

Iwade Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Thursday 10th April 2007 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Peter Wilks Parish Clerk
 Cllr Phil Fearn 9 Parishioners
 Cllr Brian Groves
 Borough Councilor Ben Stokes

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of 19th April 2007 had been circulated, re read and were signed on 13th June 2007 by the Chairman

3. Chairman's Annual Report

This Meeting is a Parish meeting called as required by the Local Government Act 1972, the meeting is an opportunity for the residents of the village who are registered electors to raise and discuss any subject affecting the village. Discussion and voting on any subject is restricted to electors, residents who are not registered as electors are welcome as observers. Residents wishing to speak are requested to give their name and the name of their street.

The 2008 Register of Electors lists 1100 properties in the village, an increase of 96, there are 2094 electors, an increase of 150. The Parish precept has not been increased for the second year running and remains at £26.00 for a Band D property, giving us a parish precept of £27,974 an increase of £1988. The Parish Council held meetings on the second Tuesday of each month over the past.

Building Development: The expansion of the village commenced in 1998, the Swale Local Plan was adopted in July 2000 and set an expansion figure of 1200 dwellings to the end of the second plan period 2016. Green field land was allocated for 550 dwellings to be built in the period to 2006. The Government increased the density of house building in 2003 and expect Swale planner to order densities between 30 and 50 to the hectare (Previously 25 to hectare). So far 820 new dwellings have been built by Ward Homes and Hillreed on the land allocated for 550.

The Swale Local Plan 2008

Following the Plan Inquiry in 2006, the Inspectors Report was published in October 2007. As far as Iwade is concerned the Inspectors rejected the claim of Wards (550 extra), Hillreeds (237 extra) and Crest Nicholson (!00 extra) to have green field land released for an additional 887 dwellings. Further development around Iwade should be restricted to about 400 dwellings but the developers are already trying to stretch the numbers.

At this time Ward Homes are awaiting planning permission for 27 houses north of the Church. This permission is held up because the Parish Council have been unable to agreed 'planning gain', this is a Section 106 agreement to give the village land for a burial ground. So far they have agreed to give the land, which has a crop of winter wheat at this time, and will need to be planted with grass. So far we cannot agree the surface of the paths and car park. Wards have applied for a new planning permission to develop land west of the Street for 23 dwellings; the Parish Council has raised objections to this development. Wards are also working on plans to develop the Old Orchard east of Woodpecker Drive, phase 8. All three sites have ponds with great crested newts and the developers have to satisfy Natural England that there are satisfactory mitigation measures to protect the newts and their environment

Other Planning Items:

Tiptree Farm, the application by a travelling family to site residential homes is still outstanding.

Raspberry Hill Farm The Inspector refused the application to keep mobile homes on the site and the travellers were given 12 months to reinstate the land

Recreation Ground. There was serious vandalism to play equipment and the plastic matting in September 2007. The repair cost was over £1000. PCSO Lyndsey Wood was able to track down the vandals and three youths were arrested and charged

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public at 8.00pm

Q How many dwellings are needed to make Iwade no longer a village?

A Iwade is no longer a village in text book terms. A study by Oxford University states that up to 300 dwellings is classed as a Hamlet, 999 dwellings is classed as a village, over 1000 dwellings is classed as a town.

Iwade is a village by name only.

Q Why are there is no footpath signs in the village

A Parish Council has been chasing this with Kent County Council footpath officer over the last year but to no avail. Clerk will contact Elsie Straight form the Ramblers Association to see if pressure can be put on this way

Q When are the roads going to be adopted in Iwade by Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council?

A Kent County Council Highways has a major backlog on road adoption and at the end of last year they had over 600 roads unadopted. Parish Council is chasing. Until road is adopted it is the developers responsibility to deal with any issues arising.

Q What is the Parish Council going to do about the Parish Footpath Lighting grant being withdrawn by Swale Borough Council?

A Iwade Parish Council has written letters of objection and for 2008/09 the Parish still has the grant, but it is capped at 2007/08 expenditure pending review of best practice..

Q What is the Parish Council doing about the Gas pressure in the village?

A The problem is water getting into the gas pipes. Southern Gas Network thought they had found the problem, but it has reoccurred again. The problem is the gas suppliers are having is due to the nationalisation of the gas networks. Different copies are laying pipes and when there is a problem Southern Gas Network are having problems locating the gas pipes as other contractors are reluctant to provide the information and won't give permission for the pipe network to be worked on.

Q Are we going to get a New Village Hall?

A Iwade will not get a new Village Hall. Historically Swale Borough Council thought the Parish Council could sell the current village hall and purchase land elsewhere in the village. However the land which the hall stands on is under a covenant and held in perpetuity which is owned by the people of the village and therefore unable to be sold.

Q Is the Parish Council going to purchase security camera for the village?

A Parish Council has looked into this, but found they are very expensive. For example the cheaper options for a wireless system will cost £6000 for one camera and then the Parish Council would have to pay for a maintenance contract and also contract with Swale Borough Council for surveyance.

Cllr Phil Fearn wanted to thank the Chairman for all the hard work, dedication and support he has given the Parish Council and the village over the last year.

Meeting closed 9.10pm