

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 14th March, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. Plumb – Chairman
Cllr. J. Gregory (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. J. Hunt
Cllr. S. Harris
Cllr. R. Jones
Cllr. P. Hyde
Cllr. R. Phillips
Cllr. T. Avron-Cotton

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
County Cllr. Mike Whiting
Borough Cllr. Alan Willicombe
Community Warden, Nick Mayatt
7 Parishioners

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed two visitors: Mark Steadman from D.S. Paper who had asked to come along and talk to the Council about how his company could interact with the community, and Jacqueline Blake, Watch Liaison Officer Swale, who had been invited by the Parish Council to discuss how to expand the Neighbourhood Watch service within the village.

First to address the meeting was Jacqueline Blake. She explained that at the present time the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) is still operating in Sheerstone, Kingfisher Close, Helen Thompson Close, Meadow Rise and Turnstone Close.

The NWS is a community based initiative for all the community. The system has changed and Co-ordinators no longer exist; it is now preferable to have a ‘contact’ set up in each road all linking into a single Co-ordinator within the Parish Council, who would hold a portfolio for parish issues. This person would build up a list of all contacts; take and issue NHW messages to all contacts, who in turn would take the information out to the residents in their area. Likewise information received by the contacts from residents would then be fed back to the Co-ordinator.

At the present time the NWS sends out 1,000 messages each year (used to be 800); this increase is not because crime has increased, it’s just that the system has got better. They work with Trading Standards, the K.C.C. and Street Wardens and one initiative that has been set up is ‘Cold Calling Control Zone Areas’, which aims to prevent people from becoming victims of ruthless cold calling tactics.

Jacqueline is keen to expand the scheme in Iwade, particularly as the village has grown dramatically since NHW was first set up here. She has scheme details which can be distributed to every home, possibly by way of the newsletter and is agreeable to liaise with the Parish Council to see how we wish to go forward.

The Chairman thanked Jacqueline for her input and offering to assist in the future and then introduced Mark Steadman from D.S. Paper.

Mark introduced himself as the General Manager of the company, a company which is part of a larger group with a 2.5 billion turnover and employs 2.5 thousand people across the U.K., Europe, Australia

and Israel; the group has just bought SEA Packaging, which means it will double its size. The company produces packaging for such famous names as ‘Cadburys’ ‘Walkers; mostly made from recycled products.

As a business they are trying to establish a greater positive presence in the community and the environment. Historically they have supported football clubs and other organisations in Sittingbourne but now feel it is important to see if they can offer this support to the wider community. The company is not looking for anything in return; there are things the company can do to help, which doesn’t always mean money but can mean providing things.

Mark ended his talk by commenting that there is no time restriction on this offer; the Parish Council is welcome to telephone him with ideas and he will see what he can do.

The Chairman thanked Mark for his company’s generous offer of support for the community and then opened the monthly meeting.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed Members and Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. J. White and Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes.

2. Declarations of Interest – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Jones, the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 8th February, 2012, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Phillips, the Minutes of the Planning meeting held on the 29th February, 2012, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Village Park/Pond – Cllr. Hunt, along with Cllr. Plumb and the Clerk, attended a meeting with Debbie McNamara of the Environment Agency, who would like to clear out the village park pond. She and her team, with the assistance of the Parish Council, would like to organise this as a family fun day, with children being able to pond dip and do drawings; the E.A. would also like to install bird boxes in the park and a duck house in the centre of the pond. A second meeting has been arranged for May to discuss this project further.

Action: Cllrs Hunt/Plumb and Clerk

Cllr. Hunt advised that a meeting of the village’s Nature Conservation Group will take place on the 30th March, to discuss the proposed Great Crested Newt survey scheduled for April.

Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Trees/Celebration – Swale Borough Council has confirmed that they now own the meadow side of the Village Park and are happy for the trees to be planted in this location. There was a question mark over Great Crested Newts, but K.R.A.G. seem to think this is not a problem, but recommend that machinery is not used to dig the holes for the trees. A

check is being made to determine where drains are located in this area to avoid future damage by tree roots.

