IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 14 October 2026

Present:	Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair	Cllr. P. Hyde
	Cllr. D. McBeath – Vice-Chair	Samantha Gray, Clerk
	Cllr. M. Baldock	PC A. Blakeman
	Cllr. J. Hartley	2 Residents
	Cllr. P. Holowczycki	

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. P. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. P. Hyde, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 9 September 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. **Residents**: Nothing raised.

2. **County and Borough Councillors**: None attended and no reports received.

3. **Police Constable:** PC Blakeman reported on the following and provided a written report – see appendix A:
   - Break ins at the solar panel farm in School Lane
   - Car break ins
   - Poaching
   - Nuisance vehicles seized
   - Reports of nuisance bikes has reduced

   Cllr. Tolhurst discussed meeting with the CCTV control room and PC Blakeman regarding the locations of the parish cameras. PC Blakeman will advise hotspot areas. The Clerk will contact the control room to arrange a meeting date. ***Action: Clerk***

5. Village Matters

1. **To consider replacing Hornbeam trees in Woodpecker Park:** A revised quotation of £13,530.67 for tree planting has been received from Swale Borough Council (SBC). This will be funded by the Raspberry Hill Community Fund; the total budget in the fund is £17,712.10. Due to the revised quotation there is a budget of £4,181.43 available to replace hornbeam trees around the Cairn.

   RESOLVED to find out how many hornbeam trees could be purchased within the available budget with a 2 year maintenance package. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

   Members noted the tree planting quotation from SBC states three field maple trees will be planted to replace lost chestnut trees. Concerns were raised about the trees causing problems with seeds and sap, the Clerk will discuss this with SBC. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **Water leak in Ferry Road – to receive updates from Southern Water and Kent County Council:** An officer at Kent County Council carried out a water test which was positive for chlorine.

   Southern Water advised that investigations into the network have identified a single location of interest outside 1A Ferry Road. A Southern Water Inspector is scheduled to meet with the contractor on Wednesday 14 October to assess the traffic management requirements necessary.The leak noise has been traced to a 3-inch water main. At present, there are no operational impacts or supply challenges associated with this issue. The Clerk will follow up with Southern Water. ***Action: Clerk***

3. **MUGA – Recreational space at new country park:** Members discussed installing a multi-use games area (MUGA) on the planned grass pitch area in the new country park on the Bellway Homes development.

   RESOLVED to speak with the planning officer about planning conditions for the grass pitch.
   Action: Clerk

4. **E-Scooters riding on public footpaths and green spaces:** Members reported the issue has improved recently and discussed adding a reminder to the village newsletter when this is produced regarding the criteria in the law about e-scooters riding on public footpaths and green spaces. ***Action: Clerk***

5. **CCTV success story**: Members discussed including a CCTV success story in the village newsletter.
   Action: Clerk

6. **Request information on reporting anti-social behaviour is published on the Iwade Village website:** Members discussed encouraging residents to report issues to the police. Cllr. Tolhurst will look into the organisation to report anonymously. ***Action: Cllr. Tolhurst***

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

   No planning consultations received.

7. **Correspondence**

   1. **Electrical Recycling Fund – pop up event:** SBC have asked the parish council if they can hold a pop event where Swale come along with the bins then take them away. Members need to arrange a location and decided to consider this again when the new village hall is completed. The Clerk will respond to SBC. ***Action: Clerk***

   2. **KCC Safer Road Users Mature Drivers & Passengers Course:** Kent County Council (KCC) want to hold a free course for up to 30 attendees and need a location. Members suggested using Iwade Barn, the Clerk will respond.
      Action: Clerk

   3. **Your Swale Survey:** SBC have extended the submission deadline to 30 October. They still feel this research is important for when a decision is made about how local government will be structured. The Clerk will circulate to residens. ***Action: Clerk***

8. **Finance**

   1. **Budget 2027/28:** Members considered projects to include in the budget for 2027/28 and suggested the MUGA project.

      Members discussed S.106 funding for Woodpecker Park that was available. The Clerk will look at past minutes and speak with SBC. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **Completed Audit 2025/26:** The completion notice has been received which states the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with proper practices. The completion of Audit Notices and AGAR were published on the Council's website and noticeboards on the 30 September 2026.

