

1/19

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 15th JANUARY 2019 AT IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Holden (Acting Chair), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Cracknell, Cllr Edge-McKenna, Cllr Hall, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner and 4 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Willingham, Cllr Brierley, Borough Cllr Betts
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None
3. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2018 were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR** – Cllr Betts sent a report to say that he had spoken with the Dog Warden who will visit the recreation ground and will help with any signage required. Cllr Betts is also chasing up the recycling collections.
5. **PUBLIC** – A resident from The Street raised a concern about parking and traffic on The Street; the resident works at home and has witnessed daily arguments between drivers on the narrow section of the Street. The resident has sent pictures to KCC, TMBC and The Parish Council and has concerns for safety of pedestrians and particularly the school children that have to cross the road to the bus stop. The resident suggested that a simple solution would be to have a priority sign. Parked cars are frequently damaged from speeding cars on the narrow section and the resident believed that the problem was exacerbated by George & Dragon customers parking in The Street. Is there anything that can be done?

Cllr Hall responded by saying that a sub-committee had been appointed at the last Parish meeting to take forward a request for a village wide 30mph limit and had met this afternoon. The committee would be happy to add these issues to the agenda with the caveat that we would not be able to solve all of the traffic problems. The biggest challenge on The Street is that the parked cars provide necessary traffic calming. We have already raised the issues with Kent Highways in the past and have been told that as there have been no “serious incidents”, nothing can be done – this shouldn’t mean that we don’t pursue it now and priority signs or road markings would be a potential solution. Cllr Mitchem said that tradesman vans parked on the double yellow lines obstructed sightlines and we had already raised this with our Borough Councillor who was going to mention it to the traffic warden. The resident said that it was very dangerous but sometimes residents had no option but to park on The Street due to lack of spaces and parking at the village hall was not a viable option.

Cllr Burgham said that he has spoken to the resident and was very supportive; cars are often very fast coming from Bates Hill and the problems are often due to poor driving. He suggested that we asked for some advice from a Traffic Consultant as to what the option were to improve safety.

Cllr Cracknell said that we had tried to set up Speedwatch in the past but hadn’t got enough volunteers but if we had some local participation, it would go a long way in pushing this forward. Traffic is inevitably worse during rush hour but we need some hard data to go to Kent Highways with. The recent speed survey that we conducted didn’t show up the results that we expected, possibly due to the location of the radar.

The resident said that there were a lot of blind spots on the road; this is of concern for school children and thought that 30mph was too fast. They will do what they can to help and will speak to other residents.

As this is an A road we have been told that we cannot have anything less than 30mph although it was pointed out that there was a 20mph limit through Sundridge which is an A road.

Cllr Mitchem said that we were taking this issue seriously and will try and take it forward to Kent Highways. A lot of the issues are with driver behaviour and we need to make them aware of the issues.

Signed.....CLLR HOLDEN.....Dated.....19 FEBRUARY 2019.....

Another resident who has lived opposite the school for 10 year, raised an issue with a school parent who was persistently parking in her drive and being very aggressive when challenged. The resident has reported it to the school and the Head had advised that they should contact the Parish Council and PCSO. The resident was aware of a similar issue at Culverston School and the school had got the police involved. The resident said that she felt threatened and doesn't know what to do. Cllr Holden said that this seemed to be a highways matter so he didn't think that it was an issue for the school to deal with. The school send out frequent parent mails to remind parents to park in the recreation ground. We can advise the PCSO as this is anti-social behaviour and is not acceptable; we will copy the email to the head. It was also suggested that the resident also wrote to the PCSO and the local MP.

A resident reported that he had written to the MP and Police and Crime Commissioner before Christmas about the recent spate of burglaries and lack of police presence in Ightham, He had received a response from the Chief of Police, Alan Pughsley who the MP had contacted in response to the letter. The resident hasn't had a response from the PCC but has had a visit from the PCSO who said that policing is now reactive as there is such a large area to cover.

The Parish Clerk had also written to the PCC and had a response, this will be reported later on in the meeting. Cllr Holden suggested that we may want to ask someone from the police to come and talk at our annual meeting about rural policing. We are also trying to get more regular appearances from the PCSO, this is being taken forward by KALC.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Rayner asked to respond to the resident about the parking issue; he suggested that the resident write to the school with details of the problem and the registration details and requesting details of their transport policy. This should be copied to Roger Gough (Cabinet Minister for Children's Services) who would be able to look at resources for the school if there is no transport policy in place, or enforcement of the transport policy. (Cllr Rayner passed contact details to the resident). The police should also be informed as blocking a driveway is unlawful.

