

## **IWADE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 13 May 2026**

**Present:** Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair  
Cllr. D. McBeath – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. J. Hartley  
Cllr. P. Holowczycki

Cllr. P. Hyde  
Samantha Gray, Clerk  
1 Resident

#### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. M. Baldock and Rivers-Simpson, and Borough Cllr. R. Palmer. Cllr. D. Waters has resigned.

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

##### **Village survey**

The recent village survey shows that residents' main concerns are traffic congestion and road safety, village maintenance, and protecting green spaces. In response, the Parish Council has agreed a two-year action plan to address these priorities.

##### **Congestion in The Street**

The Parish Council has commissioned an independent traffic survey and is working with KCC on a highway improvement plan. One proposal is to remove five pinch points on The Street, Ferry Road and Sheppey Way. We will share further updates as this work progresses.

##### **Ferry Road water leak**

Southern Water's latest response suggests that we are still not seeing the progress we need to resolve the ongoing leak in Ferry Road. The issue dates back to 2022, and several repair attempts have been unsuccessful. Southern Water has advised that both regional managers (water supply and wastewater networks) are personally involved and will keep the Council updated. We will continue to press Southern Water for a permanent solution.

##### **Community**

In March, Swale Borough Council cleared the reedbed from the Woodpecker Park pond, following sustained requests from the Parish Council over the past three and a half years.

The Christmas lights are ageing and require annual expenditure on repairs, storage, installation and removal. These costs rise each year as the lights become less reliable. To ensure the village can continue to enjoy festive lighting, the Parish Council is considering hiring modern, energy-efficient lights from a specialist supplier. Consultation feedback indicates that residents would like the village to continue investing in Christmas lights.

##### **Looking ahead**

**Local Government Reorganisation:** Kent & Medway submitted an interim plan to central government on 21 March 2025, followed by full proposals on 28 November 2025. The government then consulted the public from 5 February to 26 March 2026, and a decision is expected later this summer. Any new unitary council(s) are expected to begin delivering services from April 2028. For Iwade and the wider Swale area, we will monitor any potential impacts on local service delivery and community representation, and we will engage with Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council as further details emerge.

**Community Governance Review:** Swale Borough Council is consulting on proposals to amend Iwade's parish boundary to include land currently outside the parish beside the A249, and to extend the

boundary from Sheppey Way to School Lane and Bramblefield Lane. Residents can comment on whether they support the extension until 2 June 2026. The Parish Council will keep residents informed and represent Iwade's interests throughout.

The Parish Council remains focused on addressing ongoing concerns, supporting local projects and helping our parish to thrive. We encourage residents to get involved, share their views and help shape the future of our community.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors, the Parish Clerk, the Responsible Financial Officer and all residents who take an active role in local matters. Your support really does make a difference. Let's continue to work together for the benefit of Iwade.

Chair, Iwade Parish Council

**3. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS**

None.

**4. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**Meeting closed at 7.39 p.m.**