IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11 November 2026

Present:	Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair	Cllr. P. Hyde
	Cllr. D. McBeath – Vice-Chair	Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson
	Cllr. M. Baldock	Samantha Gray, Clerk
	Cllr. J. Hartley	Lynda Ives, RFO
	Cllr. P. Holowczycki	7 Residents

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from County Cllr. R. Palmer.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. M. Baldock and seconded by Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 14 October 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. **Residents**: A concern was raised about the speed limit in Grovehurst Road being signposted as the national speed limit on the approach to the new mini roundabout just outside of the gateway. Members agreed to write to KCC (Kent County Council) Highways. ***Action: Clerk***

   Cllr. Hyde reported the Grovehurst Road gateway has not been repaired despite KCC advising the gateway would be included with the A249 junction improvements. Members agreed to follow up with KCC Highways. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **County and Borough Councillors**: Cllr. R. Palmer provided a report, see appendix A.

3. **Police Constable:** PC Blakeman provded a report, see appendix B.

5. Village Matters

1. **Water leak in Ferry Road – to receive updates from Southern Water:** Southern Water advised the repair was completed on the 17 October, a check was carried out and the road remained dry. The leak has reappeared since this date, Southern Water have been notified and will advise their next steps. The Clerk will request an update from Southern Water. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **Community Governance Review (CGR):** Cllr. Baldock advised that the CGR needs to be signed off by parliament and if all goes to plan the boundary changes will be completed in time for the May 2027 elections.

3. **Process for the Swale Local Plan:** Cllr. Baldock advised the Swale Local Plan will be considered by the full council in December.

4. **To consider replacing Hornbeam trees in Woodpecker Park:** Council members considered a quotation of £17,817.77 from Swale Borough Council to plant 37 trees around the village including the replacement of 10 Hornbeam trees in Woodpecker park. The contract includes a 2 year maintenance plan.

   Members **RESOLVED** to agree the quotation, proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Baldock. The cost will be funded by the RWE community fund. ***Action: RFO***

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A resident reported there are dead fruit trees in the Woodpecker park orchard which are a cause for concern. The Clerk will write to Swale Borough Council. ***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. **22/503654/EIOUT**: Outline application (all matters reserved except for means of access from Sheppey Way) for a mixed use development comprising up to 2,500 dwellings, a 5.21 ha commercial employment zone including doctors' surgery, a 4.35 ha sports hub (and sports pitches), 3FE primary school, community facilities, local retail provision, public open space, children's play areas and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure.

   Iwade parish council stand by objections made in December 2022 and March 2025 and also object to the above application due to the following reasons:

   Impact of the development on rural lanes around Iwade:
   There has been no significant consideration of the impact of the development on rural lanes around Iwade, apart from the major junctions.

   The parish council feel the application does not meet requirements in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) TR6: Assessing transport impacts and the Local Plan transport/highways policy paragraph 5.2.8. An assessment needs to be carried out to assess the impact on the narrow rural lanes in Iwade. The proposed development could have an unacceptable impact on highway safety.

   Drainage and Flood Risk:
   In accordance with the Swale Borough Local Plan Policy DM 21(water, flooding and drainage policy) and the NPPF F1-F9, a flood risk assessment needs to be carried out by the Environment Agency and a condition should be made to carry out any flood proofing measures recommended in the risk assessment.

   The parish council feel the application does not meet the requirements stated. The proposed development could have a significant drainage impact on Iwade stream which has flooded the centre of Iwade village in the past. Current national policy requires development to be safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere and requires current and future flood risk, climate change and cumulative effects to be properly considered.

   Kent County Council's response dated 20 March 2025 confirms that the proposed strategic wetland at the northern boundary of the development would discharge to the Iwade Stream. The Parish Council therefore considers the Iwade Stream and its downstream catchment to be directly relevant to the consideration of this application.
   The Parish Council requests that the Local Planning Authority clearly identify where the application evidence demonstrates and assesses the consequences of this discharge downstream of the

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development, particularly at Iwade. In the absence of such evidence, the Parish Council considers that the potential impacts on downstream drainage and flood risk have not been adequately addressed.