In relation to parking, priority and speeding on The Street, Cllr Rayner said that this is a long term problem and suggested that we consider appointing Highways Consultant, Les Henry Associates. He has done a lot of work for Parishes and charges around £350 a day. In recent years one piece of work he has carried out is a survey at Dark Hill roundabout for the Parish Alliance. Cllr Rayner confirmed that you cannot have a 20 mph limit on an A road but suggested that we speak with other Parishes, such as Sundridge and Goudhurst who are trying to declassify the A road through their village. A long term solution for us would be to declassify A227 but this would take many years. Les Henry Associates are highly regarded and his report would carry a lot of weight. Cllr Rayner suggested that we contacted him in around 6-8 weeks as he is currently very busy in relation to the Local Plan.

Re the parking issue, this should be taken up with the Borough Councillor. If there is a joint view, then it can be taken up at the Joint Transportation Board who can look at options.

Cllr Rayner reported that the Library Consultation was open; it is proposed that Borough Green will have their opening hours cut from 40 hours per week to 27 hours per week. Cllr Rayner has approached a number of neighbouring Parishes to ask whether they would be prepared to consider contributing towards maintaining the hours and if there is an interest he will approach the Cabinet Minister to see whether it would be a possibility and find out what the cost would be. Cllr Rayner is concerned that the data used in the consultation is out of date and feels that the services provided by libraries are an important educational resource and should therefore be maintained. Ightham Parish Council has already responded to the consultation but individuals were also encouraged to respond. Cllr Holden proposed that we asked Cllr Rayner to make the approach to the Cabinet Minister as suggested. This was agreed.

Cllr Rayner reported that there is a proposal to introduce a cost for recycling rubble and plasterboard for households. He will be opposing this at the next Committee meeting as he is concerned that it may lead to fly tipping. This is also proposed for neighbouring Boroughs; this will deter people from driving to neighbouring Boroughs to dump their rubbish.

Signed.....CLLR HOLDEN.....Dated.....19 FEBRUARY 2019.....

Cllr Rayner reported that the Bus Consultation has now closed and we should start to see some changes in services. There are some changes to Arriva services in Sevenoaks North – Otford and Kemsing as their bus garage has moved and the less profitable routes have been cancelled.

Cllr Rayner reported that Brexit Planning included the potential closure of M26 which may impact us as vehicles will have to use alternative routes. The M26 may be used to hold lorries in the event of hold ups at the port of Dover. There is some concern that the surrounding roads will be impacted, traffic may come via A25 and A227 to get to Nepicar, Kings Hill and Junction 4 M20. 85% lorries are foreign drivers and there is concern that the police may not be able to control the diversion which is recommended to go via Swanley directly to M20. Cllr Rayner has concerns about traffic getting backed up to Wrotham from Brands Hatch and also about emergency services getting access to M26 and enforcement of freight lanes and is in contact with the MP.

Regarding Minerals, there are a large amounts of minerals coming into Kent; we continue to see large developments in Kent but there are no improvements to the road infrastructure to accommodate the transportation.

PLANNING

TM/18/02932/LB & TM/18/02931/FL – The Old Farmhouse, Borough Green Road, Ightham. LBA: The retention, refurbishment and conversion of Crickets Farmhouse into offices with access, parking and landscaping works, and extensions to create a garden room and lobby/entrance area. “No objection.”

TM/18/02958/FL – The Chase, Jubilee Crescent, Ightham, Sevenoaks. Replace conservatory with extension “No objection”.

TM/18/02540/TNCA – Field House, Tonbridge Road, Ightham, TN15 9AP. T1 Lime to reduce/pollard by 40%; T2 Acacia to fell, and T3 group of pines to deadwood, remove ivy and any damaged limbs within the canopy. “No objection.”

TM/18/02977/FL - Fir Bank, Coach Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0PE. Demolition of existing property and garage and erection of a replacement Dwelling. We haven’t received all the plans for this and the Clerk will request these to pass to Cllr Edge for her comments.

TM/18/02990/FL – Dimber, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0PG. Replace the roof design of original proposal with a hipped roof. “No objection.”

TM/18/03002/TPOC – Sycamores, Bates Hill, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9BG. G7 and G5 - 11 Limes to be cut back overhanging branches to 2m and G11 - Remove 11 Lime Trees. “No objection”.

KCC/TM/0416/2018 PROPOSAL: Gas Utilisation Plant, Stangate - Variation of conditions 2 and 5 of planning permission TM/11/1632 to extend the life of the Stangate Gas Utilisation Plant and to generation from supplement the existing landfill gas and leachate management activities with electricity natural gas during peak periods of demand until 31 July 2050 or until no longer required for the permitted/proposed uses (whichever is the sooner). “No objection.”

KCC/TM/0422/2018 PROPOSAL: Proposed erection of gas metering kiosk building: Stangate Quarry, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. “No objection.”

