

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8 July 2020

MEETING HELD VIA ‘ZOOM’ DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Present:	Cllr. S. Cheeseman – Chair	Cllr. B. Smith
	Cllr. A. Dollimore - Vice-Chair	Cllr. S. Lancashire
	Cllr. P. Hyde	Cllr. P. De Fede
	Cllr. R. Langham	Lynda Fisher, Clerk

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the Zoom video conferencing meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Parish Cllrs. Whiting and Clark, County Cllr. Whiting and Borough Cllr. Woodford, the PCSO (who could not attend due to Kent Police not supporting the use of Zoom because of security) and the Community Warden.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations - None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Hyde, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11 March 2020 were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

4. Visitors/Public Time

Due to the restrictions on Zoom time, residents, County and Borough Councillors, PCSOs and Community Wardens were advised that they could attend as normal but, on this occasion, would not be able to speak; they were also invited to forward reports/questions to the Clerk beforehand.

1. Visitors – No visitors.

2. County and Borough Councillors – County Cllr. Whiting written report - County Cllr. Whiting's report advised - I start by offering my sincere thanks to everyone who is volunteering or helping in whatever way they can to look after their communities. While lockdown might be easing, it is vital we maintain vigilance and many people are still in need of help.

KCC has created more slots at the Sittingbourne recycling centre and is offering more slots to each household. This is be welcomed. Also, it is going to start unlocking libraries soon, again in a phased way, more details when I get them.

The county council put £100,000 into supporting the Coronavirus helpline for businesses. In the past couple of months, it has taken nearly 9,000 calls from businesses seeking advice and help. The service offers one to one support. As a result of this success and ongoing demand, KCC is investing another £100,000 to keep this much valued service going for a further three months. Businesses wanting help can call 03333 602300. Also, KCC will reopen the Kent and Medway Business Fund, with £6m to help Kent businesses at the present time. This is a recyclable fund which is using money repaid from previous business loans. The fund was closed to new applications at the start of the 30 June 2020 pandemic, but will now offer some 6-year interest free loans to help Kent business recover and grow.

The government wrote recently to local authorities asking them for “shovel ready” infrastructure plans that required funding to help kickstart the economy. KCC has provided a list over £150m worth of projects, plus a £90m ask for more rolling stock on the heavily congested hi-speed trains that run

through Sittingbourne. It is vital we put infrastructure first and I await the government's response with interest. Locally, the Key Street works start next week, and details have been widely circulated.

Several developers have proposed sites for development in response to Swale Council's call for sites. Clearly, some will fail, but others might succeed and make their way into Swale's new local plan. Meanwhile, other developers are not waiting for a new Local Plan and putting in speculative proposals. If approved and built, then I return to my previous point, and something that is a mantra of mine at KCC, it must be infrastructure first.

Resurfacing of pavements and roads in the Division will commence soon, if it has not already started, and this represents part of a massive investment by KCC in road repairs.

Regarding burning of rubbish and other activities at Raspberry Hill Farm; I have raised this with Swale and am pleased the Environment Agency has now engaged. I understand a meeting took place last Monday between agencies to find a way forward and that plans are underway to stop any illegal activity on the site. I will be requesting an update this week and will share when I get it.

3. **Community Warden/PCSO** – the Community Warden written report - During Covid-19 and lockdown our team has been helping with delivering food parcels and visiting vulnerable people highlighted by social services and community safety unit in swale Borough Council. I understand in Iwade anti-social behaviour has been high. I will be able to start working out of hours again of as of next week and will be arranging late shifts with the PCSO to try and tackle this. I know crime reports have gone in and Kent Police are dealing with this. As businesses start opening again, together with the PCSO I will start up some outside surgeries to talk to residents and councillors about concerns in the area. I will still be looking into youth programs for next year, but it will be difficult.

