been received, and he has met with a contractor to discuss the action points from the ROSPA report.

2. **KALC** – Committee member not present.

3. **Swale Western Area Committee** – The next meeting will be held on 30 November

4. **Swale West Parishes** – The next meeting will be held 21 November at Iwade Village Hall.

### Any Other Matters Arising

Cllr. Lancashire thanked Cllr. Dollimore for lowering the flag to half mast in respect of his neighbours funeral.

Cllr. Hyde asked the Clerk to contact our grounds maintenance contractor to report damage to the fence posts around Woodpecker Park caused by strimming. He suggests metal collars should be installed to prevent damage.

Action: Clerk

Council members asked the Clerk to follow up the report of the grey fence installed in Monins Road.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Fuszard gave a brief report of the Empowering Young Voices training course he attended.

The Clerk reminded council members that training on the Planning and Transportation policy will be held 14 November, 7pm at Iwade Village Hall. Cllr. Guest will confirm attendance.

Action: Cllr. Guest

## PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends

This time of year can seem pretty dismal, with dark evenings and murky mornings, and spring still some way off. But the days are lengthening, and there are signs around us in February of the new life to come in the world around us. Snowdrops were always one of my dad's favourites – tiny, nodding flowers that really reward a closer look than the cursory glance we might give them! And in February we mark the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, 14 February this year. Lent lasts for 40 days – not including Sundays – to remind Christians of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness being tested by Satan at the beginning of his ministry.

On Ash Wednesday, there is the opportunity to be marked with the sign of the cross, in ash made from last year's palm crosses, on the forehead. This is a sign of penitence, of facing up to and seeking forgiveness for those things which are wrong in our lives, as we look to set these things aside and live more as God calls us to. There are those who see this as something negative, as contrary to seeking to live our lives in a positive way. However, I believe that facing up to our failings – and let's face it, we all have those! – with honesty and self-awareness, is the first step to moving on, rather than being tempted to wallow in guilt and self-defeat.

Freedom to become ever more the people God created us to be is a glorious freedom. I wouldn't claim that any of us get there in our lifetimes, but surely seeking to be more loving and Christ-like in our daily lives is a recipe for a better way of living. And by Christ-like I don't mean the awful Victorian image of 'gentle Jesus meek and mild'! This is the Jesus who was courageous, always ready to confront hypocrisy and injustice, who spoke up for those

who couldn't speak for themselves, whose love for his Father and obedience to his will was complete. His closest friends – both male and female – were mostly ordinary working people, alongside those on the fringes of society who were rejected by the religious establishment. He clearly believed that all people were loved and valued by God and he lived that belief.

Ultimately of course he paid the price, and was betrayed, tortured and put to death in the most humiliating and painful way. But that series of brutal acts couldn't defeat God's love, and on the third day after his death Jesus was alive. He continued to appear to his disciples for several weeks, until his ascension to heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit, which turned his ragtag bunch of followers into a body of women and men who went on to spread his message and share his love.

So that's why we need to psychologically 'clear the decks' at the start of Lent, so we can spend time focussing on how we should be living out that call, and expressing that transformative love, in a world facing conflict, the climate crisis, environmental breakdown and injustice, alongside the personal burdens we all carry, which are part of human experience. And we can do it with real, deep joy in our hearts, knowing that nothing can defeat God's love, that we are never alone, and that whatever our struggles, Jesus is there beside us.

This Lent I intend to be enjoying the small beauties – like the snowdrops – looking for the light in the darkness and celebrating God's love.

Have a good Lent!

Every blessing

**Rev Amanda**

### UPDATE FROM CITIZENS ADVICE SWALE - JANUARY 2024

People get into debt for all sorts of reasons. The start of a new year can be a time when people are particularly worried about their finances and feel unable to cope. It's important to know you're not alone and help is available.

Each year, our specialist debt team deals with over 5,000 debt issues and helps manage total indebtedness of over £3.8 million. The advice we provide is non-judgmental and is focused on exploring ways to manage your finances.

When you contact us for advice, we'll assess your circumstances and advise you of the most appropriate course of action based on your situation, capacity and needs.

Some of the things we can help and advise you on:

- Identify ways in which you may

be able to increase your income and reduce your expenditure. We can carry out a benefit check so you know if there are any benefits you're entitled to.

- Help you understand the difference between priority and non-priority debts and the implications of not maintaining payments. You'll then know what your most important debts are and may dispel some myths and ease any anxiety you may have around what creditors can do.

