

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 11 October 2025

Present: Cllr. M. Baldock – Acting Chair Samantha Gray, Clerk
Cllr. C. Gomez
Cllr. J. Hartley
Cllr. P Holowczycki

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Hyde, D.Waters, S.Waters, Tolhurst and Rivers-Simpson.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 11 September were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. Visitors: None attend, the Clerk received the following concerns in writing:

- Traffic monitoring cables have been laid in Sheppey Way, but while The Street is closed the results will not show the usual levels of traffic. The Clerk will write to Kent County Council (KCC). **Action: Clerk**
- Regarding National Highways/Conway closing the A249 and diverting traffic through Iwade. The Clerk will write to KCC and advise Iwade is not suitable for HGV traffic. **Action: Clerk**

2. County and Borough Councillors: None attended, report received from Cllr. Richard Palmer. See appendix A.

3. Police Constable: No report received.

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

No current planning consultations.

7. Correspondence

1. Invitation to Nominate for Local Heritage List – Members agreed to nominate the Old Bakery (The Street), The Gunnery Site, The Henge (Peach Blossom Field), Cottages in The Street (opposite The Woolpack pub), and The Woolpack pub. **Action: Clerk**

2. Jackson Civil Engineering – to note response regarding village hall car park repairs – Jacksons have decided to consider the repairs when they have the resources available. Members discussed a response to Jacksons and asked the Clerk to write to them. **Action: Clerk**

3. KALC Community Awards Scheme 2026 – Members agreed to adopt the scheme and agreed a nomination, proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Gomez. **Action: Clerk**

8. Parish Council Matters

1. **ROSPA Garden Inspection** – Uneven garden surface has been reported and the handyman has supplied a quotation of £265.00p to repair this. The quotation was not agreed. Council members asked the Clerk to inform Tinkerbells nursery. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Residents Village Survey** – Members agreed the survey will be a Monkey Survey style format to be shared with residents via social media channels. The survey will include a summary of what council's can do, and what residents would like the council to achieve. Keep on the agenda. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Iwade Village Website community engagement 3-month review** – Council members will provide feedback on the website. Keep on the agenda. **Action: Clerk/All councillors**

9. **Finance**

1. **Parish Council contact with McCabe Ford Williams (payroll)** – Cllr. Holowczycki agreed to be the contact with the payroll company. **Action: RFO**
2. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Hartley and seconded by Cllr. Baldock, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 30 September 2025. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Holowczycki and (tbc) to log in and authorise payments. **Action: Cllrs. Holowczycki/ TBC**

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
09.10.25	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Tele., home as office - September	£18.00p
09.10.25	BACs	S. Grey	Expenses – Tele., home as office – September	£44.00p
09.10.25	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax September	£269.19p
09.10.25	BACs	McKenzie Web Solutions	Development work, Iwade Village Website: June, July, August	£300.00p
09.10.25	BACs	KALC	Introduction to Local Planning – Clerk	£60.00p
01.10.25	SO	Staff Salaries	September	£1560.42p
01.10.25	DD	NEST	Pension Contributions September	£74.59p
01.10.25	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply	Awaited
31.09.25	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£40.63p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount
26.09.25	BACs	Swale Borough Council	2 nd Half Precept	£34500.00p

10. **Projects – Updates on Current and New**

1. **Future public events** – Proposed by Cllr. Baldock and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, members agreed to budget £500.00p to purchase a real Christmas Tree, pot and Christmas lights to be installed at the Barn for the Christmas lights switch on event. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Tracker** – Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document to all council members.

3. **Village Clean-up** – The clean-up event will be held on Sunday 12 October by Cllr. Holowczycki. The Mews brewhouse will provide tea and coffee to volunteers and will provide the parish council with an invoice.
Action: Cllr. Holowczycki

11. **Reports from Representatives**

1. **Village Hall Committee** – No update.

2. **KALC Area Representative** – The next meeting will be held in Bobbing Village Hall on Monday 20 October at 7pm.

12. **Items for the Next Agenda** – None to note.

13. **Next Meeting(s)**

Full Council meeting, Thursday 13 November 2025, 8.00 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Appendix A

At KCC I have reported some road closure clashes, where alternative routes were also closed. Highways are reviewing some of the dates.

I have sent round a flyer about the SEND event at Detling Hill.

We are also circulating a reply to the media interest over the predicted 5% rise in council tax. At this moment in time, we have not reached the budget setting section that includes setting council tax. The mid-term figures are not due until possibly November, and we then must forecast what we can expect, we probably will not be in the position of deciding until February/March time.

We can however announce that we have, in just 5 months reduced the KCC debt by about £67,000,000.

The member for Education has saved £2.5 million by streamlining home to school transport and making it more efficient.

The Member for children's services has recently signed off bringing children's homes back in house by purchasing 4 properties for looked after children with complex needs, this brings in a saving of £1.5 million.

▶ £2.5 million saved from home to school transport budget by careful forward planning during August.

▶ £5.5 million saved after negotiating a discount on the £50m we paid off from long term debt 40 years early- saving £1,820 per day in interest payments alone.

▶ £206,000 saved by imposing a 5% pay cut across all councillor allowances. This saving has been added to members grant scheme.

▶ £50,000 saved by scrapping crisis grants immediately.

▶ £14 million saved by staying put in Sessions House and scrapping the proposed renovation of and move across to Invicta House.

▶ £32 million saved over four years by undeclaring the climate emergency.

▶ £7.5 million saved by 2030 by scrapping the transitioning of the KCC vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.

▶ £1.5 million saved by bringing children's homes back into KCC ownership.

✳ But the work doesn't stop there ✳

✓ We have written to the Home Secretary to ask to be paid for the shortfall in looking after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children once they turn 18 and are still without settled status. KCC is owed more than £200,000 for 2025 alone.

✓ KCC is owed many years of backdated payments from District Councils for on-street parking which could run into millions. Investigations are ongoing into potential breach of contract by districts.

✓ All contracts being awarded to taxi firms for home to school transport are being examined, as there is suspicion of chronic over-charging and duplication.

✓ We have written to the transport minister to request that KCC receives some of the profit to fix its roads if tolls are increased on the Dartford Crossing.

✓ We are investigating the possibility of implementing a 'foreign freight tax' to be paid at entry in Dover and Folkestone. Money would be ringfenced for fixing potholes.