

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 11 September 2025

Present: Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair
Cllr. Jordan Hartley
Cllr. P Holowczycki
Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson
Samantha Gray, Clerk
6 Residents

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Hyde, Baldock, D.Waters, Gomez and S.Waters, and County Cllr. Richard Palmer.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 10 July 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. Visitors: Residents discussed the following with the council:

- Fencing installed by housing developer Bellway is still blocking the path in Woodpecker park and also across another concrete path. Bellway Homes installed the fencing and agreed to realign this in the first week of September. The Clerk will follow this up with Bellway. **Action: Clerk**
- A request for benches in the field in School Lane. This field is rented by The Herons football club, the Clerk will contact them to discuss this. **Action: Clerk**
- Drivers speeding in School Lane. The council advised 20mph wig wags have been installed outside Iwade School and the council are looking into purchasing speed indicator devices that can be used in three locations in the village. The council will raise this at the next Highway Improvement Plan meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- Parking on grass verges. The council will raise this at the next Highway Improvement Plan meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- CCTV signage. This is installed on the lamp column under each CCTV camera.

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

3. Police Constable: No report received.

5. Village Matters

- ##### **1. Fly-tipping, Raspberry Hill Lane** – Council members discussed installing a CCTV camera in Raspberry Hill Lane to help address the fly-tipping issue in this area. Cllr. Tolhurst will contact Sean Smith at Swale Borough Council to discuss the cost of installing the camera. **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>

- ##### **1. 25/502708/FULL: Conversion of an existing garage into a functional office and utility space. 5 Swallow Avenue Iwade Kent ME9 8FS.** The deadline for consultation comments has passed, application noted.

2. **25/502115/FULL: Extension of existing drop curb to the site frontage alongside the removal of the existing hedgerow providing an open frontage enabling easier vehicle access and parking. 30 School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8SE.** The deadline for consultation comments has passed, application noted.
3. **25/502891/FULL: Part conversion of garage into a habitable room with the erection of a single storey rear extension. 23 Kingfisher Close Iwade Kent ME9 8LY.** The deadline for consultation comments has passed, application noted.
4. **25/502841/FULL: Erection of 156no. residential dwellings, together with associated access, a new junction, open space, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works. Land At Sheppey Way Iwade Kent.**

We wish to object to the above application for the following reasons:

- Swale Borough Council's 5 year housing target is 5,502. Planning applications for 7,000 new homes in Swale have already been approved.
- The proposed Highsted Park development, if approved, would supply 8,400 new homes.
- Iwade Parish Council are in the process of organising an independent traffic survey to assess how the increase in housing in Iwade will impact traffic in the village.
- Iwade Parish Council kindly ask that the decision on the above application is delayed due to the above factors.
- The proposal includes 40% social housing. The plans show they are all allocated in one area together, social housing should be spread throughout the estate.
- The proposed housing mix plan shows apartments to be built at the entrance of the housing development adjacent to Sheppey Way. This is not in keeping with the character and appearance of the local area.
- The local infrastructure cannot cope with increased housing; nurseries, schools and the GP surgery.
- Iwade Stream runs between these two developments and any increase in surface water run-off/allowing water into this waterway, will increase the risk of flooding in the centre of the village. With climate change and increased rainfall during winter developers should be doing all they can to protect existing properties from flooding and not exacerbate the risk. There is no water attenuation provision in the Sheppey Way section.
- This land is not allocated on Swale's Local Plan for development.
- Swale Borough Council have already approved 512 new homes to be built in Iwade.
- Iwade Parish Council would like to call this planning application into the planning committee.

7. **Correspondence**

1. **Bobbing Parish Council – Exploring Joint Working** – Bobbing parish council propose working collaboratively due to several large developments proposed between both parishes. Council members agreed and suggested sending a council member to relevant meetings. The Clerk will respond to Bobbing parish council. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Jackson Civil Engineering – to note response regarding social value commitments** – The council asked Jackson Civil Engineering if they could carry out repairs needed to the village hall car park as part of their contribution to the village. The council received the following response: 'regrettably, Jacksons is unable to bear the cost of implementing a sustainable repair. Given that the social value commitments for the scheme have been fulfilled, we are unable to undertake this additional work.' The Clerk will follow this up. **Action: Clerk**

3. **Raspberry Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr. Rivers-Simpson advised that unfortunately due to the Barn being a grade 2 listed building they will not be able to proceed with their request for solar panels.

