

## **IWADE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

**Present:** Cllr. R. Jones – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. J. White  
Cllr. J. Hunt  
Cllr. S. Harris  
Cllr. P. Hyde  
Cllr. R. Rook

Lynda Fisher, Clerk  
Nick Mayatt, Community Warden  
4 Parishioners

Prior to the monthly meeting the Vice-Chair, Cllr. Jones, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr. Plumb, welcomed Tasha Gibbs, Emergency Planning Assistant at Kent County Council to the meeting.

Tasha explained that she is part of a team running training sessions on flooding in Kent, and as a follow on to this training she is offering to assist Parish Councils in creating their own Emergency Plan. She went on to comment that although the programme was concerning flooding, and this was of concern to resident in Iwade due to the stream, if an Emergency Plan is created it can cover other incidents, such as fire affecting many properties, as well.

Some of the things the Parish Council needs to consider and build into their plan is to identify a key building - somewhere for evacuated people to find refuge; escape routes - roads might be blocked; liaison with the main Emergency Services and others - this will involve the creation of a telephone tree; medical assistance, blankets, food, water; the list goes on. Kent County Council has produced a template and guidance document for creating an Emergency Plan

The Vice-Chair thanked Tasha for her input and for taking the time to attend this meeting.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Vice-Chair welcomed Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Plumb (Chair), Cllr. Phillips, County Cllr. Whiting and PCSO Harris.

**3. Declarations of Interest – None.**

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, were agreed by all Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. Rook and seconded by Cllr. Jones, the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012, were agreed by all Members and signed as a true transcript.

Proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Jones, the Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, were agreed by all Members and signed as a true transcript.

## 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

**Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trees** – The Clerk has chased KCC regarding the site visit to look at the new proposed location for the trees; she has received a telephone call from an Officer advising that they are still awaiting receipt of details concerning the search for services in this area. She will continue to pursue this matter. *Action: Clerk*

**Replacement of Old Parish Lighting** – Report still awaited from Cllr. Phillips. This item to be placed on the August Agenda. *Action: Clerk*

**D.S. Smith Community involvement; Pond Dipping Station** – Both the Clerk and Cllr. Hunt have tried to contact Mark Steadman regarding the proposal for a pond dipping platform, but have received no response to their e-mails. It was suggested that the Clerk writes to Mark Steadman again. *Action: Clerk*

Wards have also offered to supply a Pond Dipping Station, but will not install it. Cllr. Hunt suggested discussing this at the August meeting with developers, Swale B.C., Iwade Nature Conservation Group and others, who are going to discuss the nature conservation area.

*Action: Cllr. Hunt*

**Green Dog Walking Scheme** – Clerk advised that she has spoken to the Dog Warden and passed on Becci Jeal's contact details so that he can assist her in setting up the Scheme.

**Speed Watch** – Clerk has sent all the contact details for the volunteers to the scheme co-ordinator; she has also tried telephoning him, but has heard nothing further. She will keep on attempting to get hold of the officer. *Action: Clerk*

## 6. Visitors/Public Time

**Parishioners** – No comments.

**County Councillor and Borough Councillors** – None in attendance.

**Temp. Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO** – During the past month he has dealt with many issues, including fuel theft, and complaints about parking at Cormorant Drive and Sheerstone. He stated that Swale Borough Council's Enforcement Officer has been looking at parking at the school and is wondering why parents don't use the Village Hall car park. It was suggested that the school put out a note to new parents regarding this car park. Finally he mentioned that Amicus Horizon is undertaking some 'Torch' walks around town; one goes from Iwade (he believes this is in the last week of July).

The PCSO was unable to attend and sent apologies.

## 7. Finance

**Village Hall – Cost of Solicitor/Planning Permission** – This matter was raised at the recent Finance Committee meeting, when it was proposed that the Council employs 'Jarmans', a firm

of Solicitors based in Sittingbourne. It was further agreed that the Clerk books an appointment with Bryan Slater, their commercial Solicitor, for Cllrs. Jones and Hunt, together with Peter Lovelock and Mark Pugh from the Village Hall Committee, to attend for an initial free of charge consultation, when they can discuss the covenants on the garden deeds. *Action: Clerk*

**Bus Shelter, Village Park** – Clerk advised that Littlethorpes will charge £50 (most of which is postage) to supply the wooden infills for the bus shelter. Delivery is expected next week and upon receipt the Clerk will instruct the Handyman to purchase and install the polycarbonate panels in the side openings of the new shelter. *Action: Clerk*

**Concrete bases for picnic table and two benches** – Clerk is still chasing Highways for approval to fit a bench a bench on the new tarmac area by the bus stop on the green at the top of Sheerstone. *Action: Clerk*

**P.O. Box Delivery Annual Fee** – Members agreed to renew this contract, at the annual fee of £276.

**Cheques signed at this meeting:**

Date	Cheque	Details	Amount
11.07.12	1546	Royal Mail Group Ltd	£276.00p
11.07.12	1547	L. Fisher	£536.88p
11.07.12	1548	L. Fisher	£26.75p
11.07.12	1549	Stiddard Kent Ltd.	£15.00p
11.07.12	1550	Steve Wakeling	£242.00p
<b>Five cheques in total</b>			

8. **Village Hall Updates** – Cllr. Hunt advised that a set of the plans has been sent back to the Architect with a couple of changes, and the New Hall Committee will then be looking to seek Planning permission for the new site.