It was agreed that Cllr. Hyde checks with the Nursery to ensure we are planting the right type of trees for the area, e.g. soil, drought and nearby buildings/drains; Clerk to contact Wards Homes to discuss their offer of tree guards and to see if they will volunteer manual help to plant the trees; there will now be a Tree Planting Ceremony only to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee as there has been no uptake on further activities. *Action: Cllr. Hyde/Clerk*

Tree/Hedgerow Survey – Cllr. Hunt has had no success in contacting the body responsible for Tree Wardens and from comments received it looks as though this scheme is no longer running. Regarding the hedgerow survey, Cllr. Hunt agreed to contact Swale Borough Council, K.C.C. and possibly C.P.R.E. to discuss this issue. *Action: Cllr. Hunt*

Replacement of old Parish Lighting – Clerk has received a quote from KCC Highways to replace the 27 columns owned by the Parish Council. To replace this lighting with the same style columns as in the new areas of the village will cost £47259.71p, plus V.A.T., which the Parish Council can reclaim. Members asked the Clerk to put this on the Agenda for the Finance meeting at the end of this month. *Action: Clerk*

Village Hall – Frequent Users Standing Order Payments – Clerk advised that she has spoken to K.A.L.C. and under the Local Government Act, 1972, Parish Councils cannot set up standing order payments

Updates – Clerk advised that she has:

- ♦ Approached Royal Mail regarding the installation of a third post box in the village, her request has been acknowledged and she is awaiting a further response.
- ♦ Gone ‘round and round’ in her endeavours to get approval for roundabout sponsorship; at the present time a section within Swale Borough Council is blocking this.
- ♦ Contacted the Dog Warden and asked for one of the dog bins in the village park to be relocated to the green area in Fans Lane. The Dog Warden has promised to meet with the Clerk to look at a new initiative being trialled in Sheerness, ‘Green Dog Walking’, to see if this will alleviate dog fouling problems in the village.
- ♦ Contacted Highways and a report on the yellow lines requested for School Lane is going before the Local Transport Board Committee this month; if there are no objections it is hoped that this work will be put in hand at the beginning of the new financial year (April). County Cllr. Mike Whiting is also trying to help to get this actioned as soon as possible.
- ♦ Been informed that Iwade Health Centre has three doctors working at the practice, which now comes under the Minster Medical Centre. This information was reiterated by the Practice Manager in a recent newspaper report. Cllr. Hunt advised that Gordon Henderson, M.P., has received numerous complaints and become involved in this issue.

Members agreed that the Parish Council needs to know if a service is going to be provided for the residents of Iwade and instructed the Clerk to write to the PCT stating that the Council is aware of serious issues with Iwade Medical Centre and is concerned about its

future and the needs of the village, particularly as Iwade has a growing population.

Action: Clerk

5. Visitors/Public Time

Parishioners – A parishioner complained that his wife had tried to telephone the medical centre; there was no reply so she walked up there only to be told by the Receptionist that the telephone had been turned off!

Another parishioner queried whether there were three Doctors; one was ill and one was a locum who could not speak English. He has complained several times in writing to the practice but nothing ever gets done. On one visit he was told by the Doctor to make a further appointment in three weeks; however the Receptionist could not book it until he went back in to the Doctor, who then booked it. He went back for the appointment but the Doctor did not turn up (was sick) so he saw another Doctor who did not know why he had come and then could not trace his records. He returned to the surgery again this week only to find that another patient's notes were written on his notes. He has gone through the complaints procedure, but the surgery never responds. His illness means that he should have a regular blood test; he has not had one for the past six months.

Cllr. Hunt advised that there is a continuing discussion on 'Iwade does Facebook' (<https://www.facebook.com> – there are two conversations, with an over all total of 108 comments regarding Iwade Medical Centre. Many residents have been expressing their frustration and concern with the present service provided by the practice and many are now starting to complain to the PCT. As mentioned previously, Gordon Henderson, M.P., has become involved and has written to the PCT to ascertain the current situation.

Graham Arnold addressed the Council; he runs the Speedway Track in Iwade and is installing a football pitch, complete with changing room facilities. He is keen for clubs to use the pitch and anyone interested should e-mail him at oldgunsite@gmail.com.

County Councillor and Borough Councillors – Borough Cllr. Alan Willicombe apologised for his lack of attendance, due to the dates conflicting with other meetings. He still has £1000 left in his budget and has until the end of the current financial year to spend this. He referred to the recent edition 'Inside Swale', in connection with R.A.H.M. and confirmed that there will be no more homes built in Iwade during the period covered by the Core Strategy.

County Cllr. Mike Whiting has put in a request to Highways to inform him of the cost of installing four 20 mph speed signs. He mentioned the L.E.F. meeting on the 3rd April at the Wyvern Hall. There will be a presentation from Tesco and Morrisons, plus Iwade Village Hall appears on the Agenda (Cllr. Gregory will be attending to speak on this).

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – the report circulated by the Warden, regarding dog fouling, parking outside the School, parking problems in Cormorant Drive, fly-tipping and trading standards issues was noted by Members.