3. **Revised quotation to replace a broken planter in The Street:** The handyman has started the repair on the planter and found the bottom layer has rotted. He will submit a revised quotation to include additional materials required. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

4. **To consider quotation for tree planting:** Discussed in item 5.1.

5. **To consider quotation to cut back the bramble hedge side of Iwade Village Hall –** Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, members **RESOLVED** to accept the cost of £275+VAT to cut back the bramble hedge by the side of the Village Hall and Woodpecker Drive. ***Action: RFO***

6. **To consider installing a Tommy statue:** The cost of a steel statue is £650.00p. Members **RESOLVED** to consider this cost in the budget for 2027/28. ***Action: RFO***

7. **To appoint a banking signatory:** Defer to the next agenda. ***Action: Clerk***

8. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting**: Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. McBeath, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 30 September 2026. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Tolhurst and Hyde to log in and authorise payments.
Action: Cllrs. Tolhurst/Hyde

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
14.10.26	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Telephone, home as office – September	£18.00p
14.10.26	BACs	S. Gray	Expenses – Telephone, home as office, stamps – September	£51.20p
14.10.26	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax September Month 6	£385.41p
14.10.26	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Fee 01.09.26 to 29.09.26	£155.00p
14.10.26	BACs	The Boston Bulb Company Ltd	5000 mixed bulbs	£611.00p
14.10.26	BACs	Restore Datashed	Confidential Document Shredding	£86.40p
14.10.26	BACs	Royal British Legion Trading Ltd	Poppy Wreath and Donation	£50.00p
14.10.26	BACs	Kent County Council	Festive Lighting 2026 Administration Charges	£145.00p
14.10.26	BACs	Nicola McKenzie	Iwade Village Website work July to September	£300.00p
14.10.26	BACs	McCabe Ford Williams	Quarterly Payroll Preparation	£129.07p
14.10.26	BACs	Swale Borough Council	CCTV Management & Maintenance 2026/27	£4650.00p
01.10.26	SO	Staff Salaries	August	£2216.40p
01.10.26	DD	NEST	Pension Contributions August	£95.65p
01.10.26	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
27.10.26	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply August	£156.75p
31.10.26	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£44.59p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount
02.10.26	BACs	Swale Borough Council	2nd Half Precept	£41500.00p

9. Parish Council Matters

1. **Iwade village website community engagement review :** Members **RESOLVED** to carry on with the agreement with Iwade village website and review in three months. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

2. **To review the parish council general privacy notice:** One section of the privacy notice regarding the European Union was no longer relevant and was removed. Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the general privacy notice. ***Action: Clerk***

10. Village Newsletter

1. **To consider publishing a village newsletter:** Results of a recent poll asking for volunteers for the village newsletter are as follows:
Delivery – 8
Distribution – 1
Design & editing – 2

A volunteer for the newsletter attended the meeting and advised they are getting a team together to gather content. Keep on the agenda. ***Action: Clerk***

11. Highway Improvement Plan (H.I.P)

1. **To consider adding a request for bollards in Colson Drive to the H.I.P:** Members **RESOLVED** to add a request for bollards in Colson Drive to the parish council H.I.P.

Members also discussed a grass verge on Ferry Road that is regularly parked on which blocks the line of sight. Wooden bollards in this area are regularly knocked down, therefore members agreed a stronger material is required to prevent damage but also needs to be safe for road users. The Clerk will speak to KCC. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

12. Projects

1. **Bulb Planting:** Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Baldock, members **RESOLVED** to place the order for 5,000 bulbs to be planted by the handyman.

2. **Festive Lighting:** There is a problem with the application for load testing for the columns added near the gateway in Sheppey Way. Four columns, numbers ESKI009/011/012/013, have been adopted by KCC but not placed on their system. They are working on the paperwork to add to their inventory. However, they cannot guarantee that they will be added in time for the load testing to be carried in time for the installation of the festive lights.

Sharon Robins at KCC has asked the council to choose between the following options:

1. Proceed with the application and renew load testing on 10 columns in Sheppey Way.

2. Keep the new columns on the application and ask Electrical Testing Limited to add them to the order for load testing – there is no guarantee they will do this.

