

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 8 January 2026

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair	Samantha Gray, Clerk
	Cllr. M. Baldock	Lynda Ives, RFO
	Cllr. J. Hartley	Cllr. Mike Whiting
	Cllr. P. Holowczycki	Louise Galloway, Swale BC
	Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson	3 Residents

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. S. Waters and P. Hyde.

2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** – None.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 11 December 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 11 December 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. **Visitors/Public Time**

1. **Residents:** The Chair brought item 6.6 on the agenda forward; a resident has raised a request for sports facilities in the village, such as basketball, football, or multi-use games courts. The Chair advised that the parish council do not own land to facilitate this, but with evidence of support from residents an application could be made for a future S.106 agreement with a housing developer.

There is a S.106 agreement in place to install adult exercise equipment in the field at Peach Blossom Drive, the Clerk will follow this up with Swale Council (SBC). **Action: Clerk**

A resident raised concerns about road safety – a fatality has recently happened in Iwade, and near misses have been witnessed in traffic calming areas with vehicles not slowing down. The Chair asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Kent County Council (KCC) to discuss the two fatalities that have now happened on roads in the parish. **Action: Clerk**

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

3. **Police Constable:** None attended and 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>

1. No planning consultations received.

6. **Correspondence**

1. **Swale Borough Council Community Governance Review – Consultation Phase 1** – Cllr. Mike Whiting and Louise Galloway attended the meeting to discuss the consultation that is currently open for the Swale Borough Council Community Governance Review. SBC are considering whether to amend the boundary of Iwade to include the area currently outside the boundary beside the A249 and extend the boundary along Sheppey Way, up to Bramblefield Lane. A map is available to view in the consultation form, which can be accessed using the following link: <https://swale.gov.uk/your->

[council/consultations/community-governance-review-cgr-consultation](https://www.swale.gov.uk/council/consultations/community-governance-review-cgr-consultation). The consultation closes 9th February 2026. The Clerk will re-post advertisements. **Action: Clerk**

2. **Swale Borough Council, Planning Policy Newsletter** – Swale council are running a consultation for comments on the Regulation 18 stage of the Local Plan from Monday 12th January 2026 and Monday 23rd February 2026 at 5pm. The consultation can be found using the following link: <https://swale-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>. The Clerk will re-post advertisements. **Action: Clerk**

3. **KALC Community Awards Scheme 2026** – To complete the application, KALC need to know if the council would like to put forward their nominee to attend the Celebration Evening and receive the certificate to be presented at the Celebration Evening. Cllr. Tolhurst will speak with the nominee. **Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/Clerk**

4. **Regulation 18 Local Plan Consultation** – Same consultation as item 6.2 above.

5. **Request for Double Yellow Lines in Ferry Road** – The same request was discussed at a Highway Improvement Plan meeting with KCC in December 2023 and KCC advised there is no safety risk therefore installing double yellow lines is not considered a priority.

Council members **RESOLVED** they stand by the previous decision. **Action: Clerk**

6. **Request for Sports Facilities** – see item 4.1 above.

7. **Parish Council Matters**

1. **To consider approving the Equality and Diversity Policy** – Proposed by Cllr. Baldock and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, members **RESOLVED** to accept the policy. **Action: Clerk**

2. **To consider approving the Dignity at Work Policy** – Proposed by Cllr. Hartley and seconded by Cllr. Baldock, members **RESOLVED** to accept the policy. **Action: Clerk**

3. **To consider approving the IT Policy** – Council members **RESOLVED** to amend paragraph No.8 in the policy ‘Password and account security’ to state the current procedure in place and will consider for approval at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

4. **CCTV Operations Feedback Form** – Members **RESOLVED** Cllr. Tolhurst will complete the form and circulate to members for approval. **Action: Cllr. Tolhurst/Clerk**

5. **Risk Management Policy** - Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members **RESOLVED** to accept the policy. **Action: Clerk**

8. **Finance**

1. **Precept/Budget 2026/27** – Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members held a vote and **RESOLVED** to agree the 2026/27 Precept of £83,000.00p. **Action: RFO**

This equates to a 16.32% increase, £7.62p extra per year which is 15p per week for a Band D property. The increase is due to rising costs the parish council need to cover.

