

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8th February, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. Plumb – Chairman
Cllr. J. Hunt
Cllr. S. Harris
Cllr. R. Jones
Cllr. J. White

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes
Community Warden, Nick Mayatt
9 Parishioners
1 Representative from the Press

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed Members and Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Gregory, Phillips, Hyde and Avron-Cotton and Borough Cllr. Willicombe.

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr. White in item SW/11/1538 – under Planning.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Proposed by Cllr. Harris and seconded by Cllr. Jones, the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11th January, 2012, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Plumb, the Minutes of the Planning meeting held on the 11th January, 2012, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Plumb, the Minutes of the Planning meeting held on the 28th January, 2012, were agreed by Members and signed as a true transcript.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Village Park/Pond – Cllr. Hunt has spoken to Kent Reptiles and Amphibian Group (KRAG) who are visiting the village on the 28th April to undertake a Great Crested Newt survey on all ponds in the area. Six volunteers from the village have come forward to take part in the survey, and following this the village team will then be able to use KRAG's licence to look at the ponds at any time.

Roundabout Sponsorship – Swale Borough Council and has suggested a contact at KCC Highways, whom the Clerk will pursue and report back at the next meeting. *Action: Clerk*

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trees – A meeting will take place on Friday 17th February, with Graeme Tuff, Swale Borough Council, to discuss the location of the trees.

Cllr. Hyde's suggestion of asking the nursery for an invoice (which can be submitted to Knauf for payment) and then accepting delivery of the trees in March was agreed.

Clerk to e-mail Councillors and the Village Hall Committee to explore the feasibility of setting up a small Committee to look at the tree planting ceremony and ways of tying this in with other celebrations. Clerk to submit Swale BC's 'Application for Hire of Parks and Open Spaces' form once there is a clear indication of events. *Action: Clerk/Cllrs Hyde and Hunt*

Tree/Hedgerow Survey – Postponed until the March meeting. *Action: Cllr. Hunt*

5. Visitors/Public Time

Parishioners – Detailed plans relating to the Hillreed application - **SW/11/1537** – Approval of all reserved matters, pursuant to outline permission SW/08/1127, for erection of 187 dwellings on part of the site at Coleshall Farm, Sheppey Way, Iwade, ME9 8QG – were on display prior to the Parish Council meeting. This application relates to the section of land surrounding School Lane Playing Field.

Residents raised concerns relating to:

- The extra pressure on utilities (there are water pressure problems in the nearby Hillreed homes; Orchard Edge).
- How many car parking spaces have been allocated per household and visitor parking?
- How can covenants placed on the properties be enforced?
- Is the existing bridge (and trash screen) going to be made a public right of way?
- The bridge is unsafe, will it be improved?
- At the presentation 3/4 years ago a wildlife corridor was shown between the old and new developments and residents were told that this would remain. This does not appear to be the case and residents would like this promise to be honoured and for a wildlife corridor to be in situ, the same as previous new developments within the village.
- Consideration be given to not placing higher properties adjacent to existing bungalows – it was noted, however that with the current application the developers had taken this concern into account.
- Concern at the increased traffic, the affect this will have on School Lane junction and the safety of children accessing the school.
- Will the bus route include the new development?
- Concern at lack of school places – the primary school is almost full and there is a shortage of secondary places.

County Councillor and Borough Councillors – Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes has contacted Graeme Tuff, Swale B.C., regarding football problems in Stangate Drive. A solution is to plant shrubs, but these can only be put in at certain times of the year.

Borough Cllr. Stokes has spoken to Swale B.C. regarding the traveller caravans near the A249 slip road. Officers visited the residents and advised that they need to apply for planning permission – this has not yet been submitted.

Cllr. Stokes has received a letter regarding Nicholls Transport's relocation. He has been advised that we can expect 250 traffic movements per day to and from the new site.

Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – During the course of the month, Nick visited Happy Days Nursery and chatted to the children about his role in the village; spoke to residents in Dunlin Walk and The Waterway regarding dog fouling and asked them to contact him if they spot a person not cleaning up after their pets. He has contacted KCC regarding the faulty traffic lights in Ferry Road and been monitoring the road closure at The Street.

6. Finance

Replacement of old Parish Lighting – Members agreed in principle to look at a rolling programme of replacing the old parish lighting. Clerk is seeking a quote from KCC Highways to ascertain the approximate cost of this project. *Action: Clerk*

Interim Audit – Members noted the interim audit report from David Buckett and were particularly pleased to read his comment “What a difference from the previous year, the Council can give itself a pat on the back”.

Fingerposts – Clerk advised that £4647.29p (a grant supported by County Cllr. Mike Whiting) has been paid into the Council's bank account by KCC. This is money is for the manufacture/replacement of the existing fingerposts. The work will be carried out by the Village Handyman and it was proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Hunt that the funds be released upon production of invoices by him.

Salt Bins – Proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Hunt; agreed the expenditure of £241.69p for the supply of 3 salt bins. It was noted that after the first two fills the Parish Council will need to pay £20.01p per bin, per fill.

Village Hall – Frequent Users Standing Order Payments – As the Parish Council occasionally needs to book extra sessions for use of the hall it was agreed that the Clerk will discuss payments with the Hall Treasurer. *Action: Clerk*

Action with Rural Communities in Kent Membership 2012/13 – Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Harris – agreed to pay the £35 membership fee.