TM/18/01627/TNCA Removal of 18 Beech; 1 Pine; 5 Hornbeam; 6 Acacia; 1 Oak; 2 Holly and 1 Silver Birch trees from garden to be replaced with various different species at Land Adjacent To Oldbury Hatch Oldbury Lane Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9DG - This application will be reported to Area 2 Planning Committee on 23 January 2019. IPC have made an objection to this application.

MINERALS & WASTE LOCAL PLAN – Early partial review 2013-30 – Closes 8 March. The Clerk was asked to find out whether there are any concerns from Cllr Rayner and to ask whether Ryarsh Quarry had been removed from the proposal.

Planning Decisions – Approved

Signed.....CLLR HOLDEN.....Dated.....19 FEBRUARY 2019.....

TM/18/02748/LDP - Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: Erection of detached garage - Squirrels Herne Copt Hall Road Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9DT. (Certifies)

TM/18/02687/TNCA - Reduce height of Tulip tree by approximately 25% - Two Trees House High Cross Road Ivy Hatch Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0NN.

TM/18/02491/FL - Single storey rear extension and additional bedrooms within loft conversion - Fresh Fields Copt Hall Road Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9DT.

Planning Application Withdrawn

TM/18/02478/TPOC - Reduce 24 Lime Trees to 4m in height (trees situated adjacent The Limes on Bates Hill) - Sycamores Bates Hill Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9BG.

7. **LOCAL PLAN – Borough Green Gardens - Update** – Nothing further to report until the TMBC meeting on 24th January.

8. MATTERS ARISING

Highways Matters –

Parish Wide 30mph speed limit – Cllr Hall reported that the a Committee made up of Cllrs Hall, Cracknell and Mitchem and The Parish Clerk had met that afternoon to look at the map of the village and come up with a wish list of suggestions for speed calming throughout the village. A map was circulated and the suggestions put forward were as follows:

1. Speed limit on all roads marked in red to the Parish boundary to be reduced to 30mph
2. A25 from Coach Road to the Ightham bypass to be reduced from 50mph to 40mph
3. 30mph limit on Borough Green Road from the Dark Hill roundabout to the existing 30mph zone
4. 20mph limit on Oldbury Lane and Spring Lane (this request has already been made)
5. Not suitable HGV signage on narrow lanes

Cllr Hall said that he would like the Council to agree the suggestions above to go to the Joint Transportation Board. In addition we would like the following improvements:

1. A stop sign at the junction of Fen Pond Road and Borough Green Road (This has already been made via Cllr Rayner)
2. A mobile flashing speed sign (we have allowed funding in the 2019/20 budget for this)
3. To get a Speedwatch Group up and running (this will depend on resident volunteers)
4. White gates at various locations (we have allowed funding in the budget for this)
5. Priority passing/road markings and speed calming on The Street, preferably a 20mph limit
6. Traffic warden visits
7. Downgrading of A227

It was agreed that the best approach would be to engage the services of Les Henry Associates. The Parish Clerk will circulate these requests and get input so that we can approach him with this wish list once he has availability.

Scout Hut/Pavilion – Electricity/Utility Connection. Update – We have been advised that in order to provide the required water and electricity supply for the showers in the changing room, new water and electricity cables and pipe need to be laid. This will entail digging two trenches across the car park and the cheapest and quickest option is to close the car park for two days. It was agreed that this was acceptable if it was over half term or the Easter holidays. Parish Clerk to email the Scouts to confirm this. Cllr Holden reported that the building site had been broken into again and the Scouts are looking at CCTV to cover the new building. All cameras would be discretely placed on the building. They have asked whether this is something IPC would be interested in having the rest of the recreation ground monitored? It was agreed that we wouldn't want to at this stage, but if so in future there would have to be a policy in place.

Tennis Club Lights – Lights and Electrics –The architect for the Scout building sent their proposal to install amenity lights around the scout building at high level lights facing the path These lights will
Signed.....CLLR HOLDEN.....Dated.....19 FEBRUARY 2019.....

have "eye lids" to limit the amount of light pollution but there should still be enough light directed towards the path and this should be sufficient. These would be on a timer, therefore not dependant on the building being occupied or someone walking along the path. These will be subject to planning permission. It was suggested that we would want the lights to be activated by movement for the Tennis Club.

Ightham Cricket Club – Update - Nothing to report.

Busty Stream/ Flooding – Update - Flood Action Group - Cllr Cracknell reported that letters have been delivered to the riparian owners and we had received a response from a riparian landowner seeking guidance from KCC on what was required. No further meetings are planned. Flood resilience work to the bridge was due to happen by March; Cllr Rayner said that he would speak to Max Tant at KCC to get an update.

Recreation Ground –ROSPA repairs/ Dog fouling/Car Park/New Barrier or Fence – Parish Clerk to chase up ROSPA repairs with James Hayward and also ask whether he can spray the weeds by the beech hedging. The Clerk will email the dog warden about wording for the signage.

