

IWADE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8 April 2026

Present: Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Chair
Cllr. J. Hartley
Cllr. P. Holowczycki
Cllr. P. Hyde
Cllr. D. McBeath
Cllr. Rivers-Simpson
1 Resident
Samantha Gray, Clerk

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. M. Baldock and D. Waters. Cllr. S. Waters has resigned.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. P. Holowczycki and seconded by Cllr. McBeath, the minutes of the Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 11 March 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Visitors/Public Time

1. **Residents:** A resident attended to discuss a planning application on the agenda. The Chair brought agenda item 5.1 forward for discussion:

5.3 **Change of description - 26/500522/FULL:** 6 Elm Tree Avenue Iwade Kent ME9 8UD. Change of Use application from residential to mixed use residential and gym for personal training and wellness/fitness.

Members considered the planning application and **RESOLVED** to object for the following reasons:

- The available parking is not suitable.
- The application is for a commercial business – members suggest a condition to restrict business hours in line with a residential environment.
- Due to the close proximity of neighbouring dwellings, the Council requests that appropriate planning conditions are imposed to reduce noise.

2. **County and Borough Councillors:** None attended and no reports received.

3. **Police Constable:** None attended and no report received. Council members raised a concern regarding the lack of reports from the Police Constable and County and Borough Councillors, and will request a report is provided if they cannot attend meetings. ***Action: Clerk***

Council members discussed an incident involving motor cycles driving along a footpath in School Lane which has been reported to Kent Police, but the information was not passed onto the Local Police Constable (PC). Members asked the Clerk to formally write to the PC to report the incident and advise the CCTV image is available. ***Action: Clerk***

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

1. Item moved forward to no. 4.1 Visitors/Public Time – see above.

6. Correspondence

- 1. Iwade Community Building – Name/Postal Address:** Bellway contacted the council to advise they are confirming the postal address with Swale Borough Council and have proposed ‘Iwade Community Centre’. Council members agreed to keep the postal address as ‘Iwade Village Hall’.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Hartley reported that the Village Hall committee (VHC) have scheduled their Annual General Meeting for Saturday 2nd May at 12.15pm. Members asked the Clerk to confirm the date with the VHC and request a copy of the agenda.

Action: Clerk

7. **Finance**

- 1. Training Course –Nuts and Bolts of Parish Councils:** Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, members agreed to the cost of £50.00p + VAT for Cllr. Kelvin Rivers-Simpson to attend the training course.
- 2. Training Course – Introduction to Planning:** Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, members agreed to the cost of £50.00p + VAT for Cllr. McBeath to attend the training course.
- 3. Training Course – Mastering Planning Application Responses:** Proposed by Cllr. Tolhurst and seconded by Cllr. Hartley, members agreed to the cost of £50.00p + VAT for Cllr. McBeath to attend the training course.
- 4. To authorise the cost of the KALC Annual Subscription 2026/27:** Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members agreed to the cost of £1,340.82 + VAT for the 2026/27 subscription.
- 5. Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting:** Proposed by Cllr. Rivers-Simpson and seconded by Cllr. Holowczycki, members noted the budget figures and the accounts to 31 March 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
08.04.26	BACs	L. Ives	Expenses – Tele., home as office – March	£18.00p
08.04.26	BACs	S. Gray	Expenses – Tele., home as office, printer lead – March	£53.55p
08.04.26	BACs	H.M.R.C.	Tax March	£290.43p
08.04.26	BACs	KALC	Introduction to Planning for Local Councils - Cllr. McBeath	£60.00p
08.04.26	BACs	KALC	Mastering Planning Applications Responses – Cllr. McBeath	£60.00p
08.04.26	BACs	KALC	Subscription 2026/27	£1608.98p
08.04.26	BACs	KALC	The Nuts and Bolts of Parish Councils – Cllr. Rivers-Simpson	£60.00p
08.04.26	BACs	Swale Borough Council	Grounds Maintenance 2025/26	£10819.16p
08.04.26	BACs	Everyday Play Ltd	Gate, Fencing and Bike Inhibitor School La. Playing Field – 35% second Deposit	£2791.74p
08.04.26	BACs	Iwade Mother & Toddlers Group	Donation 2026/27	£902.50p
01.04.26	SO	Staff Salaries	March	£1599.86p
01.04.26	DD	NEST	Pension Contributions March	£78.52p
01.04.26	DD	HugoFox	Website monthly fee	Awaited
27.04.26	DD	Npower	Electricity Supply March	Awaited
31.04.26	DD	Countrystyle	Supply of Waste Wheelie Bin	£43.80p

