

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13th June, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. Plumb – Chair
Cllr. R. Jones – Vice-Chair
Cllr. J. Hunt
Cllr. S. Harris

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
County Cllr. Mike Whiting
Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes
PCSO Aaron Harris
Nick Mayatt, Community Warden
6 Parishioners

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Phillips and Cllr. Avron Cotton.

2. **Parish Councillor Vacancy** – Two candidates came forward. Following a vote by secret ballot, Rachel Rook was co-opted onto the Council. As Cllr. Rook was unable to attend due to a pre-booked holiday, the Clerk will ensure that the necessary Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interest forms are completed and signed upon her return. *Action: Clerk*

3. **Declarations of Interest** – None.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Harris and seconded by Cllr. Jones, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 9th May, 2012, were agreed by all Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Harris, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 23rd May, 2012, were agreed by all Members and signed as a true transcript.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Committee Membership – membership agreed as follows:

- a) Planning – Cllrs. Plumb, Hunt, Phillips, Jones, Avron-Cotton and Rook
- b) Finance – Cllrs. Plumb, White, Jones, Hunt, Harris and Clerk
- c) Village Hall – Cllr. Harris
- d) Parks and Play Areas – Cllrs. Hunt and Hyde
- e) K.A.L.C. – Cllrs. Plumb and Phillips

Village Park/Pond/Environment Agency – Cllr. Hunt advised that following a meeting with the Environment Agency, the 14th August has been agreed as the date for the Pond Clearing activity. Swale Borough Council's staff will help on the day; the Environment Agency is making a duck house for the middle of the pond and hopefully the press will attend.

The grass in the orchard side of the park is getting quite long; this will not be cut due to the wildlife, and in particular the 'protected' Noble Chafer Beetle. In future the grass will be cut once a year, on a long cut; this applies to both sides of the park.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trees – The Clerk is waiting for KCC to contact her to arrange a site visit to look at the new proposed location for the trees. *Action: Clerk*

Replacement of Old Parish Lighting – Report awaited from Cllr. Phillips. Clerk has received a quote from PFL Limited to replace just the lanterns and it was agreed that this will held and looked at when Cllr. Phillip's report is received.

D.S. Smith Community involvement; Pond Dipping Station – Cllr. Hunt has tried to contact Mark Steadman regarding the proposal for a pond dipping platform, but understands he is heavily involved in an important project within the company. Clerk will attempt to contact him in due course. *Action: Clerk*

Extra Housing for Iwade (update from May meeting) – The Chairman referred to Peter Blandon's talk at the last meeting, regarding housing proposals for Iwade contained within the Core Strategy. County Cllr. Mike Whiting was also present and following the meeting he contacted Swale Borough Council to query the figures and received the following response:

“The reference you have quoted is from the Council's SHLAA (strategic housing land availability assessment). SW/123 relates to land to the east of Iwade (between the current village confines and the A249). A site plan and report can be found at Appendix 4 of the SHLAA. I have attached a link for you to view, you will need to scroll through or type in a search for SW/123. <http://www.swale.gov.uk/assets/Planning-General/Planning-Policy/SHLAA-2010-11/Pages-1-35-from-Appendix-4-Step-5-sites-forming-SHLAA-supply.pdf>

The SHLAA forms parts of the Council's evidence base with regard to the potential supply of housing sites. This is a new site submitted by the landowner/developer in response to the Council's request for a call for sites. While on its individual merits the SHLAA concluded that this site is suitable, available and deliverable in terms of supplying 311 houses, the Council has taken the decision (based on cumulative consideration in respect of development at north west Sittingbourne) that in order to protect the gap between Iwade and Sittingbourne, no additional sites at Iwade should be promoted through the draft Core Strategy.

In closing, I can confirm that other than the existing planning permissions and allocations in the 2008 Swale Borough Local Plan, no further house building is currently proposed [for Iwade] in the evolving Core Strategy/Local Plan.”

Iwade Medical Centre – Following residents' continued concern the Parish Council again contacted the East Coast Kent NHS Trust who confirmed that discussions with the current and new provider are progressing well. They also stated that it is also hoped that the new telephone system will be installed shortly; this will provide a better system for answering calls.

6. Visitors/Public Time

Parishioners – Peter Beal asked if there was an update on the Village Hall. The Chairman introduced Cllrs. Hunt and Harris, who are involved with the hall. Cllr. Hunt re-confirmed that

outline planning permission has been given for 10 houses on the existing site and that it is hoped the new hall will be located on School Lane Playing Field. The proposed Sports Pavilion for the playing field will be incorporated into the new building, which in addition to a new hall will also include meeting rooms (including a disabled lift for access to the upper floor) for use by village organisations, a café with outside decking area and other facilities. Talks are taking place with an Architect, who has drawn up exciting plans for the new hall. At the moment it is looking likely that the cost of the project could be approaching £900,000; with the sale of the existing site estimated at £350,000 plus £125,000 from the pavilion this means there will be a possible shortfall of £425,000. The Hall Committee will need to look towards obtaining grants to overcome this shortfall. The other alternative is to reduce the size of the new hall and facilities, to try and bring it in line with anticipated money received from the sale of the land and the pavilion S.106 contribution. Once firm plans are to hand there will be a public consultation to give villagers the opportunity to put forward their views on the proposals. The Charities Commission has been consulted and is agreeable to the proposal provided replacement land is handed over freehold to the Parish Council.