It was reported that a car had driven onto the recreation ground damaging the beech hedges and churning up the ground. This has been reported to the PCSO. It was agreed that we needed to have some sort of barrier along the edge of the car park to prevent this happening again. A number of options were discussed it was suggested that a ha-ha is created behind the hedges so that the visual amenity isn't impacted. To be researched and costed and discussed further.

Broadband – Update - A group of residents from Ivy Hatch have got together to get superfast broadband in Ivy Hatch. Information will be published in the parish magazine.

Defibrillator – Training 2019 – Parish Clerk to email Community First Responders to get some dates for the Spring. Cllr Cracknell will put a notice in the Parish magazine to remind people that there is a defibrillator at the village hall and gauge whether there is interest in a training session.

Allotment Leases – Parish Clerk to renew leases.

Bus Stop on A227 at end of Back Lane – Nothing to report.

Recycling Area – The cans were overflowing again, the Clerk reported it to TMBC and it should be cleared in the next few days.

9. FINANCE & POLICY

Meeting Dates 2019 – Dates were agreed and will be published on the website. The meetings will remain on 3rd Tuesday of each month apart from August.

Online banking - Cllr Hall and Cllr Cracknell have now set up online banking with Unity.

Budget – To approve the budget for 2019/20 - Due 18 January 2019. A budget proposal was circulated and the capital expenses explained. It was agreed that we would not increase the precept this year. With a % increase in precept, we will be able to reserve for capital projects and cover routine expenses and have some savings. The budget was approved and agreed. Parish Clerk to send the precept request to TMBC.

Financial Regulations – Review of Policy. The Clerk has reviewed the NALC Finance Policy and highlighted the changes. Cllr Holden suggested that the new policy should be agreed between himself, Cllr Hall and The Clerk, this was agreed.

The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposed by Cllr Mitcham and seconded by Cllr Hall:

Parish Clerk Salary & Expenses January	£699.87
HMRC – Employer Tax (nil to pay as credit on account)	£9.40
Gel Creative - January (Online transfer)	£40.00
E-on – Electricity UMS Lights	£45.70
Robert Lee Amies – Work at the recreation ground and war memorial	£534.69
Clerks & Councils Direct	£12.00

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The Bank Mandate to remove Cllr Edwards and add Cllr Edge-Mckenna, Cllr Burgham and Cllr Brewer was approved and the forms were handed over to complete.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

KALC Community Awards Scheme 2019 – Nominations due 31 January 2019. Our nomination has been forwarded to KALC.

Samaritans – Request for donation - it was agreed that we would donate £100, the same as last year.

WW2 Memorial Stone for Malcolm Ravenhill – We have received an email from the Memorial Project Manager for the Shoreham Aircraft Museum to say that they would like to recognise Malcolm Ravenhill, whose Spitfire Mark1, P2815, crashed in a field off Fen Pond Lane on the 30th September, 1940. The field is situated on the left hand side of the road as you head towards Wrotham from the Church, just beyond a livery stable. They aim to position the memorials as close to the crash site as is practical but it is important they are situated where they will be seen.

They have approached the Church to see if it would be possible to site the memorial in their churchyard but with no success, basically due to Diocesan regulations. The Museum meet all installation costs and look to hold a small memorial commemoration service, to which they invite any surviving family members, together with support from the RAF Association, local Air Cadets, British Legion etc. When weather permits, they also normally have a flypast salute from a Spitfire or Hurricane based at the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar. They have asked for Ightham Parish Council to support them in this project, by being able to recommend a suitable site, within the Parish, where planning permission would not be too much of an issue. It was agreed that we would support this subject to costs and it was suggested that Leathercote Corner would be a suitable location.

Police and Crime Commissioner Letter – We have received a response from the Commissioner's caseworker to say they have raised our concerns about lack of police presence in the village with Kent Police and requested that they make contact with the Parish Council. Due to funding provided by the Commissioner, Kent Police are currently undertaking their largest recruitment drive for a generation and there will be an additional 200 police officers by the end of March 2019.

AOB

The Parish Clerk will purchase 2 salt bins for the recreation ground. Cllr Edge will ask Richard McKenna to order some salt.

Cllr Mitchem said that the litter in the village was very bad and asked for it to go onto the next agenda. It was agreed that we should publicise another spring clean in the Parish magazine. Clerk was asked to email Cllr Taylor to see whether the Borough Green contractors would be able to do litter clearing for one day a month in Ightham.

Cllr Holden reported that there were a couple of black bins permanently left on the A25 near to the Village shop. The Clerk will report this to TMBC.

The meeting went into closed session to discuss a couple of confidential matters.

The meeting closed at 10.45pm

Signed.....CLLR HOLDEN.....Dated.....19 FEBRUARY 2019.....