

03/20

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2020 AT IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chairman), Cllr Holden (Vice Chairman), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Cracknell, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Mitchem, and The Parish Clerk.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Rayner, Cllr Betts
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – All Councillors are members of the National Trust
3. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record.
4. **PLANNING**

4.1 Planning Applications

TM/20/00356/FL - High Clere, Bates Hill, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9HB. Two single storey side extensions. "No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content."

TM/20/00437/LRD - The Old Cottage, Common Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9EB. Details of condition 2 (structural engineers report) pursuant to Listed Building planning permission TM/19/02994/LB (Repairs and alterations to a grade II listed building).

TM/20/00438/LDE - The Playroom, Oldbury Farm House, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DE. Lawful Development Certificate for Existing Use: Part of the house has been made into a flat. "The use is as described."

TM/20/00293/FL - Replace existing boundary fence with 1.83m closeboard fence - Fir Cottage Ismays Road. "No objection but suggest planting on the road side to obscure the fence."

TM/20/00284/FL - First floor side extension and single storey front and rear extensions – Dimber. Mote Road. "No objection."

TM/20/00076/FL - Change of use of land to the west of the Mansion and to the south of the Mote Cottages car park from paddock land to use by the estate gardeners with the construction of glasshouses, hardstanding area and vehicular access drive on the land to provide replacement facilities following the removal and relocation of the existing Gardeners' Compound. Full planning permission for the use of the existing Gardeners' Compound as a picnic lawn - Ightham Mote. "Ightham Parish Council voted by a majority in favour of the application. On the land to the South of Mote Cottages where the greenhouses will be constructed we would like the ridge line lowered by cutting into the bank and some screening from Mote Cottages by planting some hedging."

4.2 Planning Decisions – Approved

Chapel Farm TM/16/00835/FC – Update on replanting. Following enquiries by residents, the Clerk had been in touch with the Forestry Commission who said that the licence runs until June 2020 therefore they are not able to take action until it has expired as the owners are still within the period they have to carry out the restocking. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners to ask when they were planning on replanting.

Signed.....Dated.....

Approved

TM/20/00343/TNCA - Glebe House, Bates Hill. H1 row of 15-20 Beech trees to reduce by 3-4m; T1, T2, T3, T4, T8, T9, T10, T12, T13 and T15 Leydani Cypress to fell; T5 Scots Pine to reduce and thin; T6 Willow to fell; T7 possible Sycamore to fell; and T14 Oak to reduce by approx. 25%.

TM/20/00321/TNCA - The Cottage, Redwell Lane. T1 Lime to remove deadwood and thin by 10%; T2 Cherry to crown lift lower branches; T3 and T4 Cherry trees to fell; T5 Yew to crown lift lower branches to clear phone line, remove 1st limb on the right hand side extending towards the house and overhanging the phone line; and T6 Willow to remove lower limb overhanging driveway. Remove leaning Willow and dying Apple tree close to bridle route.

TM/20/00221/TPOC - Glebe Land, Rectory Lane. T1 Sycamore - remove dead Ivy from canopy, lift lower canopy over adjacent outbuilding, remove deadwood throughout canopy. Undertake aerial inspection and report. T2 Sycamore - fell small naturally regenerated ivy clad dead/dying stem adjacent property boundary and T3 Sycamore - fell small naturally regenerated Ivy clad dead/dying stem adjacent property boundary.

TM/20/00212/TPOC - Oldbury House, Oldbury Lane. Beech tree - Remove upright limb beside lane and reduce nodule on side to enable passage of lorries.

TM/20/00204/TPOC - Ramblers, Sandy Lane. Beech Tree - 2-3 metre reduction, crown clean and cable brace inspection.

TM/20/00136/AT - George And Dragon, The Street. Two sets of individual goldleaf letters; 2 x Signwriting to walls; 1 x Menu case; 1 x Hanging sign.

TM/20/00051/FL - 7 Walker Place. Erection of single storey rear extension, approximately 3m x 4m.

4.3 Local Plan – Borough Green Gardens Update - It was brought to our attention that TMBC was proposing to remove the bulk of AQMA's in TMBC including Borough Green. Cllr Mike Taylor was taking this up with them and IPC are supportive of him. The Clerk was asked to follow up on this. **Dates and arrangements for Hearings 19-21 May 2020** - For the Local Plan hearings, it was decided that we would leave it to the experts to represent us, however anyone can go along if they wished to do so.