Cumulative effect of planning applications may erode the gap between Iwade and Bobbing: The parish council feel the application should not be judged in isolation where the cumulative effect of applications in Iwade and Bobbing will erode the gap between the parishes.

The parish council note that planning application 26/500335/OUT in Sheppey Way was refused stating the countryside gap as a reason: "The proposed development would introduce an intrusive form of development which would be harmful to the character and appearance of the countryside and contribute to the piecemeal erosion of an Important Local Countryside Gap, also resulting in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. The collective harm arising significantly and demonstrably outweighs any benefits from the proposal (including its contribution to the overall supply of housing in the Borough). The application is therefore contrary to policies ST1, ST3, ST5, DM14, DM24, DM25 and DM31 of Bearing Fruits 2031: The Swale Borough Local Plan and the NPPF"

7. Correspondence

1. **Request for a suicide prevention bench:** Members considered the request and agreed that chat benches are a preferred alternative and will consider suitable locations at the January council meeting. The cost to purchase and install the benches will be considered in the 2027/28 budget.
Action: Clerk/RFO

2. **Request for cat crossing signs:** Members discussed installing approximately 20 cat crossing signs in the verges of main roads in the village; Sanderling Way, Ferry Road and Holly Blue Drive. The cost to purchase and install the signs will be considered in the 2027/28 budget. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

3. **2026-27 Community transport grant:** Members agreed that due to the application deadline of 20 December 2026 there is not enough time to fully consider establishing a community transport scheme.

4. **Propose project on Land to the East of Sheppey Way:** Council members considered whether to receive a presentation for a proposed project on the land to the East of Sheppey Way. Members agreed not to accept the presentation and will wait to receive the planning consultation. ***Action: Clerk***

8. Finance

1. **To appoint a banking signatory:** Cllr. Rivers-Simpson agreed to complete his signatory set up. The RFO will provide him with the details required. ***Action: RFO***

2. **Revised quotation to replace a broken planter in The Street:** Members agreed to an additional cost of £50.00p for materials to complete the repair of a broken planter in The Street, the total cost of repair is £269.00p. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

   Members also discussed a planter outside of the Woolpack which has been damaged due to rotting wood. Agreed to ask for quotations to repair or replace the planter. The handyman has been instructed to make this planter safe. ***Action: RFO***

   Due to the age and condition of the planters in The Street members are considering to replace all planters and will consider the cost in the 2027/28 budget.

3. **Budget 2027/28:** Members considered projects to include in the budget for 2027/28 and suggested the following:
   - Planters

- Cat crossing signs
- Chat benches
- Iwade Observer printing

Members agreed to hold a Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm. The monthly meeting will take place on the same date at 7pm, non-urgent agenda items will be deferred to the January 2027 monthly meeting. ***Action: Clerk/RFO***

4. **To consider quotations to improve land on the corner of School Lane:** Proposed by Cllr. Baldock and seconded by Cllr. McBeath, members agreed to a quotation from Blenwood at a cost of £3,690.00+ VAT for level and re-seed, knee rail fencing, planted border and removal of waste. ***Action: RFO***

5. **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 October 2026. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Tolhurst and Hyde to log in and authorise payments.

Action: Cllrs. Tolhurst/Holowczycki

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
11.11.26	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Telephone, home as office – October	£18.00p
11.11.26	BACs	S. Gray	Expenses – Telephone, home as office – October	£44.00p
11.11.26	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax October Month 7	£720.14p
11.11.26	BACs	Viking	Stationery	£32.31p
11.11.26	BACs	Swale Borough Council	CCTV for Allotment ownership (RWE Grant)	£6480.00p
11.11.26	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Fee 05.10.26 to 25.10.26	£170.50p
11.11.26	BACs	Goldfinch Tree Surgery	Cutting back Brambles side of Village Hall	£330.00p
01.11.26	SO	Staff Salaries	October (includes pay award, backdated to April 2026)	£3171.31p
01.11.26	DD	NEST	Pension Contributions October	£158.89p
01.11.26	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
28.10.26	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply September	£156.75p
30.11.26	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£44.59p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount

9. Parish Council Matters

1. **Parish Council member Co-option:** Proposed by Cllr. Baldock and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, council members agreed to co-opt Mitch Brewer as a parish councilllor and he duly signed the acceptance of office form. ***Action: Clerk***

10. Village Newsletter

1. **To consider publishing a village newsletter:** Discussed contacting the volunteers who came forward on the Facebook poll for delivering the newsletter. ***Action: Clerk***

Also discussed a logo for the newsletter. This will be considered in the budget for 2027/28.

