

## Iwade Parish Council

### Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

**Present:** Chairman Peter Wilks            Borough Councillor Ben Stokes  
Cllr Brian Groves                        Mrs Sarah George, Parish Clerk  
Cllr Lisa Older                            County Councillor Roger Truelove  
Cllr Derek White                         4 Parishioners  
Cllr Malcolm Hutchings                Gerry Cox, Community Warden  
Cllr Phil Hyde  
Cllr Sue Dowling  
Vice Chairman Phil Fearn  
Cllr John White

#### Apologies:

County Council Brenda Simpson (personal)

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were signed as a true and accurate report. This was seconded by Cllr Brian Groves

#### 3. Matters Arising from the minutes

##### 3.1 Recycling Scheme

Due to the poor start from the Recycling Scheme at the beginning of the year, it has been noted that residents are not recycling as much as they did before. Cllr Phil Fearn requested that the Parish Council highlight this in the next edition of the Iwade Village News and on the website. This was agreed by all Councillors present.

**Parish Clerk to action**

##### 3.2 Sewer Pipe in School Lane

Iwade Parish Council had concerns regarding the inadequate sewerage pipe in School Lane. This pipe erupted three times last year, spewing raw sewerage onto the footpath and into the road and some into the nearby drain that runs into the stream.

The Chairman checked to make sure that Councillors had received the copy letters from Cllr Ben Stokes regarding this situation. All confirmed that they had either by email or by post.

Councillor Ben Stokes advised the Parish Council that after numerous letters sent to Southern Water and the Environment Agency they have succumbed to the pressure. Cllr Ben Stokes was pleased to advise that the sewage pumping main pipe from the School Lane Pumping station is being upsized from 150mm to

300mm diameter. As previous reported the capacity of the existing main was previously identified as the cause of some of the recent incidents.

Due the mains burst, the first section of the main to be replaced is from School Lane to Woodpecker Drive (approx 110 meters). Work is currently planned to begin on this section in March, subject to obtaining permission for traffic management and access.

Cllr Stokes informed the Council that Southern Water have stated that letters to residents who will be affected by the work will be sent out once details have been finalized.

The Parish Council wished to thank Borough Councilor Ben Stokes for all the hard work and commitment he had put into this project and were pleased with the outcome.

Cllr Phil Hyde suggested that pictures of the area should be taken before the work started so the Parish Council has evidence of the state of the area before any major work starts.

#### **4. Business of the Council**

##### **4.1 Ward Homes**

The Chairman brought to the attention of the Parish Council that according to a press report dated 6<sup>th</sup> February Barrett Development made; a take-over bid for Wilson Bowen the owners of Ward homes. Copy of report was disrupted to members.

##### **4.2 2007/08 Budget**

All Councilors received a proposed Budget from the Parish Clerk, after some discussion it was adopted by all Parish Councilors present

##### **4.3 Village Hall Fees**

The Parish Clerk advised the Parish Council that the fees for the hire of the hall for the Parish Council meetings had gone up by 33% to cover the increase gas prices. The Clerk also brought to the attention of the Council that the following clubs had approached the Parish Council for assistance due to an increase in their hire fees; Beavers/Cubs, Iwade Parent and Toddler and Iwade WI.

The Parish Council agreed in principal to pay for the hall hire for these clubs, but would wait until the actual invoices were received by the Parish Clerk before any payment was made. Clerk to write to the village hall committee requesting invoices.

**Parish Clerk to action**

Cllr Lisa Older and Cllr Sue Dowling asked the Parish Clerk to find out when the next Village Hall Committee meeting was as they would consider attending the meetings to see what improvements/ suggestions could be put forward to help the village hall. At the present time severe restrictions imposed by Swale Borough Councils license for noise abatement is discouraging potential hirers.

**Parish Clerk to action**

#### **4.4 Dates for the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting.**

The date for the Annual Parish Meeting is to be scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman advised the Council that this is an opportunity for residents of the village who are on the register of electors to receive an update on the latest planning and development proposals, to ask questions and to raise questions on any subject. However the Chairman reminded Council members that new residents who were not on the electors register are welcome as observers but unable to raise questions.

The date for the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held as part of the monthly Parish Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

#### **4.5 Grass areas in Ferry Road**

Cllr Phil Hyde advised the Parish Council that the grass areas in front of Plantation Mews was still be parked on by residents who live in Ferry Road, although the bollards had been put in place this had not deterred these residents and the grass verges were destroyed.

It was agreed that the clerk would get in touch with Highways to see if the Parish Council could put a pigeon fence around these verges and plant bulbs.