2. **Grant Request – Kent Community Rail Partnership** – Proposed by Cllr. Baldock, and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members **RESOLVED** to agree a S.137 donation of £100.00p to Kent Community Rail Partnership. **Action: RFO**

Cllr. Hartley advised he would like to join the Kent Community Rail Partnership as a representative for Iwade. **Action: Clerk**

3. **Grant Request – Parent and Toddler Group** – Proposed by Cllr. Baldock, and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members **RESOLVED** to agree a donation of £902.50p to cover hall hire costs. **Action: RFO**

4. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 31 December 2025. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Holowczycki and Tolhurst to log in and authorise payments.

Action: Cllrs. Holowczycki/Tolhurst

The Chairman advised the Finance Committee need an additional member, the Clerk will add this to the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
15.12.25	BACs	Survey Monkey	Yearly Subscription	£228.00p
08.01.26	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Tele., home as office – December	£18.00p
08.01.26	BACs	S. Gray	Expenses – Tele., home as office – December	£44.00p
08.01.26	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax December	£290.23p
08.01.26	BACs	Gala Lights	Storage/Putting up/down/PAT testing Festive Lights 2025	£10866.00p
08.01.26	BACs	McKenzie Web Solutions	Development Work (3 Months) Iwade Village Website	£300.00p
08.01.26	BACs	K.C.C.	Loading Report/Admin – Festive Lights	£1961.00p
08.01.26	BACs	Streetlights	Repairs Column o/s 48a Sheerstone	£261.00p
01.01.26	SO	Staff Salaries	December	£1599.86p
01.01.26	DD	NEST	Pension Contributions December	£78.52p
01.01.26	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
26.01.26	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply – December	Awaited
31.01.26	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	Awaited
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount

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

- 1. Future public events:** The Barn are planning events for American Independence Day, Rum and Reggae and Santa’s Grotto. A suggestion was made to celebrate solstice as Iwade has a henge under the field in Peach Blossom Drive, this will be discussed with the Barn trustees.
- 2. Tracker** – Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document to all council members and discussed the following:
 - Traffic Survey – not carried out due to road closures. The Clerk will write to Railton for an update on the scheduling of the traffic survey, and will contact Jackon Civil Engineering to enquire about road closures. **Action: Clerk**
 - Southern Water – The water leak is still present at Ferry Road, no updates regarding the repair have been made. The Clerk will arrange a site visit with Mike Russell, a representative for Southern Water. **Action: Clerk**
 - Village Survey – the Clerk will re-post the advertisement. **Action: Clerk**

10. **Reports from Representatives**

- 1. Village Hall Committee** – Proposed by Cllr. Baldock and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed they will put forward a representative from the parish council to join the Village Hall committee. The Clerk will find out when the Annual General Meeting is being held. **Action: Clerk**
- 2. KALC Area Representative** – The next meeting will be held on Monday 16 February 2026 and there will be a speaker to talk about social isolation in rural areas.
- 3. Western Area Committee** – The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12 February 2026.

11. **Items for the Next Agenda**

- Updates from Jacksons Civil Engineering
- H.I.P Committee Meeting
- Updates from Southern Water

12. **Next Meeting(s)** – Members discussed holding future meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. Subject to Iwade Barn being available the next meeting will be:

Full Council meeting, Wednesday 11 February 2026 7.30 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

The meeting closed at 9.49 p.m.

Cllr Richard Palmer Swale West Kent County Councillor Update January 2026

The big item for 2026 is the KCC budget, which is being set on the 12th of February. We at KCC aim to set a balanced budget, and to highlight some savings made from re-negotiating contracts and contract delivery or by bringing some services back in house. The aim is not to have any reduction in services while making saving and reducing the massive debt (£740 million) that we inherited.

Questions and issues raised with Cabinet Members

These questions are submitted to the Kent County Council Cabinet members as they relate to matters affecting the Swale West Division.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport

For the past four years, residents of my Swale West Division in Sittingbourne, Kent have experienced sustained disruption due to prolonged and overlapping strategic roadworks, including the M2 / A249 junction improvements, the Grovehurst Junction works at Kemsley / Iwade, and the A2 / A249 Key Street junction works.

As a result, the villages of Borden, Bobbing, Hartlip, Iwade, Lower Halstow, Newington and Upchurch have experienced exceptional levels of displaced traffic, including HGVs using rural lanes as rat-runs.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm:

A) That a targeted programme will be implemented to repair damaged rural lanes across Swale West, including a defined pothole repair schedule.

B) That the A2 from Key Street to the Medway border will be prioritised for full resurfacing.