8. Parish Council Matters

1. **To consider a proposal to maintain the Country Park:** Council members **RESOLVED** not to submit a proposal due to needing additional funding and resources to be in a position to manage a country park. Members agreed to request the council is involved with the Management Company that is appointed by the developer. **Action: Clerk**

2. **To discuss the council's action plan following the Village survey results – see Appendix A**

i) **To discuss and agree the Highway Improvement Plan requests:** Council members considered how congestion at School Lane, The Street and key junctions could be improved and **RESOLVED** to carry out the following actions:

- Submit a request to KCC to remove five pinch points from the following roads: The Street, Ferry Road and Sheppey Way (between the doctors surgery and Telly Tubby Hill).
- Find out who owns the hedge at the Peach Blossom Drive junction which obscures vision and request this is cut back. **Action: Clerk**
- The council are aware of a petition to install a zebra crossing outside of Iwade School. Cllr. Hyde advised that a survey was carried out in the past, the Clerk will look for the records. Members asked the Clerk to write to Iwade School to ask for a copy of the petition and their Safe Travel Plan. **Action: Clerk**

9. Items to note for the Next Agenda:

- Litter pick – Agreed to schedule the litter pick for 10th May subject to an available meeting venue and ask the Mews Brewhouse to supply tea and coffee which the council will advertise.
- Bulb planting.
- Action Plan: Anti-social behaviour and Community Safety (June Agenda).
- To update members following the meeting with Gala Lights to discuss the proposed contract to hire festive lighting.
- Planning consultation for the Fernham Homes development in Sheppey Way

10. **Next Meeting(s):** Full Council meeting, Wednesday 13 May 2026 7.30 p.m. in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close.

The meeting closed at 9.21 p.m.

Appendix A:

Iwade Parish Council Action Plan 2026–2028

1. Summary

Based on the recent village survey residents have given the Parish Council a clear mandate: focus on **traffic, safety, village maintenance, and protection of green spaces**, while strengthening community cohesion.

2. Strategic Priority Areas

Priority 1 - Traffic, Congestion & Road Safety

Residents' top concern.

Key Issues

- Congestion at School Lane, The Street, and key junctions
- Speeding and rat-running
- Unsafe parking and poor visibility
- Poor lighting, and unsafe crossing points

Actions

Immediate (0–6 months)

- Convene a Council meeting to update the HiP based on:
 - Residents concerns expressed in the village survey.
 - The discussions points from the meeting with KCC on February 12th.
 - Completion and results of the independent traffic survey.
- Run a village consultation for the proposed key changes to the HiP (such as removing pinch points/ traffic calming, traffic lights, junction re-designs)
- Revise the Hip based on the consultation results and submit to KCC backed up by any support from the consultation
- Request a KCC Highways site meeting and joint walk-through.
- Follow up on the Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme.

Medium Term (6–18 months).

- Work with the school on the **School's Travel Plan** to reduce peak-time congestion.
- Commission a parking audit around key junctions and the village centre.

Long Term (18+ months)

- Secure long-term commitments from KCC for agreed Highway improvements.

Partners

KCC Highways, Kent Police, local schools, Swale Borough Council.

Priority 2 - Anti-Social Behaviour & Community Safety

Key Issues

- Youth nuisance in village centre, Nisa, Orchard Park, older parts of the village
- Perception of low police visibility
- Desire for more CCTV, more lighting.

Actions

Immediate

- Request increased PCSO patrols in hotspot areas.
- Conduct a lighting audit and identify dark spots for improvement.
- CCTV working group to meet and make suggestion to optimise and make improvements to the current set up.

Medium Term

- Establish a **Youth Engagement Working Group** (this group would comprise of residents, the police, youth services).
- Launch a “Safe Spaces” initiative with shops and community venues.
- Promote Neighbourhood Watch and community safety briefings.

Long Term

- Secure funding for a youth worker or shared youth provision across nearby parishes.

Partners

Kent Police, PCSOs, Youth Services, local businesses, community groups.

Priority 3 - Village Cleanliness, Maintenance & Appearance

Key Issues

- Litter, weeds, broken fencing, poor planters
- Mews Square car park issues
- Desire for improved gateways and village pride initiatives

Actions

Immediate

- Review contractor performance and maintenance schedules.
- Ask Omnicroft to increase the cleaning of Mews Square to weekly.
- Establish who own the broken fence at the back of the Square carpark and approach to repair/remove it.
- At the next council meeting establish a plan for the broken planters and ongoing maintenance / planting.