- Explore options to deal with your debts. You may be surprised at the options that could be available to you.

- Provide guidance and support to help you put a debt solution in place.

#### How can we help you?

#### Debt:

- Request a call back at <https://citizensadvice.wale.uk/debt/>

#### General Advice:

- Drop in at Swale House, Sittingbourne (Mondays, 10am-12pm), Sheppey Gateway (Tuesdays, 10am-12pm) or 43 Stone Street, Faversham (Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-12pm).

- Call Adviceline on Freephone 0808 278 7979.

- Send an online request at <https://citizensadvice.wale.uk/email-general-advice/> (Monday-Wednesday).

We offer free, confidential and impartial advice to people living or working in and around Faversham, Sheppey and Sittingbourne. In addition to general advice we offer specialist advice services including debt and benefits. We're an independent charity and we rely on donations and grants to make a difference to people in our community.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEND A HAND WITH IWADE RAINBOWS?

*Julie Stoneman*

I run the Iwade Rainbows for girls aged 4 - 7yrs and am in need of a reliable person to become a Unit Helper on Mondays between 16.15 - 17.40.

No experience needed just an interest in volunteering and assisting with the weekly term-time meetings which include activities and crafting.

If you'd like to give it a try and have some fun too, please do get in touch with me, Julie Stoneman at: [rainbows1stiwade@outlook.com](mailto:rainbows1stiwade@outlook.com)

## IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2023

### Present

Cllr. A. Dollimore - Chair  
Cllr. S. Tolhurst  
Cllr. B. Whiting  
Cllr. S. Lancashire  
Cllr. S. Fuszard  
Cllr. R. Langham  
Cllr. R. Stalley-Moores  
Samantha Gray, Clerk  
Lynda Ives, RFO

### Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received from Parish Cllrs. Hyde, Waters and Guest.

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Fuszard, the minutes of the Parish

Council Meeting held on 8 November 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

### Visitors/Public Time

1. **Visitors** - none attended
2. **County and Borough Councillors** - none attended
3. **Community Warden / PCSO** - None attended

### Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. **ASB & Crime relating to the PROW between Springvale and Sheerstone** – No update received. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

2. **Memorial Plaques – email 29.11** – The Clerk has written a policy and contacted Swale Borough Council for permission to install memorial plaques in the Nature

Trail in Woodpecker Park. Currently awaiting response. Keep on the Agenda.

Action: Clerk

### 3. Signposts re Fly Tipping for Sheppey Way – email 22.11

– Landowner G.H.Deane have requested a license to be granted for a period of up to 3 years and an ability for the Landowner to terminate the arrangement on notice at anytime thereafter. Council members agreed.

Action: Clerk

4. **Southern Water – Ferry Road Leakage Investigation** – The CCTV survey has been rescheduled for 14

December. If the results show there are no leaks the Parish Council will meet with Southern Water to discuss reinstatement of the area. Council members advised a leak in School Lane is still present - The

# IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2023

## Present

Cllr. A. Dollimore - Chair  
Cllr. S. Tolhurst  
Cllr. P. Hyde  
Cllr. S. Lancashire  
Cllr. S. Fuszard  
Cllr. T. Guest  
County Cllr M. Baldock  
Borough Cllr. R. Clark  
Samantha Gray, Clerk  
2 Residents

## Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies received from Parish Cllrs. D. Waters, Stalley Moores, Langham, Whiting, S. Waters and PC Jez Chittim

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 October 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

## Visitors/Public Time

### 1. Visitors

a. A resident informed the council that they attended the Grovehurst A249 roadworks meeting and questioned why this was not held in Iwade. The Chair advised that the Iwade Village hall was offered for the meeting to be held at 7pm, however the offer was not taken up. The resident told the council they felt the meeting was poorly attended, and poorly timed.

b. They also asked for an update on the water leak in Ferry road. The Chair advised that Southern Water are planning to do a CCTV survey of the water main, this has been delayed due to the storm and will be carried out on 16 November. Southern Water have also found redundant pipework which caused confusion during their investigation. The Parish council receive regular updates and we have a direct contact with Southern Water. The Chair also advised that during a meeting with Southern Water they discussed what can be done in the form of compensation for the village, further discussions will be had about this

### 2. County and Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor Roger Clark advised he is working on the following projects:

- Ferry Road water leak.
- Resolve Peach Blossom Drive adoption

with KCC.

- Anti-social behaviour.

