

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 14th July, 2009

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr. D. Manning (Chairman)	Clerk
	Cllr. D. White (Vice Chairman)	PCSO Lyndsey Woods
	Cllr. P. Wilks	County Cllr. Mike Whiting
	Cllr. A. Hurrell	County Cllr. Alan Willicombe
	Cllr. J. Gregory	Cllr. Ben Stokes
		Francis Fields - Groundwork
		2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies**

Cllr J. White due to work commitments, Cllr. Fearn due to illness.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Gregory declared an interest in the St. Regis Paper Mill item, under Planning.

3. **Minutes of the previous Meetings**

Agreed with the following amendment: Item 8, paragraph 2, should read School Mews.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

ROSPA Report on School Lane Playing Field – following ROSPA’s report Cllr Hurrell has inspected the area and it was agreed that the two baby swing seats will be taken down and replaced. Clerk to order the new seats and request the Handyman to remove the old ones.

Action: Clerk

Bus Shelter, Grovehurst Road/Seat – Swale B.C. will look at installing the seat in the VillageCentre play area, but would like further details before a decision is made. Barrett Homes have asked if the Parish Council will store the seat as they are relocating their Sittingbourne depot. The Chairman agreed to store it until a site has been found; Clerk to arrange with Barretts.

Action: Clerk and Chairman

Gate/Sign at Village Entrance/Bushes/Weight Restriction Signs – Clerk has been informed by K.C.C. Highways that the gateway adjacent to the Medical Centre will not be reinstated at the present time as it is due to be moved (this is linked to the proposed Hillreeds development).

K.C.C. Highways have issued orders to the owners to cut back the bushes in The Street (near to the pub) and the corner of School Lane/The Street (the Village Centre).

Following the recent confusion over weight restrictions signs, the Clerk has checked with K.C.C. Highways and it has been confirmed that all signs are present in their correct location. The Clerk has received a copy of the Order and a map showing the location of the signs from PCSO Woods.

Litter Bins/Graffiti Buster - Clerk has contacted Anne Ryman who has promised to supply details of the location of litter bins and frequency of emptying. Cllr. Stokes has spoken to Anne about obtaining more litter bins for the village – Cllr. Derek White suggested siting one next to the new bus stop in Grovehurst road and another outside the village hall.

Anne Ryman has confirmed that the Graffiti Buster team still visits Iwade; if details of problem areas are passed to the Clerk, she in turn can give Anne a list for the team.

Action: Clerk

Southern Water – no progress to date on arranging a meeting despite chasing this firm.

Action: Clerk

Iwade Broadband Committee – Cllr. Gregory recalled the last Parish council meeting when it was agreed that a loan of £50 be granted to the Committee for the cost of printing the questionnaires. She apologised and stated that this amount should have been £150, plus £10 for collection boxes. These new figures were proposed by Cllr. Derek White and seconded by Cllr. Hurrell – agreed.

5. Visitors/Public Time

Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes – nothing to report at the moment, although he did mention that he has been allocated £2,000 for community projects, which means Iwade could be eligible for £1,000 if it has a suitable project in mind.

County Cllrs. Mike Whiting and Alan Willicombe were welcomed by the Parish Council, as this is their first meeting at Iwade since being elected. The Councillors mentioned that they each have £10,000 grant money that K.C.C. is allowed to hand out and that at the moment there is only one call on this money. There is also £25,000 available for highway issues, which is applied for on a bid basis and has to go through the normal procedure for highways expenditure; this is extra to any planned spending. Highways funding can be applied for year on year, rolling over until the Parish council has enough money to carry out a project. Cllr. Hurrell asked if the Parish Council came up with a scheme, how long would it be until it came to fruition. Cllr. Whiting replied that it would be submitted to the Highways Officer, followed by a feasibility study and then if agreed the money would be allocated.

PCSO Lyndsey Woods – made reference to weight restrictions and areas covered. She commented that if required a bid can be made for the bike team to come and monitor lorry movements through the village.

PACT is coming up to the end of the three months and has done really well. With regards to parking issues in Iwade, they are looking to fine offenders who park on pavements. They would also like to hold a police surgery on School Lane Recreation Ground one weekend; Councillors had no problem with this but they will need to check with Iwade Herons who use the field.

Residents referred to the proposal for a second Incinerator at Kemsley Mill and the recent public meeting arranged by St. Regis and EDF Energy. Members listened to the views put forward but were unable to comment as at the present time they have only received the Scoping Report. Once a planning application has been lodged with K.C.C. the Parish Council will be able to put forward its views and those of the parishioners. The Chairman did promise that at the appropriate time the Parish Council will hold a public meeting to hear parishioners' views.

There has been some confusion over the fast food outlet located in the village centre. The Parish Council did not object to the applications; objections were made by Swale Borough Council.

The question of allotments was raised. Under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908, if written representation is made by 6 residents of the parish to Swale Borough Council, they must take such representation into consideration. It would appear that this number has been reached and Cllr. Stokes has sent a letter to Andy Jeffers regarding a 106 Agreement for allotments.

