IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 9 September 2026

Present: Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair; Cllr. J. Hartley; Cllr. P. Holowczycki; Cllr. P. Hyde; Cllr. K Rivers-Simpson; Samantha Gray, Clerk; 6 Residents; Michelle Anderson, Active Travel Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs M. Baldock and D. McBeath.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. P. Holowczycki, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 8 July 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. **Residents**: Conerns were raised about speeding, traffic and the number of lorries using School Lane.

2. **County and Borough Councillors**: None attended. Cllr. Palmer provided a report, see appendix A.

3. **Police Constable:** Did not attend and no report received. Council members are disappointed with the lack of engagement and asked the Clerk to write to Inspector Julia Bassindale. ***Action: Clerk***

5. Village Matters

1. **Resident request for Skate Park in Iwade:** The Clerk previously circulated a response to council members from Swale Borough Council, which advised the play area at Stangate Drive is designed for very young children and placing a Skate Park in this area will create a lot more noise and anti-social behaviour for those living close by. Members believe it would be more suitable for a new development at the design stage. The Clerk will respond to the resident. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **To decide what action to take for dead Hornbeam trees in Woodpecker Park –** Cllr. Hyde advised that unfortunately only five Hornbeam trees around the Cairn have survived the recent dry weather, the rest have died. The council are waiting for a revised quotation from Swale Borough Council for tree planting which includes maintenance, and will look at re-planting in this area. The Clerk will follow up on the quote from Swale and will contact Rumwood nursery to find out the planting season for Hornbeams. ***Action: Clerk***

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. **Concerns regarding antisocial behaviour on the green in Cormorant Road:** A resident is concerned about ball games being played on the green in Cormorant Road and the risk of damage to nearby properties and cars. The Clerk circulated a response from Graeme Tuff at Swale Borough Council who advises there are no "no ball games" byelaws. Members asked the Clerk to pass on the

response to the resident. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation:** Cllr. Tolhurst circulated a draft response to the consultation. Council members to consider and submit their comments to the Clerk by Wednesday 16 September. The comments will be submitted to Swale Borough Council by 21 September. ***Action: Clerk***

3. **Parish Bus Stop Shelter Grant 2026/27:** Council members noted the existing bus shelters are in good condition and do not require refurbishment. The bus stop on the junction of School Lane and Ferry Road was discussed; a shelter for this area has been looked into previously and it was found that placing a bus shelter in this location obscures sight lines on the junction. Due to the deadline of 30 October there is not adequate time for the council to consider other locations and carry out a resident consultation.

4. **Your Swale Survey:** This survey relates to how local services are delivered in Kent when Swale Borough Council is replaced by a new unitary council. Due to the recent review of local government reorganisation, council members agreed the survey is no longer relevant. ***Action: Clerk***

5. **A request for bollards in Colson Drive:** Members discussed the issue of dangerous parking on a grass verge in an area of Colson Drive and asked the Clerk to find out if Swale Borough Council has ownership of the verge. ***Action: Clerk***

6. **Report of raw sewage adjacent to the bridleway on Summers Lane, Iwade:** Council members discussed this concern and noted that a recent planning application in Summers Lane stated three cesspits were required and the planning officer advised they were already installed.

   Council members **RESOLVED** to submit a report to the Environment Agency and Swale Borough Council. ***Action: Clerk***

7. **Electrical recycling fund:** Council members discussed the proposal to have a community electrical recycling bin.

   Council members **RESOLVED** that due to the management and space required there is not a suitable place to store the recycling bin, but they do support the scheme. ***Action: Clerk***

8. Finance

1. **To consider quotation from Boston Bulbs:** Proposed by Cllr. Hyde, and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £509.17p + VAT for 5,000 bulbs (Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocus, Allium, and Narcissi). Order to be placed when the council have agreed a plan for planting.

2. **To consider quotation for top soil and seed to improve the verge on the corner of School Lane:** Council members considered the quotation of £918.12p + VAT and are agreeable to the cost based on Swale Borough Council providing planters and replacing the knee rail fencing. Council members asked the Clerk to contact SGN for a timeline for the repair work to ensure this is completed before work to improve the verge is carried out. ***Action: Clerk***

3. **To approve the festive lighting application fee and BSEN load testing costs:** Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, council members **RESOLVED** to accept the costs of £145.00p for the application fee and £1,120.00p + VAT for load testing. ***Action: RFO/Clerk***

4. **Quotation to cut back the bramble hedge side of Iwade Village Hall –** Quotation requested, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to follow up. ***Action: RFO***

5. **To approve the Local Government Pay Award 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027:** Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. P. Hyde, members **RESOLVED** to approve the pay award for the Clerk and RFO, to be back dated to 1 April 2026. ***Action: RFO***

6. **To approve a quotation from Restore Datashred:** Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. P. Holowczycki, members **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £72.00 + VAT for 5 bags of shredding. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