County Cllr. M. Baldock advised the following:

a. Concerned that Southern Water do not know where some of their pipes are laid – leading to missed water leaks such as the A249 sink hole.

b. Recently held a Swale West Parishes meeting. Youth provision was discussed with Rebecca from Brogdale, Cllr. Baldock will pay for next summer with his grant fund and proposes Parish Councils to contribute for the year after.

c. KCC are looking to make more cuts, this could affect community wardens and grass cutting.

d. Cllr. Baldock advised he would like Parish councils to have more control in case the area becomes Unitary.

e. Cllr. Baldock agreed to grant the Parish Council £1,500.00p towards the cost of a new CCTV camera and installation for Ridham Dock.

f. Cllr. Clark agreed to grant the Parish Council £400.00p towards the cost of salt bins.

g. Cllr. Dollimore explained the Parish Council have been notified by Swale Borough Council that our objections to the Dunlin Walk planning application will not be taken to the planning committee. Borough Cllrs. Clark and Chapman advised the council they have called this into the planning committee. Cllr. Baldock will review the comments and call this in if the objections are relevant planning matters.

### 3. Community Warden / PCSO

No report received from the Community Warden.

Police Constable Jez Chittim provided the following report:

#### Crimes of note:

• **29/10/23** - Criminal damage- A resident has had ongoing issues with youths throwing rocks at their property and this has been ongoing for months. Patrols have attended and there is an investigation for the criminal damage which is being explored further. There have been visible patrols in the area, and this has seen a reduction of youth related calls over the month.

• **23/10/23** - Fight- A report of a large

disturbance involving multiple people had been reported. Officers attended and arrested two males for affray and drunk and disorderly due to their behaviour and they were both taken to custody. There is no reason for residents to be concerned as this was an isolated incident that involved heightened emotions at a funeral.

• **15/10/23 to 21/10/23** - Burglary- A report of a burglary on Mansfield Drive in the garage. Some items had been stolen including a remote-controlled car and bicycle. Patrols attended and have taken details for a crime report where ongoing enquiries are being made. It appears to be an isolated incident but where possible it is worth reminding residents to be vigilant and to keep doors, windows and outbuildings locked and secure, particularly when not at home.

• **27/10/23** - Nuisance vehicle - A couple of reports have been made regarding nuisance vehicles including car meets, drifting, racing, and speeding report of a car meet and drifting etc on Sheppey way. Patrols have attended and engaged with the drivers. Most have been engaging and taking note of comments made and dispersed. 30 vehicles dispersed under Section 34 Anti-Social behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014.

## Matters Arising from the Minutes

**1. Moving CCTV Camera to Ridham Dock –** As discussed in item 4.2, Cllr. Baldock agreed a grant towards the cost of a new camera and installation.

Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/RFO

**2. Defibrillator – to discuss fitment –** Cllr. Dollimore advised he will obtain a quote for an electrician to fit the defibrillator.

Action: Cllr. Dollimore

**3. Memorial Plaques – email 20.10.23 –** Council members agreed for the Clerk to write a policy to state memorial plaque only, anything else left would be removed. Clerk to ask the Swale Borough Council green spaces manager for terms and conditions.

Action: Clerk

**4. Signposts re Fly Tipping for Sheppey Way –** The Clerk advised she has sought permission from the owners of the fields on Sheppey Way to install sign posts. Kent County Council will donate the Parish Council 8 signs.

Action: Clerk/Cllrs

**5. Southern Water – Ferry Road Leakage Investigation –** See above item 4.1.

Members agreed the Clerk should contact Southern Water for results of the CCTV survey on Friday 17 November, if the result is inconclusive consider contacting the National Press. Clerk to also request an update on the leak in The Street.

**6. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) –** Kent Highways have advised the Parish Council they would like a meeting before consultation letters are sent to residents regarding a residents parking scheme. Members asked the Clerk to invite Highways to a Parish Council meeting and to add the 20mph zone request to the HIP form.

Action: Clerk

**7. ASB & Crime relating to the PROW between Springvale and Sheerstone –** PC Jez Chittim has requested a CCTV camera for this area. Swale Borough Council are aware of the request and are waiting for a camera to become available. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

**8. Update: contacting local businesses regarding litter in the Village Centre –** Members noted the Village Centre is looking better, but there is still an issue with overflowing bins. Cllr. Fuszard will invite the shop owners to a meeting to discuss emptying the bins and providing them with PPE and rubbish bags.

