

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 9 April 2025

Present:

Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair
Cllr. J. Hartley
Cllr. P. Holowczycki
Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson

Cllr. D. Waters
Samantha Gray, Clerk
Lynda Ives, RFO
County Cllr. M. Baldock

PC Phil Clemens
PC Katie

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. S. Waters, P. Hyde and C. Gomez.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, the minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meeting held on 12 March 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. Visitors: None attended.

2. County and Borough Councillors: Cllr. Baldock advised that Bobbing Parish Council are arranging a CABA (Communities against Bobbing expansion) meeting and will be inviting other Parish Councils as this will impact all Parishes. This housing development would have an impact on roads in Iwade.

Cllr. Baldock also spoke to members about the Country Park planned for the Land East of Iwade development and advised the Parish Council may want to bid to manage it. Borden Parish Council manage a Country Park and maintain this as a nature park. Additionally the residents of Iwade could set up a Friends group to manage the park and they would be eligible for funding. The Clerk will add this to the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Baldock informed members that Swale Borough Council (SBC) are looking at Parish boundaries. Members previously agreed to propose a new boundary line and the Clerk contacted Democratic Services to apply for this. The Clerk will re-send the proposed boundary application to council members and SBC. **Action: Clerk**

3. Police Constable: PC Phil Clemens introduced his colleague Katie, who will be working with him for 15 weeks as part of a Swale Community Safety Unit. He followed up on a discussion held at the last meeting regarding reviewing the positioning of cameras, which unfortunately has not happened yet but he will look into this. He also informed the council that during periods of absence Police Officers have authorisation to help cover other areas. PC Clemens reported on the following local issues:

- It has been drawn to my attention that vehicles are once again preventing the correct flow of traffic through School Lane at School pickup/drop-off times and are parking along the yellow zig-zag lines. This is not only dangerous but also illegal. Moving forward I will be performing spot-checks during these times providing education to road users and to prevent nuisance behaviour.

- A group of youths were spotted playing near the train tracks of the Swale railway station underneath the old Sheppey Crossing. I am told that they were playing with the signal box. Enquiries are ongoing with the British Transport Police to identify those involved.
- Only one instance of a nuisance vehicle has been reported this month. I am happy to see that this trend continues and am hopeful that even during the warmer months this will continue.
- A resident contacted the Parish Council regarding issues of antisocial behaviour relating to a Public Right of Way in Springvale. PC Jez Chittim previously looked into the closure of the alleyway and installing a temporary CCTV camera. PC Clemens will look into this again and advised incidents should be reported to Kent Police. Reports can be made by dialling 101 or via their website <https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report>.
- PC Clemens advised the Environment Agency are looking into issues at Raspberry Hill. Members asked the Clerk to write to them. **Action: Clerk**

5. **Village Matters**

1. **H.I.P Requests** – The Highway Improvement Plan committee met on Tuesday 8 April. Members discussed and agreed the following actions:
 - **Priority Signage in Sheppey Way and School Lane:** Clerk to find out costs and design of signage, and to carry out a consultation with residents.
 - **Parking issues in Wigeon Road:** Request a quotation for bollards on the corners of the road. Add to the Highway Improvement Plan.
 - **Traffic issues in The Street:** Ask Kent County Council (KCC) what they can do to prevent issues due to increased traffic from proposed housing developments. Also request results of road samples that have recently been taken by KCC. Add to the Highway Improvement Plan.
 - **Traffic incidents on the junction of Ferry Road/Grovehurst Road/Sheppey Way:** Request a high kerb. Add to the Highway Improvement Plan.
 - **Parked vehicles with engines idling in Meadow Close:** Request signage from the Local Authority. Add to the Highway Improvement Plan.

Action: Clerk
2. **Mud on the Highway, coming from the Floplast site** – The Clerk reported the issue to KCC. Members asked the Clerk to look at planning applications for the site and find out if there are conditions to clean the road. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Land at Mansfield Drive** – The Clerk contacted Plaxtol Investments, who own a parcel of land where antisocial behaviour (ASB) occurs. Plaxtol Investments advised they will not take any action regarding issues occurring on the land and advised the Parish Council could take over ownership. The Clerk circulated a map showing areas of land owned by Plaxtol which is far more than the small area with ASB issues and would carry responsibility for areas of the stream. Members asked the Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council to find out why they have not taken over ownership of this land. **Action: Clerk**
4. **Planting flowers in the village** – Members discussed planting Crocus's in the village and requested a quotation to be sourced. **Action: RFO**
5. **Water leak in Ferry Road** – Southern Water arranged for an independent water test to be conducted. Their Process Scientist reviewed the results and said it is not definitive, but the standing water looks similar to the tap water. The next step they will take is arranging for further leak testing along Ferry

Road. These checks are audio tests and will have to be done at night when the traffic noise is reduced. The Clerk will add this information to the website and Facebook pages. **Action: Clerk**

6. **Tree Warden** – A resident has volunteered to be a tree warden. Unfortunately they could not attend this meeting, the Clerk will keep this on the agenda. **Action: Clerk**

6. **Planning** – applications are viewable on Swale: <http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications>; KCC: <https://cloud2.atriumsoft.com/KCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do>

1. **25/500824/HYBRID:** Section 73 Application for Minor Material Amendment to approved plans condition 9, 10 and 59 (to allow for minor amendments to the land use parameter plan - to ensure the proposal meets adopted design standards in terms of NDSS, private amenity, parking and road design) pursuant to 19/503974/HYBRID for Hybrid application comprising of - Outline application (all matter reserved except for access) for up to 466 dwellings and a community hall. Full planning application for access from Grovehurst Road and The Street and for a country park. Land East Of Iwade Iwade Kent ME9 8ST.

