

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 10th October, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. Plumb -Chair
Cllr. J. Hunt
Cllr. P. Hyde
Cllr. M. Gale
Cllr. J. White

Nick Mayatt, Community Warden
13 Parishioners
Graeme Tuff, Green Spaces Officer, SBC
Lynda Fisher, Clerk

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Jones, Rook and Avron-Cotton; County Cllrs. Whiting and Willicombe and Borough Cllr. Stokes

The Chairman introduced Graeme Tuff, Swale Borough Council's Green Spaces Officer and explained that Graeme had come along to talk to the Council about a joint approach regarding the Park and nature trail and other recreational facilities within Iwade.

Graeme opened by commenting that there had been a number of projects within the Park area, including:

- planting trees for the Jubilee - the site for which has now been agreed;
- pond dipping platform – Graeme has now approved the quote for installation and Wards are ordering the equipment. He has also ordered the deep water signs and hopes these will be installed soon;
- pond cleaning – lead by the Environment Agency with assistance from villagers;
- the open space that is coming on as part of the current Ward's development.

With the Parish Council recently contacting him about grants offered by Cllrs. Whiting and Willicombe for older people's exercise equipment and the siting of this, he felt it would be beneficial to all to seek a co-ordinated approach to projects, to determine what falls within the confines of the Village Park; the nature trail or elsewhere within Iwade. He mentioned that as part of the Section 106 agreements with each Phase of development, a sum of money went to Swale Borough Council for open spaces/play equipment within Iwade; this pot now contains around £220,000! He suggested some of this money could go towards a bridge linking the two sections of the park and an exercise equipment/multi-use games area, which could be installed on School Lane playing field. He will ascertain exactly what this money can be spent on.

Cllr. Hunt raised the question of the Orchard and the grass and asked what is happening as regards cutting. Graeme responded that he is waiting for feed back (he has not received any comments as regards the proposed grass cutting), otherwise he is happy with the suggestions and will be implementing this; he added that Swale Borough Council (SBC) has no problem with this either.

The Chairman thanked Graeme for his input and Members agreed they will consider ideas for using the S.106 money referred to above.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – None.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 12th September, 2012 were proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Hyde; agreed by all and signed as a true transcript.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Diamond Jubilee Trees; Pond Dipping Platform; Older People’s Exercise Equipment - Updates – Cllr. Hyde is hoping that the trees will arrive in time to be planted on the 20th October, Village Clean up Day; the format of the plaque has now been agreed.

See previous comments made by Graeme Tuff regarding the Pond Dipping Platform and Exercise Equipment.

ROSPA Report on School Lane Playing Field/Village Hall Garden – update on progress – Clerk advised that the Village Handyman now has a copy of the report and has or will be implementing the replacement of the bolt and other minor remedial issues at School Lane Playing Field.

Cllr. Hunt has spoken to the Handyman regarding remedial action for the fungi infected tree in the hall garden. It has been agreed that the branches will be trimmed back and if the tree needs to be completely removed in the future PTES will arrange to have any Noble Chaffer Beetles removed and placed in a safe location. Steve will also infill any holes in the ground; repair the fencing and gate and will speak to the Village Hall Committee regarding repairs which relate to areas under their jurisdiction. *Action: Clerk*

Iwade Medical Centre Update – Cllr. Hunt has ascertained that a new management team, Fleet Health Care, will be running the centre for twelve months. He also understands that a Patient Group has been formed, but most patients have not heard of this, nor has the Parish Council received any details despite being promised that it would be kept informed of progress.