9. **Emergency Plan for Iwade**  
Following on from Tasha Gibb’s presentation, Cllr. Rook kindly agreed to take on the task of looking at creating an Emergency Plan, using Kent County Council’s template and guidance notes.

*Action Cllr. Rook*

10. **Correspondence**

**Code of Conduct** – It was formally proposed and agreed by all Members that Iwade Parish Council adopts Swale Borough Council’s Code of Conduct.

**Kent Lane Rental** – Contents of document noted.

11. **Planning**

- **SW/12/0816** – Relocation of Nicholls Transport depot from Lydbrook Close, Sittingbourne to land north of Swale Way (accommodating a notional 15% increase in the size of the company), with access to Swale Way; strategic landscaping buffer to A249; ancillary offices/amenity block;/ vehicle workshop; ancillary warehouse; vehicle wash-down and refueling facilities; tractor and trailer parking area; surface water attenuation ponds and

biodiversity enhancement; strategic footpath/cycle way link; staff parking; safeguarding of land fronting Swale Way and all necessary infrastructure – Land North of Swale Way/adj. Grovehurst Road, Sittingbourne, ME9 8RB - Members raised the following objections to this application:

This development will have a major impact on the already overstretched A249 Grovehurst interchange; this is backed up by the following extracts in the recent version of ‘Bearing Fruits’ Swale Borough Draft Core Strategy:

*5.6.19 This Core Strategy continues to focus on Sittingbourne as the main urban area, with strategic allocations for housing and employment proposed at north west and north east Sittingbourne. This utilises existing capacity on the A249 and the built and planned sections of the SNRR. The Key Street and Grovehurst interchanges with the A249 are nearing capacity and will require improvement to accommodate traffic arising from development proposed in the Core.*

*6.2.4 A key issue affecting all of the sites involved in this strategic allocation is the need for a new junction with Grovehurst Road which has been identified as necessary by the Core Strategy transport model. Detailed site modelling would be needed at the planning application stage to take this further, together with an assessment of the impact on existing junctions along the B2005. The quality of public transport also needs to be improved - both in terms of public transport into the sites in question, but also the enhancement to rail facilities at Kemsley Halt.*

If this application is approved, Iwade Parish Council insists that the improvement to the A249 is agreed and takes place prior to the start of any development, as clearly indicated above.

Lorries exiting the site will have difficulty and will have to do so slowly due to the steep gradient onto the existing road. Furthermore any lorries leaving the site will need to turn left, go down to the next roundabout and then come back up to the A249 Grovehurst interchange, due to the volume of traffic that is normally queuing to exit the Relief Road onto the roundabout during most of the day. If this is not enforced it will add to the already congested area and be an ‘accident waiting to happen’ because of the speed of some motorists using this route.

Of further concern is that if permission is granted for this site, to the size shown on the plans, there will not be any scope to change the A249 junction or to increase the use of the railway as stated in the Core Strategy. One scenario for Swale Members to consider is what happens in the future if there is a need to add another railway line as there will be Nicholls one side of the existing line and Morrisons the other. With more housing, both in this area and the Isle of Sheppey, and with industry in Ridham Dock now looking at using the railway an extra line could well be needed in the future which will effectively take vehicles off the already stretch highways. However, if this development goes ahead it will effectively stop any prospect of improving the railway infrastructure in the future and could have a detrimental impact on any hopes of attracting businesses to the Isle of Sheppey.

- **KCC/SW/0178/2012** – Change of use of wood storage building to wood shredding and wood storage in external yard – Unit 17 Ridham Dock, Iwade, ME9 8SR – Members raised no objection to this application, but seeking Kent County Council’s assurance that as there

have been several fires involving stockpiled wood at Ridham Dock recently, that precautions are taken and fire safety equipment is installed both inside and out to cope with this type of situation.

- **SW/12/0503** – First floor side extension and single storey rear extension, 1 Evergreen Close, Iwade, Kent, ME9 8LU – Permission granted by Swale B.C.
- **SW/12/0508** – Conversion of existing detached garage to summerhouse/games room – 77 Stangate Drive, Iwade, ME9 8TQ – Permission granted by Swale B.C.

**12. Next Meeting**

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 08.35 p.m.**