The PCSO written report –Verbal threats made to a member of the public – crime report taken. Verbal comments made to a disabled person – crime report taken. Males reported near vehicles in Sanderling Way, suspected of trying to break in – patrols attended and spoke to two males who matched the description. No offences discovered. There has been a rise in anti-social behaviour in the village since lockdown measures have eased. Kent Police received numerous calls about youths shouting, swearing and challenging members of the public during June. There have also been a few reports of criminal damage. As much as we have been able, we have been attending these reports, talking to victims and suspects alike. Home visits are being conducted with the aim to educate and advise, and crime reports have been taken where possible. I know the Parish Council are aware, but please could villagers be reminded again that any form of ASB or criminal damage should be reported to Kent Police via 999 if it is happening at the time, or via the non-emergency form on the Kent Police website (or by calling 101) if it is discovered later. Unfortunately, some villagers are still only resorting to reporting incidents via social media. Management at the fishing lake/reservoir at the top of School Lane has reported a number of incidents of youths swimming in the lake during the recent hot weather. Patrols have attended as much as possible, and have moved people on, but the danger is that the lake is very deep, and the water is very cold. CCTV has been installed by the lake and new signage has been put up, and patrols will continue to conduct random foot patrols when they can.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The March items will be rolled over to the next meeting due to time constraints.

Action: Clerk

6. Planning

1. **20/501870/FULL:** Erection of a storage building to side of main barn: Iwade Barn 20 All Saints Close Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8FP – no comments.
2. **20/502497/EIASCO:** Scoping Opinion for Proposed development of approximately 2,500 dwellings, a new primary school, c.9ha of commercial floor space, c.4ha of community uses and c.1ha of local retail provision on land at Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent: Land At Bobbing Kent ME9 8QL – agreed to respond - Iwade Parish Council reserves the right to comment when a detailed application is received.

3. **20/502385/FULL:** For the erection of 8 dwellings, together with access from Ferry Road, parking and landscaping, following the demolition of the existing building: Iwade Village Hall The Street Iwade Kent ME9 8RG - Cannot comment on this as this is a Parish Council application.
4. **20/502568/FULL:** 2 Bittern Road Iwade Kent ME9 8FR: Erection of a single storey rear extension – no objections.
5. **20/502761/FULL:** Conversion of integral garage into a habitable space: 52 Cormorant Road Iwade Kent ME9 8WP – agreed to respond - The Parish Council asks that assurance be given that there will be no reduction in parking spaces and no static caravans be permitted to park on the driveway, which in turn will reduce the parking area.

7. Correspondence

1. **Consultation of Draft Street Trading Policy** – Noted.

8. Finance

1. Approval of the Annual Return, 2019/20

- a) Section 1. Annual Governance Statement - Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Langham, each section agreed by the Parish Council; to be signed by the Chair and the Clerk.
- b) Section 2. Accounting Statements, 2019/20 – Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, figures agreed by Parish Council, Section 2 to be signed by the Chair, having been already signed by the Responsible Financial Officer when completing the form.

2. **Financial Risk Assessment** – Proposed by Cllr Langham and seconded by Cllr. Dollimore; agreed and adopted.

3. **Statement of Internal Control** - Proposed by Cllr Langham and seconded by Cllr. Dollimore; agreed and adopted.

4. **SLCC Subscription 2020/21** – Proposed by Cllr Langham and seconded by Cllr. Hyde; agreed to reimburse Bobbing Parish Council 50% of the subscription for 2020/21, £101. **Action: Clerk**

5. **Request for Donation 1st Iwade Cubs and Beavers** – Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Dollimore; agreed the donation of £1000. **Action: Clerk**

6. **Request for Donation 1st Iwade Brownies** – Proposed by Cllr. Hyde and seconded by Cllr Langham; agreed the donation of £1000. **Action: Clerk**

7. **Request for Donation Iwade Women's Institute** – Proposed by Cllr Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Langham; agreed the donation of £350. **Action: Clerk**

8. **Request for Donation Men's Breakfast Club Iwade Barn** – Proposed by Cllr. Langham and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire; agreed the donation of £500. **Action: Clerk**

9. **Request for Donation Iwade Parent and Toddler Group** – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Smith; agreed the donation of £600. **Action: Clerk**

10. **Changing Bank** – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Smith: in light of difficulties with NatWest Bank and their inability to provide the required service; agreed to move the Parish Council's Bank accounts to Unity Trust Bank. **Action: Clerk**

11. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Langham agreed the following cheques and accounts to the 30 June 2020:

Date	Chq.	Details		Amount
08.04.20	2178	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax due for March	£302.77p
08.04.20	2179	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax due for April	£305.97p