It was agreed to contact Bill Ronan, at Kent County Council, asking him to invite the PCT and others to attend the November meeting of the Parish Council. *Action: Clerk*

Village Clean up Day – arrangements to date – Clerk advised that Amanda Hurrell has kindly contacted the gentleman with the trailer, who will let us have use of this. She has e-mailed the leader of the Cubs, Scouts and Beavers, who usually help; arranged for litter-pickers and plastic sacks to be delivered and collected by Swale Borough Council. Supplies for refreshments are in hand. *Action: Clerk*

5. **Visitors/Public Time**

Parishioners – Reverend Partridge asked if the Parish Council was going to lay a wreath at the Remembrance Sunday service at the Church. As time is short, it was agreed that Cllr. Plumb would lay this on behalf of the Parish Council, with the suggested maximum expenditure of £50 being ratified at the meeting on the 14th November. *Action: Cllr. Plumb/Clerk*

Seven teenagers (one from Iwade) addressed the Parish Council seeking Members' support in their quest to obtain a Skateboard Park in the Sittingbourne area. Councillors explained that they have already explored this avenue, at the request of youngsters living in Iwade, but had been unable to find a suitable site. However, they recognised the need for this facility within Sittingbourne and understand that Swale Borough Council is seriously looking for a suitable site. It was agreed that the Parish Council will write to Swale Borough Council and County/Borough Councillors stating that the Council supports this request. The youngsters left their e-mail addresses for forwarding to Swale Borough Council, in order that they can be kept up to date on this matter. *Action: Clerk*

Representatives from Iwade Herons addressed the Council. The Club has been in existence for nearly 10 years and are looking to celebrate this next year. They now have eight teams playing in the league. They had been using School Lane Playing Field, but because of the development they have had to go away and hire pitches all over Sittingbourne. They asked about the pitch proposals at School Lane and commented that the natural progression is for them to have their own grounds, but this is very expensive. The club itself is very successful and well-known and on a positive note if they find a suitable site they will be eligible for grants. They will try and attend the monthly meetings to keep up to date on the new hall, pavilion and playing field.

County Councillor and Borough Councillors – Could not attend due Full Council meeting. However, Cllr. Stokes had submitted details on Street Naming, which were circulated to all Members.

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – Nick's report had been circulated to Members. He mentioned in particular the vandalism to the polycarbonate glazing recently installed in the new bus shelter. He will also report the broken gates in Woodpecker and Mansfield Drive.

6. Finance

Speed Watch Equipment – Clerk reported that Cllr. Willicombe has informed her that he has submitted an application for funding to pay for the required equipment, and that this will be ordered and sent direct to the Parish Council.

Replacement Padlock, School Lane Playing Field – Since placing this item on the Agenda it appears that someone has replaced the missing padlock. Clerk to try and ascertain who, as it opens using a code and no-one has this information. *Action: Clerk*

Quotes for replacement of old Parish Lighting – Clerk has received a further quote, but this does not include disconnection and reconnection of electrical supply. She will seek further quotes from other companies. *Action: Clerk*

Commemorative Plaque for Jubilee Trees – The design has now been agreed by Members; agreed to spend a maximum of £500 Clerk to contact companies for details of materials, etc.

Action: Clerk

Cheques signed at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
10.10.12	1566	Stiddard Kent Ltd	£15.00p
10.10.12	1567	PFL Electrical Limited	£121.92p

10.10.12	1568	L. Fisher	£536.88p
10.10.12	1569	L. Fisher – Expenses	£53.50p
10.10.12	1570	Steve Wakeling	£254.28p
10.10.12	1571	Swale Borough Council	£269.27p
Six cheques in total			

7. Correspondence

The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way County of Kent – Cllr. Hunt has now checked all the footpaths and has gone back to the Public Rights of Way Office with a couple of queries; the Clerk has given him some old maps to help with his investigations.

Action: Cllr. Hunt

KALC Response to Council Tax Base and funding for Local Precepting Authorities Consultation – response noted

KALC - Kent County Council Budget Consultation 2013/2014 – document noted.

KCC – Provision of Salt Bags for the winter – Clerk has been approached by KCC regarding the provision of salt bags, and having gained the approval of the Village Hall Committee to store the bags on their site, she has gone ahead and asked for these to be supplied.

8. Village Hall Update

All residents have been invited to a meeting on the 24th October, at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall, to look at the proposals, hear what Oliver Doubleday has to say on the project and put forward any comments/suggestions.