7. **To purchase remembrance day poppy wreath:** Proposed by Cllr. Hartley and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, members **RESOLVED** to purchase a poppy wreath and make a donation to the Royal British Legion at a total cost of £50.00p. ***Action: RFO***

   Members discussed installing a Tommy statue at the Cairn and asked the Clerk to source the cost of a metal statue. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

8. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting**: Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 31 July 2026 and 31 August 2026. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Tolhurst and Holowczycki to log in and authorise payments. ***Action: Cllrs. Tolhurst/Holowczycki***

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
13.08.26	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax July	£433.03p
13.08.26	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Fee and Materials 07.07.26 to 28.07.26	£108.50p
13.08.26	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Filling in Holes in Village Hall Garden/supply topsoil	£265.00p
13.08.26	BACs	McKenzie Web Solutions	Iwade Village Website Fee January to June – 6 months	£600.00p
13.08.26	BACs	Playsafety Ltd	ROSPA Report Village Hall Garden	£99.60p
13.08.26	BACs	KSS Air Ambulance Charity	S.137 Donation	£100.00p
13.08.26	BACs	Viking Office U.K.	Stationery	£69.21p
13.08.26	BACs	McCabe Ford Williams	Quarterly Payroll Preparation	£129.07p
09.09.26	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Tele., home as office, Overtime – Jul & Aug	£149.63p
09.09.26	BACs	S. Gray	Expenses – Tele., home as office, Post, Pens – Jul & Aug	£95.55p
09.09.26	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax Aug	£385.01p
09.09.26	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Fee 04.08.26 to 25.08.26	£93.00p
09.09.26	BACs	KSS Air Ambulance Charity	S.137 Donation (agreed £300 July 26, only paid £100)	£200.00p
01.08.26	SO	Staff Salaries	July	£2378.05p
01.08.26	DD	NEST	Pension Contributions July	£95.65p
01.08.26	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
27.08.26	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply July	£114.41p
31.08.26	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	Awaited
01.09.26	SO	Staff Salaries	August	£2216.40p
01.09.26	DD	NEST	Pension Contributions August	£95.65p
01.09.26	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
27.09.26	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply August	£134.18p
31.09.26	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£44.59p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount
28.08.26	BACs	K.C.C.	Grant re. Traffic Survey	£500.00p

9. Parish Council Matters

1. **ROSPA Village Hall garden inspection:** Council members noted the report.

2. **To appoint a solicitor for the handover of the new Village Hall upon completion:** Council members **RESOLVED** to appoint Whitehead Monckton, who also dealt with the legal work for the handover of the old Village Hall land. The costs are expected to be £2,000 + VAT and disbursements.

Action: Clerk/RFO

The Chair deferred item 10 on the agenda to be discussed later in the meeting.

11. Village Newsletter

1. **To consider publishing a village newsletter:** Volunteers attended the meeting and discussed establishing a group to gather content for the newsletter, and the Clerk has requested quotations for distribution. Council members agreed to support the publication of the village newsletter.

10. Highway Improvement Plan

Michelle Anderson, Active Travel Officer for Swale Borough Council attended the meeting to discuss available S.106 funding from the Pond Farm development. The criteria for the funding is projects that contribute to active travel within a 3 mile radius of the development. Projects discussed in the following priority order were as follows:

1. 20mph speed limit through the village
2. Zebra crossing in School Lane
3. Design of footpath between Sheppey Way and Swale train station

1. **To confirm areas of traffic calming to remove to help traffic flow:** Council members agreed to submit a request to KCC Highways to remove the following traffic calming areas:
    - The Street opposite the Woolpack
    - The Street opposite the row of cottages and the junction of School Lane
    - Ferry Road, outside Iwade Garage
    - Sheppey Way, opposite Colson Drive

Also request the following:

- Ask for priority signage for traffic leaving the village at the natural pinch point outside no.34
- Remove the hedge on the junction of Peach Blossom Drive and Sheppey Way. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **To review highway improvement requests:** Speeding issues in School Lane were discussed. Members agreed to speak with KCC Highways about the traffic calming areas first, then review the rest of the highway improvement requests.

12. Projects

1. **Bulb Planting:** Discussed in item 8.1.

2. **Festive Lighting:** Discussed in item 8.3.

3. **New Village Hall:** The site team at Bellway expect the completion of the hall will be delayed until April 2027. To meet the Section 106 conditions the hall needs to be completed by June 2027.

4. **Future public events:** A successful litter pick was held in August, a Christmas event will be held at the Barn on the last Saturday in November, and there will also be Halloween and Octoberfest events held at the Barn. The Woolpack pub have expressed interest in being involved in the community festive lights event.