08.04.20	2180	McCabe Ford Williams	Quarterly Payroll Preparation	£40.68p
08.04.20	2181	Swale Borough Council	Printing Iwade Observer 2019/20	£2943.68p
08.04.20	2182	Iwade Village Hall	Hall hire Jan to March 2020	£65.25p
08.04.20	2183	Sittingbourne Community First Responders	S.137 Donation	£80.00p
08.04.20	2184	Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance	S.137 Donation	£200.00p
08.04.20	2185	C.P.R.E.	Subscription 2020/21 cancelled – lost in post	£36.00p
08.04.20	2186	A. Dollimore	Mileage - Visit to Gala Lights, Maidstone	£13.50p
08.04.20	2187	K.A.L.C.	Subscription 2020/21	£1284.22p
05.05.20	2188	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Replacement for damaged February cheque	£302.97p
05.05.20	2189	McCabe Ford Williams	End of year payroll preparation	£38.04p
05.05.20	2190	Came & Company	Premium 2020/21	£1298.95p
05.05.20	2191	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax May	£305.97p
08.07.20	2192	L. Fisher	Expenses: March to June incl. – Telephone, office use, 1 st & 2 nd stamps, 12 ink cartridges, stationery	£120.24p
08.07.20	2193	H.M. Revenue and Customs	Tax June	£305.97p
08.07.20	2194	Steve Wakeling	Handyman duties April to 9 June	£518.00p
08.07.20	2195	Steve Wakeling	Repairs to Village Hall Car Park Surface	£590.00p
08.07.20	2196	KCC	Attachment to Street Lighting Fee 2020	£102.00p
08.07.20	2197	GDPR-info Ltd	Data Protection Officer Services	£420.00p
08.07.20	2198	C.P.R.E.	Subscription 2020/21 to replace lost cheque 2185	£36.00p

Twenty-One cheques in total

Other outgoings during month:

Staff Wages March	£1219.54p	Paid by Standing Order
Staff Wages April	£1214.34p	Paid by Standing Order
Staff Wages May	£1219.54p	Paid by Standing Order
Staff Wages June	£1214.34p	Paid by Standing Order
Eon: Energy Supply, Street Lighting	£74.78p	Paid by Direct Debit
Eon: Energy Supply, Street Lighting	£72.37p	Paid by Direct Debit
Eon: Energy Supply, Street Lighting	£74.78p	Paid by Direct Debit
Countrystyle Hire of 110 Ltr. Envirobin	£34.27p	Paid by Direct Debit
Countrystyle Hire of 110 Ltr. Envirobin	£34.27p	Paid by Direct Debit
Countrystyle Hire of 110 Ltr. Envirobin	£51.41p	Paid by Direct Debit
Invicta IT Solutions 12 Microsoft 365 Mailboxes	£54.72p	Paid by Standing Order
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Paid In:

Swale B.C. Precept 1st Instalment	£25739.00p	Paid by BACs
Swale B.C. Lighting Grant 1st Instalment	£500.00p	Paid by BACs

9. Projects – Updates on Current and New

1. Festive Lights – Proposed by Cllr Dollimore and seconded by Cllr. Lancashire, agreed the quote of £16725 from Gala Lights, for the purchase of 15 new festive lights and infrastructure; a 3D Cone Tree and 3D Star; re-arranging brackets to mix up new and old designs; installation, take down and storage of all lighting fixtures. **Action: Clerk**

10. Village Hall Site

The Covid-19 Lockdown resulted in several Members with health issues having to go into isolation, no Council meetings and the Iwade observer not being published; it was impossible to advise residents of the possible proposals for a new village hall. Swale Council validated the Planning Application for the old

hall site much quicker than normal; which caused some confusion in the village and as a result of this a joint statement, from the Parish Council and Hall Committee, was issued and placed on the Village Facebook Page. Members agreed that this joint statement, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes, should be placed in the next edition of the Iwade Observer so that all villagers are aware of the history, the hoped-for new hall and proposals for the old hall site. Within the statement residents will be made aware that if this goes ahead, hirers of the old hall will carry on using it up until the time the new hall opens, when they will switch to the new building.

Action: Clerk

11. Reports from Representatives

1. Hall – during the Lockdown, the hall has only been used by Tinkerbells for Key Worker children; other users have had their hire feed refunded for this period. In the Summer holidays the internal doors will be fitted, and the hall Committee await the Government advice as regards re-opening to all.
2. KALC – nothing to report

12. Any Other Matters Arising - None

13. Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday 12 August 2020, commencing at 7.30 pm, due to Covic-19 restrictions venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.