6. Finance

CPRE Membership 2012/13 – Proposed by Cllr. Gregory and seconded by Cllr. Phillips that the fee of £28 be paid for the Parish Council's membership of this organisation.

Village Website Surgery/Facebook – To be reviewed at a later date.

Action: Cllrs.

Equipment Repairs – School Lane Playing Field – Clerk advised that Hillreed Homes have confirmed that villagers will be able to use the field up to the end of the year. In light of this it was agreed to replace the worn swing seat.

Action: Clerk

Clerk’s Manual – Proposed by Cllr. Phillips and seconded by Cllr. Gregory, agreed the cost of £45 to purchase the updated version of this manual.

Fingerposts – Clerk advised that the Handyman has begun purchasing the equipment for the manufacture of the posts. He will be submitting separate invoices for this work to enable her to keep track of the payments deducted from the KCC grant of £4647.29p.

Cheques raised at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
14.03.12	1506	Action with Communities in Rural Kent	£35.00p
14.03.12	1507	Mrs. H. Foulds	£25.00p
14.03.12	1508	Wages	£470.84p
14.03.12	1509	L. Fisher	£26.75p
14.03.12	1510	Stiddard Maidstone	£30.00p
14.03.12	1511	PFL Electrical Limited	£338.10p
14.03.12	1512	Swale Borough Council	£100.28p
14.03.12	1513	Steve Wakeling (Fingerposts)	£234.99p
14.03.12	1514	Steve Wakeling	£226.96p
Nine cheques in total			

7. Swale RAHM (Core Strategy)

Cllr. Gregory and the Chairman attended a meeting at Swale Borough Council on Tuesday 13th March regarding the “Core Strategy Briefing – Bearing Fruits”. During the course of the discussion it was stated that Iwade will be spared major development, with some of the required housing being allocated to Minster in the Isle of Sheppey, and other housing planned for the strip of land near to Nicholls proposed development on the A249; both these proposals will have an impact on this already busy highway.

Cllr. Gregory informed Members that a public meeting to discuss the Core Strategy will be held at Bobbing Village Hall on the 25th March, commencing at 11.00 a.m.

8. Village Hall Updates

Cllr. Hunt, together with Cllr. Plumb and representatives from the Village Hall Committee, attended the meeting with Planning Officers at Swale Borough Council on the 9th February. Also present was Graeme Tuff, Swale’s Green Spaces Officer. As a result of this meeting further details regarding costs and the proposed new hall have now been submitted to the Planning Department, and he is now waiting to hear if the Officer’s report will be going to Swale’s Planning Committee meeting on the 29th March.

11. **Correspondence**

Proposal to review Kent County Councils Gypsy and Traveller Allocation Policy – Members agreed to go with the response prepared by K.A.L.C.

KCC Consultation: Development & Infrastructure - Creating Quality Places – Members agree to go with the response prepared by K.A.L.C.

Do you have an outdoor space you would like transforming? Get involved with a BBC programme – No suitable sites available within the village.

SBC Corporate Plan 2012-16 – Cllr. Plumb to read through and prepare a response to this document. *Action: Cllr. Plumb*

Future Library Services – The proposals will have no impact on the service Iwade receives.

12. **Planning**

SW/12/0243 – Proposed triple bay car barn to front of property – Hazel Lodge, Grovehurst Road, Iwade, ME9 8QZ – No objection.

SW/12/0158 – Single storey rear and side extension with room in roof space to side extension – 17 Helen Thompson Close, Iwade, ME9 8DW – No objection.

SW/12/0167 – Refurbishment and use of existing rail sidings and hard- standing infrastructure to provide for four rail sidings, hard-standing, associated facilities including new office building with welfare facilities, car park, circulatory roadway with two weighbridges, lighting and security fencing – SEP Ridham Dock Facility, Ridham dock, Iwade, ME9 8SR – No objection.

Appeal Ref: APP/V2255/D/11/2165290 – 1 Avocet Walk, Iwade, ME9 8WS – appeal allowed and planning permission granted for the erection of a picket fence to the front of the property.

SW/11/1552 – Lawful Development Certificate for the construction of a farm shop (Existing) – Basser Hill Farm, Basser Hill, Iwade ME9 8GY – Application withdrawn.

SW/11/1570 – Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed use or Development – rear conservatory - 17 Pintail Drive, Iwade, ME9 8QW – Permission approved.

SW/12/0013 – Stationing of portable cabin within yard area as a security shelter for a temporary period of 2 years - Stickfarm Farmhouse, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, ME9 8QP – Permission approved.

13. **Next Meeting**

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 11th April, 2012, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.