

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Friday 15th May, 2009

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr. D. Manning (Chairman)	Clerk
	Cllr. P. Fearn	Borough Cllr. B. Stokes
	Cllr. P. Wilks	PCSO Lindsey Woods
	Cllr. A. Hurrell	Sgt. D. Worthington

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

These were circulated and signed at the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held in June 2008.

REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The outgoing Chairman, Councillor Fearn, read the following report:

This 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 road or street.

The 2009 Register of Electors lists 1113 properties in the village an increase of 13 and 2126 electors , an increase of 32. The Parish Precept been increased this year 5% by the Parish Council and a further 2.5% (total of 7.5%) added by Swale Borough Council to make up the shortfall from the lighting grant .This brings the precept for a band D property to £27.94 , an increase of £1.94 .This brings the parish precept up to £29,899, an increase of £1,925.

The expansion of the village commenced in 1988, the swale local plan was adopted in July 2000 and set an expansion figure of 1200 dwellings to the end of the plan period 2016. The Government increased the density of housing per hectare to between 30 and 50 (approx 2.2 acres), so far 820 new dwellings have been built on land allocated for 550. The current local plan was adopted in February 2008.

Barratts Homes, formerly Wards Homes, have been granted permission to build 27 houses north of the church. The Parish council were unable to agree to planning gain under a section 106 agreement for a burial ground including a Church car park and refurbishment of the listed barn for community use. Swale Borough Council negotiated on our behalf and agreed to take over the administration of the burial ground and I believe the administration of the barn.

The Parish Council was informed earlier this week that the application to build 23 houses west of the street has been withdrawn.

New planning briefs - You should all have received a letter from Swale Borough Council informing you that revised planning briefs have been submitted to Swale Borough Council by Barratts Homes for 90 new homes east of Woodpecker Drive and by Hillreed Homes for 327 houses on the south west of the village. These can be viewed at www.swale.gov.uk/ldf or you can view them at Swale house or Sittingbourne Library. Iwade Pc are still watching this as it believes another environmental study may be required to satisfy natural England that wild life issues are being addressed. If you wish to comment on the proposals then you can e-mail your comments to planningpolicy@swale.gov.uk or send them by post to the Planning policy Manager Swale Borough Council Swale House East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME13 3HT. The deadline for comments is 1st June 2009.

The application for 23 homes west of the Church has been withdrawn.

Gas supplies - Following more incidents of low gas pressure and cuts, myself, and I believe some other residents, raised the problem with Scotia gas (formerly Transco) who are responsible for the pipe network. I also involved our MP Derek Wyatt who went straight to the top. It appears that some serious work was carried out and a faulty back up supply from the Kemsley main was discovered along with more water in the pipes. Hopefully this has at last been rectified and we will be warm this coming winter.

New post boxes - Eventually the post office put in a new post box in School Lane, near the recreation ground. The Parish Council tried for three years to get one installed and with help from other Councillors managed to get one earlier this year. We did try for two boxes but the post office said they could only supply due to the cost involved.

Broadband - Following a recent meeting Iwade Parish council submitted a formal request for funding from KCC for a Broadband package. KCC are contacting suppliers to arrange quotes for various systems. The Parish Council and residents will form a committee to choose an appropriate installation. Please look for details in the village newsletter or notice board.

The land for the village park in Woodpecker Drive has still not been handed over to Swale Borough Council as agreed under a 106 agreement, despite the Parish Council questioning Swale Borough Council and its legal department for a completion date. Outstanding for 8 years, the Parish Council is still pushing.

The Parish Council has had considerable difficulties of late, our previous clerk was asked to resign and we were without a clerk for approximately two months. At present a police investigation is ongoing and court proceedings are imminent, and you must appreciate that I cannot give any more details or information while this is ongoing. We now have a new clerk and the Parish Council is getting back on track.

Councillor Fearn handed the meeting over to Councillor Manning, the new Chairman of the Parish Council, who then opened the meeting up to the Electors.

PUBLIC FORUM

An informal discussion took place between Councillors present and PCSO Lindsey Woods regarding Council meetings. There being no Electors present the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.