Sue from Bodycare raised her concern that the landlord of the vacant unit in the village centre, which is next to her business, was subletting the property to another Beauty Salon. Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes will ask Swale Borough Council to look into the village centre planning conditions and will inform her of outcome.

County Councillor and Borough Councillors – County Cllr. Mike Whiting mentioned housing proposals for Iwade (see above item under Matters Arising); ‘Cold Calling Zones’.

Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes is chasing Swale Borough Council to install a dog waste bin in Fans Lane. He has spoken to Swale Borough Council and Highways regarding restriction signs to support the new yellow lines in School Lane; an order has been placed and it is hoped these will be installed within a week’s time.

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – Nick’s report was circulated and noted by Members. He attended ‘Operation Sol’, training on emergency planning for flood conditions, particularly relevant in Iwade. He has received complaints that the village pond ‘smells’; hopefully this will be resolved once the pond had been cleaned in August.

Aaron Harris, the new PCSO, introduced himself. He likes the village and so far has not encountered many problems, apart from parking! A letter regarding this appeared on the back page of the Iwade Observer and things seem to have improved.

7. **Finance**

Village Hall – Cost of Solicitor/Planning Permission – Cllr Hunt advised that the Parish Council needs to appoint a Solicitor to look at covenants imposed on the garden site to see if they still apply. The Council also needs to look at planning permission fees for submitting an application for the new hall on the School Lane site. Members agreed to discuss this expenditure at the Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday 27th June, 2012.

Bus Shelter, Village Park – Clerk has received a quote of £500 from Littlethorpes to install polycarbonate panels in the sides of the new shelter. Proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Hunt (all agreed) to obtain the timber parts from Littlethorpes and ask the village handyman to obtain the polycarbonate panels and fit.

Concrete bases for picnic table and two benches – A quote has been received from Steve Wakeling for £1350 for supplying concrete bases and installation of this equipment. It was proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Harris that the Clerk checks with Kent Highways to see if it is possible to install one bench on the new tarmac area by the bus stop on the green at the top of Sheerstone; then ask Steve to reduce the quote accordingly. If approval is not obtained, then to accept the full quote from Steve – agreed by all present. *Action: Clerk*

Society of Local Council Clerks Membership 2012/13 – Proposed by Cllr. Harris and seconded by Cllr. Jones – agreed to renew membership at a cost of £110.

Cheques signed at this meeting:

| Date | Cheque | Details | Amount |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 13.06.12 | 1536 | Swale Borough Council | £538.54p |
| 13.06.12 | 1537 | J. White | £31.95p |
| 13.06.12 | 1538 | Iwade Village Hall | £210.00p |
| 13.06.12 | 1539 | L. Fisher | £637.12p |
| 13.06.12 | 1540 | H.M. Revenue & Customs | £2.30p |
| 13.06.12 | 1541 | Stiddard Kent Ltd | £15.00p |
| 13.06.12 | 1542 | L. Fisher | £78.10p |
| 13.06.12 | 1543 | Steve Wakeling | £425.48p |
| 13.06.12 | 1544 | Steve Wakeling | £341.12p |
| 13.06.12 | 1545 | Society of Local Council Clerks | £110.00p |
| Ten cheques in total | | | |

8. **Village Hall Updates** - See comments contained in Item 6 and 7 above.

9. **Green Dog Walking Scheme**

Cllr. Hunt advised that a resident, Becci Jeal, has come forward and is willing to organise the scheme. Becci was present at the meeting and agreed to forward her contact details to the Clerk.

10. **Correspondence**

Consultation on Commissioning Plan for Education in Kent 2012-17 – Members agreed to forward the comments contained in Cllr. Jones’ report, which questioned adequate provision for school places in Iwade.

Speedwatch – Cllr. Hunt has a list of volunteers happy to undertake this task; Members agreed to join the Speedwatch programme. *Action: Cllr. Hunt/Clerk*

Freight Action Plan for Kent – Consultation update – No further comments to add.

Kent County Council Mineral and Waste Site Plans - Preferred Options Consultation – Cllr. Plumb has read through the second set of submissions and the proposals will not have an impact on Iwade. Members decided not to add any further comments.

Code of Conduct – Draft Codes from NALC and Swale Borough Council noted.

Local Council Tax Support Scheme and the “10% reduction” Update – Further details noted.

Consultation on appointment of external auditor for 2012/13 and future years – with the proposed abolition of the Audit Commission, the Parish Council has received notification that for 2012/13 and future years the company Littlejohn LLP has been appointed as external Auditor.

11. Planning

- **SW/12/0557:** – Side extension with front and rear dormers, front porch and detached garage; 31 Sheerstone, Iwade, ME9 8RW – no objections.
- **KCC/SW/0089/2012:** Section 73 application to continue development without complying with conditions 3 (site layout), 21 (external wood shredding/storage) and 24 (operations under cover of MRF building) of planning permission SW/10/1436: Countrystyle Recycling, Ridham Dock, Iwade – no further observations to make.
- **SW/12/167:** SEP Ridham Dock Facility, Ridham Dock, Iwade: Approved by KCC

12. Next Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 11th July, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 09.35 p.m.