**Parish Clerk to action**

#### **4.6 Missing 30mph signs**

Cllr Phil Fearn advised the Parish Council that even after a year of chasing Kent County Council Highways for new replacement 30mph signs nothing had been done. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Michael Summit advising him again of the missing speed signs and see if Parish Council can purchase their own and get them installed.

**Parish Clerk to action**

#### **4.7 Annual Village Clean Up**

Cllr Phil Hyde advised the Parish Council that due to the success of last years village clean up this activity will be done again. Unlike last year where the Clean Up helpers were too thinly spread, volunteers would work on selected areas chosen by themselves which would benefit the area they lived in..

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to the Beavers/ Cubs and Iwade Herons to see if they would be willing to help this year.

It was agreed that due to the Village of Year judgement being in the beginning of June the Village Clean up would take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2007 from 10am to 2pm. Iwade Parish Council would provide the equipment again and the Clerk to start advertising this project in the Iwade Village News and Website.

#### **Parish Clerk to action**

#### **5. Correspondence / Notices**

##### **5.1 Clerks Progress Report**

- Have spoken to Ann Ryman who has advised that the Christmas and January collection was just a teething problem and it will run smoothly from now on.
- Letter sent to Harvey Bradshaw of Environment Agency about sewage leak. Reply received area is to be dug up and larger sewage pipe to be installed. Been also advised of this by Cllr Ben Stokes
- Have spoken to Graham Tuff and Wicksteed about the removal of the container on the corner of Woodpecker Drive and to make good the area.

##### **5.2 Village of the Year Competition**

Mrs Amanda Hurrell of Turnstone Close and Mrs Janet Gregory of Sanderling Way advised the Parish Council of their progress with this year's competition. Both were very confident that Iwade will receive higher accreditation this year. If success money, computers etc will be given to the village to benefit the residents of Iwade.

Cllr Phil Hyde advised the Village of the Year Committee that if they required his help or assistance with this project to contact the Parish Clerk.

##### **5.3 Community Warden Update**

Gerry Cox, Community Warden reported to the Council that some residents within Iwade were allowing their dogs to foul on the footpaths and green areas around the village, also since the two new play areas had been installed it had been reported that more litter was being thrown on the two areas at: Stangate and Woodpecker Drive. Graffiti has already been found around the play area of Woodpecker Drive.

Clerk was advised to put an article in the next issue of the Iwade Village News

about dog fouling and the litter problems within Iwade as it was felt it was not only the two play areas that have a problem. Also Clerk to advise Handyman to remove the Graffiti and confirmed that the Parish Council still had a zero tolerance on Graffiti within the village and to concentrate on litter picking within the village.

**Parish Clerk to action**

## **6. Planning**

No planning applications have been received for the month of January

**Planning application for Ward Homes Phase 7, proposal for 27 dwellings north of the Church** deposited with Swale BC. The Chairman reported that Swale Borough Council still awaiting additional information from Ward Homes in regard to the application

### **Land South of the Church**

Chairman reported that the Inspectors decision for the Local Plan Enquiry is expected later in the year. Chairman has been in contact with Swale Borough Council Solicitors, Duncan Milne and Sarah Baxter Rose, inquiring why the village park land has not been handed over under the section 106 agreement. Swale Borough Council solicitors are looking into this matter for the Parish Council

**Cllr Peter Wilks to action**

## **7. Finance**

The following cheques were raised

Sarah George	Clerk fee, January	Clerks Wages £522.16
Office Technical Solutions	Printing	£14.42
Graham Chambers	Handyman fees for January	£90.00
Phil Fearn	Cllr Expenses	£5.46
Kent Council County	Lamplighters	£55.99
Peter Wilks	Chairman Expenses	20.00

The cheques were seconded by Cllr Brian Groves. All Councilors present were in agreement.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the Audit Commission who is responsible, under section 2 of the Audit Commission Act 1998, for the appointment of auditors to all local councils and associated joint committees. In 2002, following a competitive tendering process, an officer of the Audit Commission was appointed as auditor to all local councils and joint committees within Kent for the financial year 2001/02 to 2005/06 inclusive.

The Commission now proposes to extend the appointment to cover 2006/07, pending a further competition in which tenders will be invited for appointment as

auditors, again on a county wide basis. The Audit Commission proposes the appointment of Alun Williams, an officer of the Audit Commission, as auditor to Iwade Parish Council for the financial year 206/07.

The audit Commission has approved new fees to operate from 2006/07. The new fees, details of which may be access from the Commissions' website, will remain in operation for a five year period.

Meeting closed 9.10pm

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**