Medium Term

- Develop a “**Proud of our village**” initiative.(Maybe a prize for best kept road/street or similar).
- Look at increasing the community litter-pick to quarterly and actively promote.
- Develop a “Village Appearance Improvement Plan” including signage, gateways, and planting.
- Audit all bins and dog bins; increase provision where needed.

Long Term

- Explore sponsorship for planters, gateways, and green-space enhancements.
- Create a rolling maintenance programme with clear KPIs.

Partners

Swale Borough Council, contractors, volunteer groups, local businesses.

Priority 4 - Wildlife, Green Spaces & Environmental Protection

Key Issues

- Desire for more planting, trees, and biodiversity
- Protection of green spaces from development
- Requests for recreational improvements (MUGA, benches, walking routes)

Actions

Immediate

- Publish a statement reaffirming commitment to protecting green spaces.
- Now the Solar Farm Community Benefit money is confirmed contact Swale B.C. to commence the tree planting programme and a three-year maintenance plan (watering in the summer months) discussed March 2025.

Medium Term

- Develop a **Green Spaces Improvement Plan** including:
 - Tree-planting programme
 - Wildflower corridors
 - Improved signage and walking routes
- Explore feasibility of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

Long Term

- Secure external funding for biodiversity and recreational projects.
- Take on ownership/maintenance of existing greenspaces.
- Establish a “**Friends of the Green Spaces**” volunteer group.

Partners

Environmental charities, Swale Borough Council, local schools, volunteer groups.

Priority 5 - Youth Provision

Key Issues

- Need for structured activities and safe meeting spaces
- Desire for sports facilities and skills-based programmes
- Link between lack of provision and ASB

Actions

Immediate

- Map existing youth provision and identify gaps.
- Begin discussions with youth services and local schools.

Medium Term

- Establish a **Youth Engagement Working Group** (this group would comprise of residents, the police, youth services).

Long Term

- Develop a sustainable youth programme with multi-agency support.
- Deliver a MUGA or similar facility if feasible.

Partners

Youth Services, sports clubs, community groups.

Priority 6 - Support for Older Residents

Clear appetite for more social and wellbeing activities.

Actions

Immediate

- Audit existing provision and identify gaps.

Medium Term

- Look to better communicate existing activities through newsletters, village website, social media, and noticeboards.
- Partner with health providers for information sessions.

3. Cross-Cutting Themes

A. Communication & Transparency

- Publish quarterly progress updates on this Action Plan.
- Share Highways and Police engagement outcomes with residents.
- Provide clear updates on development proposals and planning matters using the Parish Council website / FaceBook page and the Iwade Village website

B. Partnership Working

- Strengthen relationships with KCC, Borough Council, Police, and service providers. (Neither of our two SBC councillors has attended a Parish Council meeting for over 20 months).
- Formalise regular liaison meetings.

C. Evidence-Based Decision Making.

- Use survey data to prioritise budget allocation.
- Repeat the survey every 24 months to track changes.

4. Implementation Timeline (Summary)

Timeframe Key Deliverables

0–6 months Highways escalation, PCSO engagement, maintenance review, biodiversity audit, youth mapping.

6–18 months Traffic improvement proposals, CCTV improvements, MUGA feasibility, green-spaces plan, establish a Youth Engagement Working Group.

18+ months Major infrastructure improvements, environmental enhancements.

5. Success Measures (KPIs)

- Reduction in ASB reports in hotspot areas
- Improved resident satisfaction in surveys
- Delivery of Highways commitments (measured via KCC responses)
- Increased participation in litter pick events
- Visible improvements in village cleanliness and maintenance
- Biodiversity indicators (tree planting, wildflower areas, green-space usage)

Long-Term Actions (18+ months)

- Advocate for junction redesigns and major infrastructure improvements.
- Deliver long-term youth provision and recreational facilities (e.g., MUGA).
- Implement environmental enhancements and biodiversity projects.
- Sustain expanded events programme.

4. Cross-Cutting Themes

- **Communication & Transparency:** Quarterly updates to residents.
- **Partnership Working:** Strengthen relationships with KCC, Borough Council, Police, and service providers.
- **Evidence-Based Decision Making:** Use survey data to guide budget and priorities; repeat survey every 24 months.

5. Success Measures (KPIs)

- Reduction in ASB reports.
- Improved resident satisfaction in future surveys.
- Delivery of Highways commitments.
- Increased participation in community events.
- Visible improvements in maintenance and village appearance.
- Growth in youth and older-resident programme attendance.
- Biodiversity improvements and enhanced green-space usage.