4.4 Judicial Review – The Judge has decided that there is a good case for a Judicial Review and it is expected that it will come before the court within the next 6 months.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - Cllr Fielder reported that the bollards at the Oldbury Lane/Sevenoaks junction have been replaced, he will chase up the bollards at the Common Road junction.

Road is breaking up in places on Ismays Road, Back Lane and by the Plough.

Pothole outside Wellwood.

Cllr Emmett reported that the drainage still hadn't been fixed on Common Road but that there had been a meeting last week with Cllr Rayner, the Highways Engineer and some of the neighbours and there is a plan in place to pump out the drains and cut back some of the tree roots. The tanker had already been to pump out some of the water but most of the gulleys were still full.

Signed.....Dated.....

Pothole between Double Dance and Charters and 2 outside The Rowans. Pothole outside the Club on Sevenoaks Road and outside Copt Hall Cottage and on Styants Bottom Road. Potholes along Mote Road. Cllr Burgham said that cars were still parking on the verge at Leathercote Corner and Cllr Willingham said that we had received a quote from Tyrells for £695 to put up wooden bollards. This was agreed. It was also mentioned that parents were parking outside Tanglewood on the verge and that we should consider a couple of bollards there too.

It was reported that hedges were overgrown on Rectory Lane, and Fen Pond Road.

The road signs from the works on Back Lane haven't been collected and there is a sign in the verge outside Glebe House.

Village Traffic Matters - No update on the progress of our Highways Improvement Plan requests. It was reported that there had been a number of stand-offs between drivers on The Street. The Clerk has asked one of the local residents to keep a diary. It was noted that the parked cars causing a problem with visibility. Cllr Burgham had read the recent Highways report and noted that where 20mph limits are put in place, you must have street lights. We have no street lighting in the Parish and it was confirmed that we would not want to have any. The Clerk said that there were some exceptions so this shouldn't preclude us from pursuing the 20mph limit.

Scout Pavilion – Update – We have received some complaints from local residents about the lights on the exterior of the new scout pavilion and on the pathway at the recreation ground. Cllr Willingham will adjust the timers.

Ightham PSA have approached us about using electricity and water for their summer fayre. The Clerk has suggested that they contact the Tennis Club as there is a potential VAT issue with using the scout pavilion supply. Cllr Willingham suggested having a lockable box with a power and water supply in the recreation ground for events although it was suggested that this wouldn't solve the issue. Cllr Holden said that we were still awaiting definitive VAT advice on the use of utilities from the pavilion. Cllr Hall suggested that we get our own independent advice and it was agreed that he could go ahead and do this. Cllr Holden had a copy of the lease but he wasn't sure if it was the final version, so the clerk agreed to email the final version of the lease to Cllr Hall.

Ightham Football Club – Pitch Levelling - Cllr Holden had met with James Hitchcock of the Football Club who had said that they were planning on getting the first team up and running for next season; they will have a full team. They are looking at having a celebratory match in May/June but will need to borrow some goal posts. The Football Club will also apply for a grant for pitch maintenance later in the year; they have confirmed that they do want to come back to Ightham.

On the matter of pitch levelling, Cllr Holden has spoken with a contact at O'Keefe's who may be able to put us in touch with the owners to see whether they are willing to help in view of their generosity with the scout pavilion; the work could be done during the school holidays. We would need to get proper surveys and plans drawn up so that it would comply with FA Guidelines. It was agreed that we should get this done. Cllr Willingham has a contact in relation to the proposed survey.

Tennis Club – Update – Nothing to report.

Ightham Cricket Club – Update - It was noted that the fence was still broken and unsightly, the Clerk was asked to chase this up.

Busty Stream/ Flooding – Update - Cllr Cracknell reported that the recent high rainfall had been very stressful for the residents. The Flood Action Group had a meeting last week and the clerk has agreed to put together a 2 page emergency contact plan. With the help of Emma Burdett from Kent Highways we have identified work that needs to be done to the stream and we have contacted the various riparian landowners to get the work done. James Hayward has done

Signed.....Dated.....

some of the work and Cllr Willingham will meet with him to discuss removal of some of the silt build up outside Elim Bungalow.

The Clerk also agreed to circulate the full Emergency Plan which has been updated.

Recreation Ground – ROSPA repairs - The Clerk has chased up the contractor who will replace the wet pour for date to start the work. Cllr Fielder has planted the Beech hedges; they will need to be treated when the leaves come in. The Clerk has ordered new signage for the car park and Cllr Willingham and Cllr Fielder will install them.

The disabled bays still need to be marked out at the car park, the Clerk will circulate the suggestion from the Architect.