SLCC Conference – 28th March 2012 – Proposed by Cllr. Hunt and seconded by Cllr. Jones - agreed to book 2 places, at a cost of £65 per person (membership fee), plus V.A.T., which is reclaimable.

Repairs to Faulty Lamp column o/s 10 Springvale – Proposed by Cllr. Harris and seconded by Cllr. Jones – agreed the sum of £281.75p, plus V.A.T. (reclaimable) to provide a new lantern for this faulty column.

Cheques raised at this meeting:

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
08.02.12	1501	David Buckett	£212.40p

08.02.12	1502	Steve Wakeling	£200.00p
08.02.12	1503	Wages	£470.84p
08.02.12	1504	L. Fisher	£31.74p
08.02.12	1505	PFL Electrical Limited	£261.60p
Five cheques in total			

7. Swale RAHM (Core Strategy)

Members noted the letter circulated by Cllr. Gregory requesting views on the hopes and plans for the parish in the future and how we would like the Borough Council to help meet them in the new local plan.

A letter has been received from Swale Borough Council inviting 3 members to attend a briefing on the Core Strategy. Agreed Cllrs. Plumb and Hunt attend. *Action: Clerk*

8. Village Hall Updates

Cllr. Hunt informed that the reason this application has not been presented to Swale Borough Council's Planning Committee is because Officers are now asking for further details. The Clerk has arranged a meeting with Officers James Freeman and Jim Wilson on the 9th February and the outcome Cllr. Hunt will report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: Cllr. Hunt

9. Crime and Security – there has been an increase in crime within the village. Clerk to contact Neighbourhood Watch to see if we can take any course of action. *Action: Clerk*

Post Boxes – Clerk to contact Royal Mail to see if it is possible to have a post box installed in Teal Way. *Action: Clerk*

10. Iwade Health Centre

Following concerns expressed by Parishioners, Councillors instructed the Clerk to ascertain who has taken over the Health Centre (it originally came under the PCT) and how many permanent Doctors work there. Parishioners are unhappy with locum Doctors and having to wait a long time for appointments. *Action: Clerk*

11. Correspondence

P.C.S.O – Clerk has been advised that a reorganisation is being carried out and at the present time Iwade does not have a P.C.S.O.

12. Planning

2. SW/11/1537 – Approval of all reserved matters, pursuant to outline permission SW/08/1127, for erection of 187 dwellings on part of the site – Coleshall Farm, Sheppey Way, Iwade, ME9 8QG. – Members considered this application and raised the following objections/comments:

- To include salt bins (this is recommended by Highways), sited as appropriate.

- Whole site to be 20 mph to the gateway, with signage.
- Priority signage on School Lane traffic calming areas.
- Object to the location of apartments at the boundary abutting on to existing dwellings in Mansfield Drive.
- Restrictions on parking on the roads because of emergency vehicular access.
- Insufficient Visitor parking.
- The need to include improvements to the wooden bridge, which is structurally unsound, crossing the stream. Residents would like to see this as an established footpath, but in its present state it is unsafe to use.
- No vehicles to use School Lane during the construction stage.
- Wheel washing facilities on site to prevent mud on the highway.
- When working on School Lane (traffic calming, etc.) what provision will be made to allow access to properties at the end of this road?
- Along the boundary to Coleshall Cottages will the ground level be higher because of the water table?
- There is a need for an attenuation pond – surface water cannot go into the stream due to flooding issues.
- During times of prolonged heavy rain the ground becomes saturated and water runs off the playing field, flooding adjacent properties in Springvale– what measures will be put in place to prevent this?
- Properties in the adjacent Hillreed development already suffer from water pressure problems; will services such as water, gas and electricity be improved to accommodate this extra housing and not put added pressure on existing facilities?
- Concern that the increase in housing within the village will put added pressure on the existing primary school, whose roll is almost full.
- Concern that there are already insufficient secondary places within Sittingbourne. Money is being released for education through the 106 Agreements, but what action is being taken to remedy this situation?

In the response to Swale Borough Council (Planning) to add in the following general comments:

- What is the current rule regarding parking spaces per household?
- At the exhibition sometime ago, when residents were able to view these proposals, a wildlife corridor was promised to the rear of properties in the Orchard Edge development (Hillreed). Residents are concerned that looking at the current plans there is no sign of this corridor. Residents further commented that this has been provided at the edge of other developments within the village and want assurance that the promised wildlife corridor will exist.
- When the second phase is planned, will provision be made for low level housing, e.g. bungalows, to be sited near to existing bungalows? The Parish Council is pleased to note that Hillreeds have taken this into account in this phase.

SW/11/1538 – Minor amendment application to SW/09/0756 to vary condition 32 by substituting drawings to make slight revision to layout, resulting in substitution of 4 larger houses with 8 smaller units – creating a net increase of four additional units within the existing permitted development site. – Parcel 8 (Land east of Woodpecker Drive and Helen Thompson Close), Iwade, ME9 8DW – members raised the following objections:

- Not in keeping with the surrounding houses and will not sit well with the adjacent nature park.
- Parking issues – lack of parking for properties and no visitor parking, could result in ad hoc parking in this area causing access problems for emergency vehicles.
- Increase in housing density.

SW/12/0013 – Stationing of portable cabin within yard area as a security shelter for a temporary period of 2 years – Stickfast Farmhouse, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Kent, ME9 8QP – no objection.

13. Next Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 14th March, 2012, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 09.50 p.m.