Council members discussed the above planning application and made no comments.

2. **25/500702/FULL:** Installation of solar panels on the flat and pitched roofs of the school. Iwade County Primary School, School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8RS.

Council members discussed the above planning application and made no comments.

3. **25/501129/FULL:** Demolition of agricultural building and erection of 1no. self-build dwelling with associated garage and landscaping (part retrospective). School Lane Farm School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8SG.

Council members discussed the above planning application and made no comments.

7. **Correspondence**

1. **Message from Larissa Reed re expression of interest to the Government for Local Government Reorganisation** – Cllrs. D. Waters, K. Rivers-Simpson and S. Tolhurst all expressed an interest in attending the meeting, depending on the date and time of the meeting. Members asked the Clerk to find out if the meeting will cover the potential role of Parish Councils. **Action: Clerk**

8. **Parish Council Matters**

1. **To consider taking over the maintenance of playgrounds** - Members discussed what would be required to take over ownership of the playgrounds in the village. Members asked the Clerk to contact SBC to express an interest in taking over ownership and find out the cost of running the playgrounds. **Action: Clerk**

2. **Vice-Chair Acceptance of Office** – Council member absent, bring back to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

3. **Salt Bins** – Members set a date to meet and set up the salt bins in the Village Hall car park. The Clerk will inform all council members, the Chair of the village hall and Cllr. Baldock. **Action: Clerk**

4. **Memorial Plaque application** – Members asked the Clerk to keep this application on the agenda. **Action: Clerk**

5. **Management of Parish Council email accounts** – Members agreed to Invicta IT Solutions handing over administration access to the Clerk. **Action: Clerk**

9. Finance

1. **Grant application – Iwade Village Website** – Members asked the Clerk for further information as per the grant application policy, and subject to the information the Parish Council will grant £500.00p towards the cost of rewriting the village website. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Bank Signatories** - Council member absent, bring back to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
3. **ADM Computing Invoice** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters, members agreed to the cost of £350.00p plus VAT for IT support. **Action: RFO**
4. **Annual subscription for Kent Association of Local Councils** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed to the cost of £1,229.59p + VAT for the 2025/26 KALC subscription. **Action: RFO**
5. **Quotation to replace the signpost at School Lane** – Proposed by Cllr. D. Waters and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, members agreed to the quotation of £204.00p for handyman Steve Wakelling to replace the signpost at School Lane. Members asked if the post could be located 1 metre further from the roadside, subject to any services running underground. **Action: Clerk**
6. **CiLCA Training with KALC and SLCC** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst, and seconded by Cllr. Waters, members agreed to the training costs, £300.00 + VAT for training with KALC and £450.00p for access to the SLCC training information and portal, a total of £750.00p. **Action: Clerk/RFO**
7. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, members noted the budget figures and the year-end accounts to 31 March. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Holowczycki and Tolhurst to log in and authorise payments. **Action: Cllrs. Holowczycki/ Tolhurst**

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
06.03.25	DD	I.C.O.	Data Protection Fee 2025/26	£47.00p
09.04.25	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Tele., home as office, 3 Ink Cartridges – March	£80.90p
09.04.25	BACs	S. Grey	Expenses – Tele., home as office – March	£44.00p
09.04.25	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax March	£179.28p
09.04.25	BACs	Iwae Parochial Church Council	Donation towards repairs to Grade I listed building	£1000.00p
09.04.25	BACs	Swale Borough Council	Printing of Iwade Observer	£1764.00p
09.04.25	BACs	Brunel Engraving Company	Brass Commemorative Plaque for Tree RW6	£84.56p
09.04.25	BACs	ADM Computing	One Drive Setup for 2 users/updating Windows 11	£420.00p
09.04.25	BACs	KALC	Subscription 2025/26	£1475.51p
09.04.25	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman work 28.01 to 05.03.25	£496.00p
09.04.25	BACs	Swale Borough Council	Grounds Maintenance 2024/2025	£10575.92p
01.04.25	SO	Staff Salaries	March 2025	£1518.69p
01.04.25	DD	NEST	Pension contributions March	£70.09p
01.04.25	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
26.04.25	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply March 2025	£167.53p
30.04.25	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£40.63p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount

10. Projects – Updates on Current and New

1. **VE Day 8th May 2025** – Members held a committee meeting to discuss the event plans. SBC advised a water safety test is required for commercial use. Members asked the Clerk to request a copy of the Fish and Chip vans certificate. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Future public events** – Cllr. Rivers-Simpson advised The Barn are planning an event for the August bank holiday and they are hoping to have a Chinese food vendor.

3. **Litter Pick** – Swale Borough Council will deliver the equipment for the event, this will need to be returned to Swale House following the event. Members discussed issuing vouchers for tea and coffee to volunteers. Cllr. Tolhurst will speak to The Mews Brewhouse. **Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/Clerk**

4. **Tracker** – Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document to members.

11. **Reports from Representatives**

1. **Village Hall Committee** – Representative not present.

2. **KALC Area Representative** – No meeting has been held.

12. **Items for the Next Agenda**

- Town twinning. This has been looked into in the past, the Clerk will look back at records.

Action: Clerk

13. **Next Meeting(s)**

Full Council meeting, TBC - Wednesday 7 May 2025, 7.30 p.m. The Clerk advised The Barn and Village Hall are currently booked on this evening.

The meeting closed at 09.45 p.m.