9. Play Equipment in Village Park

At the beginning of the meeting, whilst Graeme Tuff was present, Cllr. Hunt mentioned problems with the play equipment in the Village Park; one piece of equipment had bits sticking out of the rope and a few weeks ago someone fell off the climbing frame and broke their arm. It seems there is some confusion over the signage regarding suggested ages for using each piece of equipment. Graeme mentioned that it is only a suggested age as each child is different; take a climbing frame, a small built child that comes within the appropriate age range may be unable to cope with it; but a younger child outside of the appropriate age range, who is bigger built, may be able to confidently use the equipment. At the end of the day it is down to parents to decide if their child is capable of safely using any play equipment and to monitor that use. He further commented that although safety surfacing is installed it will not stop all injuries.

10. Vandalism to new Bus Shelter

When the new shelter was ordered glazing was not requested due the problem of vandalism. Residents came forward and complained and at a cost of over £230 (Polycarbonate, wood inserts, and labour) this was installed – the money to pay for this was raised by the precept, which comes out of everyone’s pockets! Now only a few weeks after installation the polycarbonate has obscene words scratched into it and the shelter itself has been written on with a permanent marker. An article will be placed in the Iwade Observer asking for residents to report anyone carrying out acts of vandalism.

Action: Cllr. Hunt/Clerk

11. Planning

SW/12/1107: – Alterations to Listed Building including insertion of new windows and stud partitions; new entrance doors and conservatory and construction of detached building (See also SW/12/1108 for Listed Building Consent) — Culnells Farm, School Lane, Iwade, ME9 8QJ- Agreed to write pointing out that due to the number of ponds in this area there is a low risk of Great Crested Newts (as mentioned by the Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group), but there is nothing in the application regarding this. The Parish Council requests that a Rapid Survey is carried out in the surrounding area before building takes place.

KCC/SW/0309/2012: – Construction and operation of a Materials Recycling Facility and Waste Transfer Station for commercial and industrial and municipal solid waste and ancillary staff and fleet vehicle parking, vehicle workshop, 2 x weighbridges, fuel tank, sprinkler tank, pump house, substation and improved access and office and welfare facility — SITA – Land within Ridham Dock, Iwade, ME9 8SR - Members raised no objection to this application but agreed to write stating that they note output materials from the facility will be by boat but seek assurance that as stated in the documentation materials for recycling coming into the site will be by way of the Ridham Dock Road, and that as stated by SITA this road will be the subject of improvements. Furthermore, as the site will be visible because the surrounding area is very flat, some sort of landscaping, perhaps a tree barrier, be put in place to soften the view from the adjacent Ramsar/SSSI site.

Members also asked the Clerk to write once again putting on record their deep concern that Ridham Dock is worryingly become an area for incinerators, Burners, metal fragmentation, concrete crushing, bottom ash recycling; MRFs, WTS; Gypsum manufacture/ recycling; wood recycling/shredding/stockpiles (Ridham has had several fires involving this material; if the stockpiles contain MDF the smoke is highly toxic); aggregate operations, asphalt/tarmac manufacture, etc., all located adjacent to the highly important Ramsar/SSSI sites. Adding that every time the Parish Council mentions its concern about the cumulative effect on the Ramsar/SSSI sites it is informed by Planning that they can only look at the individual application. Members feel it's about time someone started looking at the overall impact this industrial area is having on the highly sensitive protected adjacent site; there is no invisible barrier surrounding Ridham Dock to prevent dust, etc, from falling onto the surrounding land.

SW/12/0963: – Replacement dwelling and garage — Swaysdown Game Farm, 2 School Lane, Iwade, ME9 8QH: – Permission refused by Swale Borough Council

9. Other Matters Arising

Clerk advised that newly co-opted Cllr. Williams has resigned due to work commitments; she will now post the necessary advertisements for the Parish Councillor vacancy.

12. Next Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 14th November, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 09.50 p.m.