

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11 June 2025

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair	Cllr. D. Waters
	Cllr. C. Gomez	Cllr. M. Baldock
	Cllr. J. Hartley	Samantha Gray, Clerk
	Cllr. P. Holowczycki	County Cllr. R. Palmer
	Cllr. P. Hyde	8 Residents
	Cllr. K. Rivers-Simpson	

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. S. Waters due to work commitments.

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 Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 21 May 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Gomez, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 21 May 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

- 1. Visitors:** Residents spoke to council members about the proposal from Fernham Homes for a housing development on the Land South of Iwade, Sheppey Way. Members advised they cannot comment on the development until the planning application is received and agreed the community should meet with the parish council to put forward comments together when this is available.
- 2. County and Borough Councillors:** Cllr. Palmer advised that he has grant funding available, he has been helping with appeals for school places and he is planning to meet with Highway officers.
- 3. Police Constable:** Did not attend the meeting and no report received. Members asked the Clerk to write to Inspector Julia Bassindale to express their disappointment that the parish council have not received reports from the local police constable. **Action: Clerk**

5. Village Matters

- 1. Highway Improvement Plan (H.I.P) update** – The Clerk, RFO and Cllr. Tolhurst met with KCC Highways to discuss the Parish Council's Highway Improvement Plan requests. The Clerk updated members on the following:
 - a) The Street** – KCC advised they will carry out a traffic survey when they have the ability to do so. Section 106 money will be available to build a mini roundabout at the junction of The Street and Sanderling Way. When discussing the impact of housing developments on The Street, KCC also advised Bellway have a condition to build a cycle route from the farm shop to Bramblefield Lane.
 - b) Sheppey Way – junction close to Peach Blossom Drive, entrance/exit of village** – KCC do not support priority signage due to no crash data evidence to support an issue. Members are aware of two traffic incidents which have occurred at this junction and asked if KCC can trace this data.

Members agreed that the two give way points are too close together and would like to suggest the junction is re-designed and speed humps are installed. The Clerk will update the H.I.P form.

Action: Clerk

c) **Junction of Ferry Road/Grovehurst Road/Sheppey Way** – KCC will speak to the streetlighting team about installing a high kerb.

d) **Meadow Close** – Swale Borough Council will install ‘no engine idling’ signage. They will also add Meadow Close to their list of hotspot areas and are looking to have patrols in the future.

e) **Wigeon Road** – KCC advised bollards cannot be installed on footways to deter parking due to a lack of space and cannot be installed on the grass verge due to service cables running under the verge. Double yellow lines could be installed, a consultation with residents needs to be carried out. Members asked the Clerk to action this.

Action: Clerk

2. **CCTV** – Cllr. Tolhurst asked the Clerk to defer this item to the next meeting when Cllr. S. Waters will be present. He also asked the Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council to ask for more information about incidents that have been recorded by the control room.

Action: Clerk

3. **Loss of business due to road works** – Local businesses have expressed concern that they have lost business due to ongoing road works on the A249 Grovehurst junction. Unfortunately the businesses do not have the necessary data to support a claim. Members discussed previous correspondence with Jackson Civils regarding a donation to the community and asked the Clerk to write to them about this and suggest work to the entrance and exit of the village in Grovehurst Road.

Action: Clerk

4. **Town Twinning** – Town twinning with Iwade in Japan has been looked into by the Parish Council in the past but this was not approved. Members agreed not to look into this any further.

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

No current planning actions.

7. **Correspondence**

1. **Parking concerns in Chetney View/School Lane, Holly Blue Drive/Peach Blossom Drive** – Members agreed to add the reported concerns to the Highway Improvement Plan.

Action: Clerk

8. **Parish Council Matters**

1. **Parish Councillor Application** – Mike Baldock was co-opted onto the parish council and duly signed the acceptance of office form.

2. **Standing Orders** – The Clerk advised the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have updated the Model Standing Orders to comply with procurement legislation. NALC recommend changing the value figure in item 18.v from £10,000 to £60,000. Members agreed to keep the value at £10,000. Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Gomez, members agreed to adopt the Model Standing Orders 2025.