A request for trees to be planted in Iwade and installation of CCTV at Iwade allotments will be considered by the Community Benefit Fund. The development project manager has asked if there are any other project requests. Members agreed to ask for Christmas lights funding, and installation of benches and gates in the School Lane field (permission needed from The Herons football club).

Action: Clerk

4. **Obstructed Footpath Woodpecker Park – to note response from Bellway** – already discussed, see item 4.1.

8. **Parish Council Matters**

1. **ROSPA Garden Inspection** – Council members noted the garden inspection report. Uneven garden surface has been reported and the handyman has supplied a quotation of £265.00p to repair this. Council members would like to inspect the garden, the Clerk will arrange this with the Village Hall committee. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk/Council members

9. **Finance**

1. **Grant request – Iwade Village Hall for car park resurfacing** – Iwade Village Hall have submitted an application for financial assistance for £4,000p towards the cost of resurfacing the Village Hall car park. Members noted only one repair quotation was obtained, they would expect at least two more to consider granting a donation. Grant request not agreed.

Council members agreed to ask Bellway Homes to carry out the repairs required.

Action: Clerk

2. **Revised traffic survey quotation** – Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members agreed to the quotation of £1,560.00p + VAT from Traffic Survey Partners, and the quotation from Railton of £2,300.00p plus approximately £150.00p for expenses. Kent County Council license fees are not included.

Action: Clerk/RFO

3. **IT Support** – Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed to the cost of £82.50p + VAT for IT support for the Clerk.

Action: Clerk/RFO

4. **BSEN Load testing quotation** – Proposed by Cllr. Hartley and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed to the cost of £1,600.00p + VAT for load testing of 20 lamp columns for this years festive lighting, and £41.00p fee to process the application.

Action: Clerk/RFO

5. **Remembrance Day poppy wreath and lamppost poppies** – Proposed by Cllr. Hartley and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members agreed to purchase a wreath and ribbon, plus make a donation to the Royal British Legion at a total cost of £50.00p. Members also agreed to purchase 40 lamp post poppies at a cost of £200.00p.

Action: RFO

6. **Clerk Training – Introduction to Planning for Local Councils** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members agreed to the cost of £60.00p + VAT.

Action: Clerk/RFO

7. **Lamp Column cover key** – Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Tolhurst, members agreed to the cost of £19.04p including delivery and VAT.

8. **Remembrance Day Flag** – Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed to purchase two flags, one for the parish council flagpost and one for Iwade Barn.

Action: Clerk/RFO

9. **Completed Audit 2024/25** – Members noted the 2024-25 audit was completed in accordance with proper practises and no concerns were raised.

- 10. 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 2025 and 31 August 2025. The following payments were agreed, Cllrs. Holowczycki and Tolhurst to log in and authorise payments.

Action: Cllrs. Holowczycki/ Tolhurst

EXPENDITURE				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Payable to	Reason	Amount
14.08.25	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax July	£268.99p
14.08.25	BACs	Playsafety Ltd	Village Hall Garden Annual Inspection	£96.00p
14.08.25	BACs	McCabe Ford Williams	Payroll Preparation	£125.33p
14.08.25	BACs	ADM Computing	Remote Support – Microsoft 365 setup issues	£99.00p
21.08.25	BACs	C&R Outdoor Lighting Ltd	Key for Lamp Column Inspection Panel	£19.04p
21.08.25	BACs	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath, 40 Lamp Column Poppies and Donation	£250.00p
11.09.25	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Tele., home as office, Inks – July & August	£97.66p
11.09.25	BACs	S. Grey	Expenses – Tele., home as office – July & August	£88.00p
11.09.25	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax August	£268.99p
11.09.25	BACs	K.S.M. Ltd	Installation of Memorial Plaque RW1	£30.00p
11.09.25	BACs	Steve Wakeling	Handyman Fee and Materials 24.06.25 to 02.09.25	£479.50p
01.08.25	SO	Staff Salaries	July	£1560.42p
01.09.25	SO	Staff Salaries	August	£1560.62p
01.08.25	DD	NEST	Pension contributions July	£74.59p
01.09.25	DD	NEST	Pension Contributions August	£74.59p
01.08.25	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
01.09.25	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply	Awaited
31.07.25	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£40.63p
31.08.25	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£60.95p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount

10. Projects – Updates on Current and New

- Future public events** – Cllr. Rivers-Simpson advised the Iwade Barn trustees are planning an Octoberfest event for the end of September. They are also planning to hold a Santa's grotto, Christmas Lights switch on and lattern parade. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting between Cllr Rivers-Simpson and the Chairman of Iwade Village Hall. **Action: Clerk**
- Tracker** – Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document to members and advised he has sent the first draft of a residents village survey to all members. The Clerk will add this to the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**
- Planting Crocus Bulbs** – Members discussed planting the crocus bulbs at the same sites as the daffodil bulbs and agreed to ask the handyman to plant the bulbs. **Action: Clerk**

4. **Village Clean-up** – Members agreed to hold the village clean up on 12 October. Cllr. Tolhurst advised he is unable to attend and a council member needs to be present in the village hall to complete paperwork and collect litter pickers. Cllr. Tolhurst will speak with The Mews Brewhouse about serving drinks to volunteers.
Action: Clerk/councillors

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.
3. **Western Area Committee** – Cllr. Tolhurst attended the meeting at Swale House on Tuesday 9 September. Swale Borough Council are holding a public consultation on public toilets, and discussed a cycling and walking infrastructure plan.

12. **Items for the Next Agenda**

- Residents Village Survey
- Planting Crocus Bulbs – Keep on the agenda.

13. **Next Meeting(s)**

Full Council meeting, Thursday 9 October 2025, 8.00 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

14. **Closed Session**

1. **Local government services pay agreement 2025/26** – Proposed by Cllr. Hartley and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members agreed to apply the increase of 3.2% to staff pay scales and back date the increase to 1 April 2025.

Appendix A

The New Administration at KCC

After completing training on the council's committees and procedure the administration has begun the vital work of delivering the services our communities rely on — while cutting waste and inefficiency.

First major action:

We reduced councillors' allowances by 5%.

How we used this 5%

The savings were immediately redirected to local services and community group support, ensuring your money goes where it's needed most. Please let local groups know.

Reducing Debt while maintaining services

When the new administration took control of Kent County Council, KCC was £732 million in debt. In just a few months, the administration reduced that by £16 million, saving £2,000 a day in interest payments and they are working to cut even more by year-end while maintaining vital services. Most of KCC's services are statutory (legally required), but we've still found ways to make savings and use them to reduce debt.

Smarter Spending Ahead

To save more, KCC is reviewing contracts. Some services may be brought back in-house to avoid high costs from private providers.

I have reported overgrown hedges on the A2 from the Medway Border to Key Street (not Iwade but seems a problem in many places). Some areas have been cleared, and owners have been written to giving them 28 days to tidy and cut the offending hedgers back. I am driving round as some village footpaths are covered by overgrowing vegetation for pedestrians to walk in the road.

Secondary Schools in Sittingbourne

I have been asking KCC questions about the proposed new secondary school in Kemsley (Quinton Road) Unfortunately I have been informed this will not be delivered until 2030 which I find shocking and unacceptable. I am challenging KCC about this. I am requesting a **Grampian Condition** that if a planning application is approved in the Sittingbourne & Sheppey district then no occupation until the school is built.

People can report highways faults online directly to KCC via <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

A new pothole reporting system is being introduced and more to follow when it goes live.

Fly tipping is a major concern, and we highlight cases to Swale Council. People can report fly tipping via <https://swale.gov.uk/bins-littering-and-the-environment/littering/report-fly-tipping> It is helpful if people can give the what3words ([what3words](#) /// [The simplest way to talk about location](#)) location plus a photo.

Some food for thought on planning applications

Re Planning. Many developments often don't have street lighting - violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). KCC **Safety at Night:**

Data shows a significant number of women feel unsafe walking alone after dark, particularly in quiet streets or open spaces.

Kent Highways:

Kent County Council works with Kent Highways to ensure safety is a consideration in planning applications, including improved lighting and more accessible public transport routes.

VAWG KCC and Kent police advise streetlights

Kent Police and Kent County Council (KCC) address concerns about street lighting related to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through specific reporting tools and collaborative strategies. Kent Police uses the national Street Safe tool for reporting environmental issues like poor lighting.

It seems strange that developments are planned which could make Women and Girls feel unsafe.

Medway Integrated Care Board

The Government has told the ICB to reduce costs by £35 million. This will see job losses and we both feel will impact people across the ward. This will see the ICB halving its operating costs.