Action: RFO

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

1. **To receive an update following the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) review meeting:** Cllr. Tolhurst updated council members and explained the HIP requests were discussed and the main focus was regarding the 20mph speed limit for all of the village and removal of the pinch points. Jennie Watson, KCC Highways officer explained that both schemes together are not compatible therefore the council need to decide which scheme to proceed with.

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2. **To decide which request to proceed with: 20mph speed limit or remove pinch points:** Members agreed to proceed with the request for a 20mph speed limit. There is S.106 funding available to fund the signage required and Michelle Anderson, Active Travel Officer for Swale Borough Council can engage with a project manager. ***Action: Clerk***

12. Projects

1. **Bulb Planting:** Council members have agreed to plant bulbs in the following areas:
   - Grass verge outside of Featherbed Lane.
   - Traffic calming areas: Sheppey Way, Grovehurst Road and Sanderling Way
   - Pathway leading to the Cairn from Ferry Road – both sides of path
   - Tele Tubby Hill around the flagpole

2. **Festive Lighting:** The festive lights have been installed. Three columns in Sheppey Way failed load testing therefore could not be used this year, the Clerk will request the reports from KCC. Also six columns in Sheppey Way added to the festive lighting plan for this year were missing from KCC's system and have not been load tested yet, the Clerk will follow up with KCC. ***Action: Clerk***

3. **New Village Hall:** Cllr. Rivers-Simpson has recently spoken with the security company regarding CCTV for the new Village hall and would like to see the electric cables for the camera installed inside the hall, instead of running along the exterior walls. The Clerk will contact Bellway Homes. ***Action: Clerk***

   The next site meeting will be held on 23 November.

4. **Future public events:** The Christmas lights switch on will be held on Saturday 28 November.

5. **Tracker:** Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document and advised he has taken off pond management now that all work has been completed including the installation of a duck house which was built by volunteers of Milton Creek. Members discussed installing a duck house in the second attenuation pond at Woodpecker Park and awarding a donation to the volunteers. The Clerk will add an item to the January agenda. ***Action: Clerk***

13. Reports from Representatives:

1. **Village Hall Committee:** The interim Chair has been setting up access to systems and carrying out the safety checks required.

2. **KALC Area Representative:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 7 December. Cllr. Holowczycki explained that there has not been enough interest from parishes to set up joint CCTV contracts.

3. **Western Councillor & Residents Forum:** Cllr. Tolhurst advised he attended the meeting held on 3 November which covered the CGR, LGR, and the historical research group attended who explained they are trying to get new premises in Roman Square. A benefactor has offered them £275,000.00 provided they can get a property for that amount.

14. Items to note for the Next Agenda: The next agenda will be urgent items only to allow time for the finance committee meeting.

15. Next Meeting(s):

Full Council meeting: Wednesday 9 December 2026 7.00 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.
Finance Committee meeting: Wednesday 9 December 2026 7.30 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

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Appendix A: **See report in separate document.**

Appendix B:

Drop-in surgery at	Your local beat police officer is **PC 13812 Adam Blakeman**
06/11/26 1030am- The Mews Brewhouse but this may be subject to change. **PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTEND ANY OF MY SURGERIES REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU LIVE**	

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-

- **I was patrolling the village on Halloween and responded to a call of nuisance youths with catapults. Four youths were detained and searched but no catapults were located. Large groups of youths of were moved out of the village.**
- **I have been notified of nuisance vehicles in Ridham dock. If you see any vehicles driving at speed in convey, that raise your suspicions please take note of the vehicle registrations and notify me.**
- **I mentioned in the last newsletter the break ins at the solar panel farms. These have continued so I again ask members of the public to remain vigilant for suspicious vehicles parked near them, and to call 999 if they think its appropriate to do so.**

- **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

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