5. **Tracker:** Council members discussed the water leak in Ferry Road and asked the Clerk to follow up with both KCC and Southern Water, and add an item to the next agenda. ***Action: Clerk***

   Members reported that SGN have left spray paint on the footpath in The Street and asked the Clerk to report this. ***Action: Clerk***

Swale Borough Council previously advised that a volunteer group would be installing a duck house in the pond in Woodpecker Park and asked the Clerk to get an update. ***Action: Clerk***

13. **Reports from Representatives:**

1. **Village Hall Committee:** Cllr. Hartley advised a date for the AGM has not been set and will speak to the committee. Council members asked the Clerk to write to the committee in a weeks time to follow this up. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **KALC Area Representative:** The representative advised CCTV was discussed and the control room reported there has been a reduction in anti-social behaviour. It was agreed to form a sub-committee and Cllr. P. Holowczycki was nominated as Chair. The sub-committee are working on a group information pack for parish councils interested in puchashing CCTV. They will next meet on 21st September.

   Cllr. Tolhurst advised he will arrange a meeting with Sean Smith to discuss the parish councils CCTV service. ***Action: Cllr. Tolhurst***

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

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

- MUGA – Recreational space at new Country park.
- E-Scooters riding on public footpaths and green spaces.
- Success story – CCTV.
- Request information on reporting anti-social behaviour is published on the Iwade Village website.

15. **Next Meeting(s):** Full Council meeting, Wednesday 14 October 2026 7.30 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Appendix A:

Swale West ED

Richard Palmer — Kent County Council
September 2026 Report

Highway

Grovehurst Roundabout: Red Light Violations

A number of residents have raised concerns about vehicles going through red lights at the Grovehurst gyratory junction. Given the number of traffic signals and the way traffic moves around the gyratory, I take this seriously.
I have asked KCC Highways to assess the road surface, the road markings and lining, and the traffic light sequencing at the junction. I am worried that a serious collision could result if this carries on, and I want it looked at properly before that happens.

Key Street Roundabout: Unfinished Works and Lane Confusion

Residents of Keycol Hill and Key Street have been living alongside an unfinished worksite at Key Street Roundabout for at least a month. Work began, some handrails were installed, and then it stopped without restarting. The work teams have left the site, leaving residents with a cone farm, some of it blocking the footpath on Keycol Hill.
More seriously, the lane layout on the approach to Rainham and Keycol Hill has changed. Where there used to be one lane for Rainham and Keycol Hill and one for Sheppey Way, there are now two lanes going to Rainham. This is causing confusion and danger, with residents reporting aggressive horn use throughout the day and night as drivers cut across from the outside lane to filter down for Keycol Hill. Two collisions have been witnessed, along with numerous road rage incidents.
I am raising this with KCC Highways as a matter of urgency. The lane arrangement needs to be revisited and the abandoned worksite either completed or properly secured before someone is seriously injured.

Keycol Hill: Speeding Concerns

Residents near the roundabout have reported a marked increase in speeds exiting onto Keycol Hill since the layout changed, with one resident describing a vehicle that nearly mounted the pavement while travelling at speed around the corner from the A249. Residents estimate speeds of 50 to 60mph on a 30mph road.
I am asking KCC whether Vehicle Activated Signs showing the 30mph limit can be installed on Keycol Hill before there is a collision involving a pedestrian or a resident pulling out of their own drive.
If you spot a highway problem, you can report it online at kent.gov.uk (search "report a highway problem"). For routine calls to Highways, ring 03000 41 81 81 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. For emergencies or anything outside office hours, call 03000 41 91 91.

Newington: Construction Dust

Residents in Newington have raised serious health concerns about dust from two active construction sites, the Dandara development north of the A2 and the Fernham Homes development on land west of Church Lane. The dust has been described as severe, with residents who have lung conditions reporting a real impact on their health, including at least one resident needing to use their inhaler more than usual.
No damping down has been carried out to control the dust, despite this being a standard requirement for sites near residential areas. The issue has been reported to planning enforcement, the Environment Agency and the developers directly, but no action had been taken.
I have raised this with Public Health at KCC, who have spoken to the Environmental Health team at Swale Borough Council. Site visits have now taken place and I will keep pressing for action until this is properly resolved. If you are experiencing health problems because of the dust, please keep documenting your symptoms and report ongoing issues to Swale Borough Council's Environmental Health team.

ASB

Catapult-related incidents appear to be on the increase across the division. I raised this with the Police and Crime Commissioner at a meeting in July and am raising it again with the PCC team this month.
If you or anyone you know experiences or witnesses this kind of behaviour, please report it. Non-emergency incidents can be reported to Kent Police via 101, online at kent.police.uk/ro/report, or by calling 999 in an emergency. The more reports that are logged, the stronger the case for action, so please do not assume someone else has already reported it.

Questions & How to Get in Touch?

If you have issues where council involvement could help please get in touch. The more I know about what is happening on the ground, the more effectively I can act.
I also receive many requests for help directly from local residents.
I plan to attend each parish in person at least once per quarter. If you would like me at a specific meeting, email me directly.

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