Action: Cllr. Fuszard

## Planning

For planning details please refer to <https://www.iwade-pc.gov.uk/community/iwade-parish-council-18357/agendas--minutes-2022/> for full minutes for this meeting

## Correspondence

**1. Remembrance Sunday Ex-Military member to lay the Wreath –** The Clerk has handed over the wreath to an ex-member of the WRNS to lay on remembrance Sunday. Cllr. Hyde discussed moving some of the lamp post poppies to trees leading up to the Cairn. Cllr. Dollimore will install a Tommy Remembrance statue by the flagpole on Telly Tubby Hill.

Action: Cllrs Hyde/Dollimore

**2. Hedgehog Highway Project – email 01.11.23 –** Council members did not agree to purchase the kit and suggested advertising the project in the Observer.

Action: Clerk

**3. CCTV Control Centre Visit – email 27.10.23 –** Cllrs. Tolhurst and Fuszard reported they were impressed with the

control centre visit. Cllr Tolhurst also reported the following:

- The camera patrol has not captured an incident with a bench at Woodpecker park and has spoken with the control room.
- The 5G mast due to be installed will improve the camera signal.
- The Control Room agreed to send to the Clerk footage of the automatic patrolling of each camera, in order for the members to check that the patrols give appropriate coverage.
- Cllr. Tolhurst will check with the Control Centre on the signage to be provided to state that the area is under CCTV surveillance.

Action: Cllr. Tolhurst

**4. Street Light Faults in Peach Blossom Drive –** The streetlights have not been adopted by KCC, Persimmon are responsible for the maintenance and KCC have requested they repair the faults. Cllr. Clark discussed the problems in Peach Blossom and will look into holding a meeting with residents, and possibly forming a residents association.

**5. KALC Training Courses –** The next Dynamic Councillor course will be held online, on Tuesday 5 December. Cllr. Fuszard and Cllr. Guest will attend.

Action: Clerk/RFO

## Finance

**1. Quote to re-install bollards 44 Ferry Road –** Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed to the quotation of £540.00p.

Action: RFO

**2. Completion of Audit 2022-23 –** Members noted the External Auditor reported the AGAR submitted is in accordance with proper practices and there are no causes for concern regarding the Audit for 2022/23. The notice of completion of Audit and associated papers were posted on the Council's website and noticeboards on 25 September.

**3. Revised quote for installation of a telescopic bollard in Sheerstone –** Members discussed the quotation of £755.00p, and did not agree to replace the bollard. Council members agreed to remove the existing concrete bollard to repair the lamp column in Sheerstone, and look to include the cost to replace the bollard in the budget for next year.

Action: RFO/Clerk

**4. Unity Bank – internet banking access for the Clerk –** Cllrs. Lancashire and Hyde signed the account management form.

Action: Clerk

**5. To purchase a Tommy Remembrance Statue –** Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed to purchase a Tommy Remembrance Statue at a cost of £200.00p.

**6. Finance Committee –** Members agreed for Cllr. Dollimore to join the Finance Committee.

**7. Grant request from 'We are Beams' –** Council members agreed to look at this grant request when setting the budget for next year.

Action: RFO

**8. Salt bins for Village Hall Car Park –** Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed to the cost of £576.29 to purchase salt bins. Cllr. Baldock agreed to grant £350.00p towards the cost. Cllr. Clark agreed to grant £400.00p, to be split between the cost of salt bins and the CCTV camera discussed in item 4.2.

Action: RFO

**9. South-East 4x4 Donation –** Proposed by Cllr. Hyde and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, members agreed to a S.137 donation of £250.00p.

Action: RFO

**10. Grant Request from Kent Community Rail Partnership –** Members agreed to look at this grant request when setting the budget for next year.

Action: RFO

**11. Dynamic Councillor Learning Event – Cllr Fuszard –** Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, members agreed to the cost of £60.00p including VAT for the learning event.

Action: RFO

**12. Local Government Revised Pay Rates 2023/24 –** Proposed by Cllr. Hyde and seconded by Cllr. Dollimore, members agreed to the revised pay rates for the Clerk on SCP 20 and the RFO on SCP 23. The increase is £1 per hour for 2023/24, to be backdated to April 2023.

Action: RFO

**13. Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting –** Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Guest, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 31 October. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Lancashire and Hyde to log in and authorize payments.

Action: Cllrs. Lancashire/Hyde

## Projects – Updates on Current and New

**1. Iwade Clean Up Event 22 October:**

- The event was a success, over 30