Action: Clerk

9. **Finance**

1. **Microsoft Licenses** – Proposed by Cllr. Hartley and seconded by Cllr. Gomez, members agreed to renew the business standard and email licenses for 12 months at a cost of £771.84p.

Action: RFO

2. **Quotation for traffic surveys** – Members asked the Clerk to contact Bruce Bamber at Railton Ltd to discuss adding additional areas to the traffic survey.

Action: Clerk/RFO

3. **Quotations for Crocus Bulbs** – Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Baldock, members agreed to purchase 5,000 crocus bulbs from Boston Bulbs, at a cost of £386.00p including delivery and VAT. Members will discuss a project plan to decide the locations for planting.

Action: Clerk/RFO/council members

4. **Insurance Renewal 2025/26 additional premium** – Proposed by Cllr. Gomez and seconded by Cllr. Baldock, members agreed to the additional premium of £308.25p due to increased population now falling into the bracket of 5001-10000 residents.

5. **Iwade Village website proposal** – Members discussed a proposal from IwadeVillage.co.uk to add content to the website to increase community engagement at a cost of £100.00p per month for five hours work per month on a rolling 3-month plan. Members agreed to this proposal and agreed to fund this with the projects budget. Proposed by Cllr. Gomez and seconded by Cllr. D. Waters.

Action: Clerk/RFO

6. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 31 May. 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
29.05.25	BACS	J. Arthur Gallagher	Insurance Premium 2025/26	£3122.02p
11.06.25	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Tele., home as office, Overtime – May	£77.88p
11.06.25	BACs	S. Grey	Expenses – Tele., home as office - May	£44.00p
11.06.25	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax May	£288.83p
11.06.25	BACs	KALC	Cilca Training – S. Gray	£360.00p
11.06.25	BACs	Invicta IT Solutions	Microsoft 365 x2 and 10 Mailboxes	£771.84p
11.06.25	BACs	Greentech Ltd	26 Tree Guards and delivery cost	£81.00p
11.06.25	BACs	Citizens Advice Swale	S.137 Donation	£100.00p
01.06.25	SO	Staff Salaries	May	£1620.50p
01.06.25	DD	NEST	Pension contributions May	£74.59p
01.06.25	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	£35.99p
26.05.25	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply May	Awaited
31.05.25	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£40.63p
INCOME				
Pay Date	Pay Method	Received from	Reason	Amount
14.05.25	BACs	H.M.R.C.	VAT Refund 2024/25	£6369.26p

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

1. **Future public events** – Cllr. Rivers-Simpson advised the Iwade Barn trustees are planning a Rum & Reggae event on 30 August. The Parish Council are planning to work with the trustees to host the Christmas event at Iwade Barn this year and the Clerk was asked to source a quotation for a small Christmas tree to be funded by Iwade Barn.

Action: Clerk/RFO

2. **Tracker** – Cllr. Tolhurst circulated the updated document to members. He advised investigations have been continuing on the water leak in Ferry Road and four items have been closed on the parish council tracker document.

11. Reports from Representatives

- 1. Village Hall Committee** – No updates from the village hall. Cllr. Gomez agreed to speak with the village hall committee regarding community events. ***Action: Cllr. Gomez***
- 2. KALC Area Representative** – Cllr. Holowczycki attended the KALC Swale Area Committee meeting on 20 May. They had two speakers; Janet Hill, climate change officer and Samuel Brookfield, climate and ecological emergency project officer, both gave good presentations which have been circulated to council members. Inspector Julia Bassindale did not attend the meeting but provided a report which advised Sittingbourne have six new officers and she has asked all Swale Beat Officers to do a walk and talk in their wards to ensure they are engaging with residents to encourage communication. Members have not seen this happen and asked the Clerk to contact the Inspector regarding this. ***Action: Clerk***

12. Items for the Next Agenda

- Community Governance – To discuss boundary review.
- Local Government Review – To engage with residents.
- Community Infrastructure Grants – To discuss correspondence from Swale Borough Council.

13. Next Meeting(s)

Full Council meeting, TBC – Wednesday 9 or Thursday 10 July 2025, 8.00 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.