6. Finance

Flowers for pinch points – Cllr. Hurrell's request to purchase plants for this area was approved.

Church Flower Festival – approved the sum of £32 for the purchase of flowers by Sylvia O'Shea for a floral display which was kindly created by Jean Stockley on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cheques raised at this meeting:

Chq.	Date	Payable to	Amount
1223	14.07.09	Amanda Hurrell (Village clean up/Strawberry Fair)	£22.71p
1224	14.07.09	Sylvia O'Shea (Church Flower Festival)	£32.00p
1225	14.07.09	K.C.C. (School La. Playing Field – half year A/c)	£950.43p
1226	14.07.09	Lynda Fisher (Wages June – 5 weeks)	£400.57p
1227	14.07.09	Inland Revenue (June Tax)	£107.58p
1228	14.07.09	Stiddard Forbes (June)	£7.75p
1229	14.07.09	K.A.L.C. (Charles Arnold Baker Book)	£59.00p
1230	14.07.09	Lynda Fisher (Ink Cartridge)	£10.00p
1231	14.07.09	D. Wastall (boxes for Broadband questionnaire)	£9.79p
1232	14.07.09	Atlantic Print (Broadband questionnaires)	£150.00p
Ten cheques in total			

7. Correspondence

Kent Air Ambulance – have written seeking a site within the village to house a textile bank. Regrettably the Parish Council does not own land suitable for this use. Clerk to reply to Kent Air Ambulance, suggesting that they contact the Woolpack Public House to see if they can accommodate a textile bank within their site.

Action: Clerk

‘Somewhere to Live: Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling People in the South East’ – Cllr. Hurrell agreed to go through this document and report back to the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr. Hurrell

8. **Litter**

The Chairman put forward the suggestion that the Parish Council approach those organisations within the village that we fund, requesting that they set aside one or two days per year for litter picking. Proposed by the Chairman, Cllr. Manning, and seconded by Cllr. Derek White – agreed.

Action: Clerk

9. **Parish Councillor Vacancy**

Clerk instructed to write inviting both candidates to attend the August meeting.

Action: Clerk

10. **Village Handyman**

The Chairman introduced Steve Wakeling, the new Village Handyman. His appointment was proposed by the Chairman, Cllr. Manning, and seconded by Cllr. Derek White.

To assist the Handyman the Parish Council will approach the Village Hall Committee seeking permission to place a brown wheelie bin for green waste in the gated area to the rear of the hall.

Action: Clerk & Cllr. Hurrell

He will normally work 5 hours per week, at a rate of £9 per hour, but for the first 2 months of his employment his hours will be double to bring the village up to ‘scratch’. Councillors agreed that all work requests should go through the Clerk.

11. **Community Orchard Project**

Francis Fielding from Groundwork (an organisation that works with people to improve their quality of life) introduced herself to the Parish Council. She had been invited to the meeting by Cllr. Hurrell to outline the organisation’s part in the Community Orchard Project which had previously been raised by Graham Tuff from Swale Borough Council.

In liaison with Graham Tuff, they are looking at a project in Iwade which will regenerate the orchard to the rear of the village park; land that will be released with the next phase of Barrett Homes development. They have already obtained a grant of £7,000 from the National Trust, which they have accepted, and are looking to raise additional funding from other bodies. They would also look for a financial commitment from the Parish Council.

The project incorporates bringing the old orchard back to life; saving what trees they can; planting new and providing a habitat for wildlife, which includes the Great Chafer Beetle. They will train people to maintain the orchard, with the resulting produce being sold and the money ploughed back into the village, or for villagers use. The orchard can also be used by families for leisure purposes. Groundwork would project manage all of this and the Parish Council would be involved all the way through.

Cllr. Wilks pointed out that the Village Park has not yet been handed over to Swale Borough Council – this matter has been outstanding for 8 years now. Clerk to write to the Solicitor at Swale Borough Council requesting that the land is handed over as a matter of urgency, or for legal action to be taken.

Action: Clerk

The Chairman proposed that the matter be deferred until the Parish Council has more facts and the land is in the ownership of the Borough Council.

Members thanked Francis for attending the meeting and outlining the Community Orchard Project.

12. **Planning**

St. Regis Paper Mill /Edf Energy Scoping Report (Waste Incinerator at Kemsley Mill). The response to the Scoping Report was noted by Members.

APP/V2255/A/09/2095244/WF – Appeal By Brian McCourt, 2 Woodpecker drive, Iwade – Inspector’s Decision – noted.

APP/V2255/A/09/2101647/NWF – Change of Use of part of former gun site for external storage portable/demountable fencing and barriers, with associated parking – Land adjoining Marshbank Industrial Estate, Raspberry Hill Road, Iwade – appeal date noted.

SW/09/0384 - Change Of Use To Open Amenity Land To Private Amenity Space And Erection Of A 1.86m High Fence - 16 Woodpecker Drive, Iwade, ME9 8ST - no objection if no longer amenity land; this point needs to be checked by Swale Borough Council.

13. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council takes place on Tuesday 11th August, 2009, at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.