School Fayre – Request for portaloos and a skip – It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for portaloos but would not be keen for a skip or for vehicles to park on the recreation ground.

Bus Stop Back Lane – Nothing to report.

Village Hall - James Hayward will clear the verges and The Clerk has ordered a sign for the rights of access. A letter has been sent to all residents that back on to the village hall car park.

The Cardboard bank is still in use but there is still concern about potential fly tipping. Cllr Willingham will speak to James Reid as the Scouts currently have the contract. We will also consider installing CCTV to monitor fly tipping.

Cllr Willingham had a meeting at the village hall to get a quote for replacing the curtains and blinds. The WI have also produced a list of suggestions for improvements but it was agreed that this should be deferred until our next meeting. Cllr Willingham will ask Ghurka to do a deep clean.

Crime Report/Neighbourhood Watch - There have been a number of break-ins along the Borough Green Road. Neighbourhood Watch are hosting a meeting to increase communications along Borough Green Road and Fen Pond Road for flooding and communication of crime.

Climate Change - Farm Waste – Nothing to report.

Old Scout Hut – This was moved to Part 2 due to its confidential nature.

Allotments behind Common Road – The Clerk will chase Warners for the new leases.

Memorial Stone Installation 24th April – This is likely to be postponed due to the Corona Virus.

Food Fest – Ruffits Farm 6-7 June. We have received a licence application for this and are aware that there has been some local opposition. The Clerk reported that the organiser was due to attend the meeting to outline the arrangements for the Festival but had cancelled due to the Corona Virus. He had reported to the Clerk that the Festival had been scaled back to address some of the concerns from residents. The Hearing has been postponed due to the Corona Virus but any objections need to be made by 23rd March. It was agreed that we would raise concerns about the traffic, parking and noise. There would be no possibility of walking to the event as there are no pavements.

Litter Pick – This should be postponed due to Corona Virus.

6. FINANCE & POLICY

Bank Mandate – Update – The Clerk reported that the new signatories had been added to the bank mandate.

Signed.....Dated.....

Internal Audit - We have received a quote for £400 - this was agreed.

The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposed by Cllr Burgham and Seconded by Cllr Fielder and Emmett.

Parish Clerk Salary & Expenses March	£750.05
HMRC – Employer Tax December (<i>nil to pay as credit on account</i>)	£4.60
Gel Creative - March (OLT)	£50.00
Anthony Edwards – Churchyard & Parish Council	£556.42
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 (OLT)	£46.20
TreeAbility – Removal of Chestnut at Recreation Ground	£960.00
First for Clearance - Mrs Rugg-Gunn – Removal of shed reimbursement (PAID)	£1,850.00
A Willingham – Repairs to Ightham Signpost (PAID)	£1,284.00
Yellow Duck – New signage at Village Hall	£138.00
AD Landscapes – Scout Pavilion	£1,797.60
Ground work – Replanting of Beech hedging – R Fielder	£100.00
Unity Bank - Transfer	£20,000.00

Deposit Account £170,150.93

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Request to use recreation ground for a Sevenoaks Flyball Team for 2 hours on a Sunday (4 dogs) – Agreed.

KALC & KCC - Corona Virus Information – Contingency Plans

Kent County Council - Consultation on proposal to increase the designated number of places from 465 to 580 at Five Acre Wood School, Maidstone from September 2020. The consultation will take place from Tuesday 3rd March 2020 to Tuesday 31st March 2020 – Clerk to write to support this.

KALC News – February 2020

Clerks and Councils Direct

TMBC Draft Climate Change Strategy and Draft Action Plan In July 2019 the Council set out an “aspiration for Tonbridge and Malling to be carbon neutral by 2030”. A draft climate change strategy and year one action plan has now been prepared to support this ambition. These drafts are now available for public consultation: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/council-and-democracy/consultations/climate-change> . Comments relating to the strategy and action plan to be sent to climate.change@tmbc.gov.uk up until 1 May 2020.

Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan: Final Report

8. AOB

It was agreed that we should postpone the Annual Parish Meeting in the light of the Corona Virus.

Cllr Cracknell reported that Church services were suspended so wasn't sure whether there would be VE Day celebrations in May. Cllr Cracknell reported that there would be a meeting with the Church and NHW to discuss a community plan to help those self-isolating.

Cllr Burgham asked whether the PC would contribute towards having some tree work and rendering done at the Ightham Club. The cost of the work is estimated at £5k. Cllr Willingham said that he would speak to Mark Brenta first and we could agree by email.

Meeting closed at 10.25pm.

Signed.....Dated.....