Members **RESOLVED** to proceed with option 2. ***Action: Clerk***

3. **New Village Hall:** Members asked the Clerk to contact Bellway Homes to confirm the latest lead time for the completion of the Village Hall and arrange a site meeting for November. ***Action: Clerk***

4. **Future public events:** The Barn are arranging the Christmas Light switch on and a Halloween event.

5. **Tracker:** Cllr. Tolhurst has added updates regarding the water leak in Ferry Road and installing a MUGA in the planned Country Park. An update was given about the draft traffic survey report: Bruce Bamber will carry out a site meeting and provide a revised report. Members asked the Clerk to follow up with SBC about the installation of a duck house in the Woodpecker park pond. ***Action: Clerk***

13. Reports from Representatives:

1. **Village Hall Committee:** Cllr. Hartley advised the hall committee will arrange an annual general meeting.

2. **KALC Area Representative:** Cllr. Holowczycki reported he attended a meeting at which the results of a recent CCTV survey were discussed. The response from parishes was good and they discussed parishes having joint contracts.

   Cllr. Baldock advised the next KALC Swale Area committee will be held on Monday 1st December and the Mayor will be speaking. All council members are welcome.

3. **Western Councillor & Residents Forum:** The next meeting will be held in November.

14. **Items to note for the Next Agenda**:

- Community Governance Review (CGR) – due to the pause of the Local Government Review (LGR) boundary changes may not be completed before the elections taking place next May.

- Process for the Swale Local Plan.

15. **Next Meeting(s):** Full Council meeting, Wednesday 11 November 2026 7.30 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

The meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.

Appendix A:

Drop-in surgery at 31/10/26- The Mews Brewhouse but this may be subject to change. **PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTEND ANY OF MY SURGERIES REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU LIVE**	Your local beat police officer is **PC 13812 Adam Blakeman**

My name is **PC Adam Blakeman**, and I am the Beat Officer for Iwade. I am actively engaging with the local community and building on the strong relationships already in place to help keep Iwade safe. As I further embed myself within the area, please feel free to contact me if you are organising any events where a police presence would be beneficial, or if any local groups, of any age would welcome police advice or engagement. I am always happy to attend or deliver a talk when I am on duty.

Let's start with what has been happening in the last month-

- On 09/10/26 while patrolling Old Fery Road in Iwade I noticed a grey Peugeot 207 in poor condition parked on the side of the road. The vehicle had not been taxed since July 2026. Subsequent checks also revealed it had no insurance and the driver held a provisional licence. The vehicle also had an extremely loud exhaust and was likely causing a nuisance to residents. I have seized the vehicle.

- There have been recent reports of thefts from motor vehicles in the area. I have obtained CCTV of the suspect, and I am making on-going attempts to identify them. It is extremely important that residents ensure their cars are locked and they take all possible safeguarding measures.

- There have been several break ins at the solar panel farms on SCHOOL LANE. These are at night so if you are in the area, and see any vans or large vehicles parked roadside, or persons/use of torches in the fields please dial 999.

- This advice also relates to poaching related incidents. Again, there has been an increase in calls regarding this. If persons are seen in fields with lights please call 999.

Your Top 3 priorities in your area are:

- 1. Nuisance youths
- 2. Poaching
- 3. Road safety issues – speeding.

What am I doing to reduce these problems?

Nuisance youths –

- • Proactive Hi-Vis patrols in village areas.
- • Engage with parents.
- • Use my policing powers i.e. orders against repeat offenders.

Poaching –

- • Proactive Hi-Vis patrols in rural areas.

- • Liaise with our rural task force who are specialists in dealing with this crime type.
- • Deal with all offenders robustly and utilise all powers available to police.
- • Conduct targeted operations in high offending areas.

Speeding –

- • Liaison with Road Safety/Camera partnership to look for support in the area.
- • Arrange speed checks utilising Special Constable assistance to show visible presence
- and act as a deterrent (times of reports – the most common time is between 1100 –
- 1130 hours. Other times are all around school pick up and drop off