

**IWADE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING**  
**Held on Wednesday 21 May 2025**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair	Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson
	Cllr. S. Waters – Vice-Chair	Cllr. D. Waters
	Cllr. C. Gomez	Samantha Gray, Clerk
	Cllr. P Holowczycki	Lynda Ives, Responsible Financial Officer
	Cllr. P. Hyde	

This is a Parish Meeting called as required by the Local Government Act, 1972. The meeting is an opportunity for the residents of the village who are registered electors to raise and discuss any subject affecting the village. Discussion and voting on any subject is restricted to electors, residents who are not registered as electors are welcome as observers. Residents wishing to speak are requested to give their name and the name of their road or street.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

At the start of the meeting a minutes silence took place in respect for councillor Ray Langham who recently passed away.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; no apologies received from Cllr. Hartley.

**2. REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR**

**Key Updates**

- Speed Limit Measures in School Lane The implementation of 20mph speed limit wig-wags in School Lane, should help the safety of pedestrians and schoolchildren.
- Installation of the 5G Mast The new 5G mast was installed and now working.
- Management of The Square Following a challenging initial period, the new management company responsible for overseeing The Square has improved the service provided. Their approach and responsiveness has so far proven to be significantly better than that of the previous management company. We are pleased to observe improvements in both maintenance and the overall quality of services provided.

**Infrastructure Challenges**

- Congestion in The Street Traffic congestion in The Street continues to be a pressing issue, exacerbated by ongoing roadworks at Grovehurst roundabout and new housing developments. The issues experienced with the increased volume of vehicles has demonstrated that The Street is not fit for purpose in handling such demand. We recognize the disruption this has caused to residents and businesses and are engaging with Kent County Council Highways to explore possible solutions for improvement.
- Ferry Road Water Leak The ongoing water leak in Ferry Road has been a major frustration for the parish. After an independent test requested by the Parish Council it has been confirmed that the standing water resembles tap water. This means that it is Southern Water's responsibility to resolve the issue, not KCC Highways. We will continue to monitor progress until this is resolved.

**Community**

- VE Day Celebrations We were pleased to collaborate with The Barn Trustees to help make the VE Day celebrations a success. It was nice to see the community come together to honour such an important historical event, and we thank the Barn Trustees for their help and support.

### **Looking Ahead**

As you will know the government has been working on structural changes to local government, aiming to simplify governance by replacing two-tier systems with unitary authorities. This is part of a larger English Devolution White Paper initiative, which seeks to improve local accountability and efficiency. The Kent Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation was submitted to Central Government on 21 March 2025. The final proposals to be on or before 28 November 2025. We will seek to understand the impact this will have on Parish Councils, but at this point in time we understand that parish councils will not be affected by the legislation but will be affected by the outcomes of devolution/Local government reorganisation.

In the meantime, the Parish Council remains committed to addressing ongoing concerns, supporting local initiatives, and ensuring our parish continues to thrive. We encourage residents to engage with us, voice their opinions, and contribute to shaping the future of our community.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to my fellow councillors, the Parish Clerk, the Responsible Financial Officer and all residents who actively participate in local matters. Your support and involvement does make a difference. Let us continue to work together for the benefit of Iwade.

Chair, Iwade Parish Council

### **3. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS**

No residents attended.

### **4. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**Meeting closed at 8.22 p.m.**