



9/20

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

on Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chairman), Cllr Holden (Vice Chairman), Cllr Cracknell, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Mitchem, County Cllr Rayner, Borough Cllr Betts, The Parish Clerk and 2 representatives – one from Scouts and one from the Cricket Club.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Burgham and Cllr Hall
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None
3. **MINUTES - The Minutes from 21 July were** approved with a couple of small amendments (pages 5 and 7) and the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 August 2020 were approved. The Clerk agreed to print with amendments and pass to Cllr Willingham to sign.
4. **UPDATE FROM, COUNTY COUNCILLOR –** Cllr Rayner reported a substantial budget recalculation following COVID and predicted that substantial savings would be required next year depending on what is received from central Government. There will be a reduction of £5K on members grants. As regards the Local Plan Hearings, all of the professional advisors and consultants and expert witnesses are prepared to represent the Parish Alliance. It was reported that the Sevenoaks Plan had failed and Sevenoaks DC are currently appealing that decision. Cllr Holden asked about the TMBC housing survey that was referred to in our July meeting and Cllr Rayner thought that it would be inadmissible as there was no opportunity to counter it. Cllr Rayner referred to the Government Consultation on housing numbers – the new arrangements to calculate housing numbers will have a big impact on TMBC who would have the 3rd biggest increase in Kent with an 85% uplift in housing numbers to 1440 per annum. We have until 29th September to submit our views. Cllr Rayner recommended a strong objection to the proposals and that we should write to our MP. The Government is also consulting on the reworking of the planning system, this means that the Local Plans will be greatly changed and there will be areas where planning consent will no longer be required. Cllr Rayner urged the Parish Council to respond to the Consultations which has been circulated by the Clerk. The leader of KCC has prepared a response. Cllr Rayner also reported reforms of Local Government and a move towards Unitary Councils, the consultation is expected in the mid October.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – Cllr Betts reiterated the increase in housing numbers under the new proposals and reported that of the 240% proposed increase in houses, 70% was in Kent, this will be detrimental to everyone living the South East; there is already a disproportionate housing need across the Borough and we don't have the infrastructure to support the increase. he suggested that we should be looking at enterprise areas in the North.

The finances at TMBC are very poor and there have been put under strain by the Leisure Trust who have been trying to sustain a valuable service to residents whilst adhering to the new COVID guidelines.

At the recent PPP meeting, parking issues were discussed, and Andy Edwards offered to set up meetings with Parishes, Cllr Betts recommended that we make contact to set up a meeting. Cllr Holden asked where fines for parking infringements went and Cllr Rayner confirmed that they went to

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



the authority paying for the Warden. If Parishes were to find an Officer then the revenue would come back to them.

Cllr Betts reported that a new Waste Manager had been appointed and that he was from the local area. Figures from February showed that the increase in waste from the green box was 70%, black bin 4% green bin 53% and food box 24%. These figures are good in terms of recycling but it has put additional pressure on the waste contractors. There has been a 50% uptake in brown bins.

At PPP it was discussed how fly tipping was creating issues in the Borough and Waste Services Officer has a meeting with KCC to discuss plans on 16 September. Fly-tipping is rising in rural Parishes and the support from the Police was noted at the PPP meeting. Most of the waste appeared to be commercial waste.

Cllr Mitchem asked about the Bulky Waste Collection and Cllr Betts said that they were awaiting a risk assessment from Urbaser before resuming the service.

Cllr Fielder asked about the new 20mph limit in Tonbridge - Cllr Rayner said that it had been implemented with Government money which had been given to KCC and has been mainly used within Towns to install cycle lanes etc. Cllr Betts said that it was more to address climate change rather than speeding and is being trialled for 6 months.

Update on Village Traffic Plan – Cllr Cracknell asked whether the Highways Plan would go onto the next Joint Transportation Board (JTB) Agenda. Cllr Rayner said that there had been some additional needs that had been outlined such as speeding/ lorries through the village and he was waiting for a comprehensive plan from Ightham. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council has happy with the Highways Plan that was submitted last October and felt that it would cover the recent issues that had been raised by residents. Residents have raised issues about speeding on A227 and an increase in lorries travelling (sometime at speed) through the village. It was concluded that these issues had existed prior to lockdown and were possibly more apparent as more people are working from home and noticing the traffic more but also that the general speeds and volume of lorries had increased. The issues had been dealt with in Les Henrys report and his suggestions would go some way to alleviate the problems. Cllr Cracknell said that there was a perception from Parishioners that the Parish Council is doing nothing to address their concerns about traffic issues in the village and therefore we should not delay any further. Cllr Cracknell asked whether Cllr Rayner and Cllr Betts would put something together in the Parish Magazine to explain what is being done.

Cllr Rayner said that there hadn't been a JTB for 6 months due to COVID but there was one due and that an Officers Report would be required on our Highways Plan. Cllrs Rayner and Betts agreed to meet to take this forward.

Cllr Mitchem said that we still had faith in Les Henrys report.

The Clerk reported that she had emailed Tom Tugendhats' office as there was a comment in the Parish Magazine about addressing speeding on the A227 and rural villages. It would be beneficial to all work together.

Cllr Rayner asked about the various flooding issues in the village mentioned later in the agenda. The Clerk said that there had been various different flooding issues following recent rainfall, but none of the issues related to the Busty Stream. The PC are in the process of meeting with some of the residents and the Clerk agreed to contact Cllr Rayner with a summary of the problems. Cllr Rayner said that he had an update on gully clearing; Kent Highway Contractors are currently clearing the gullies in Borough Green and Platt and are working towards Ightham.

Cllr Betts reported that the Climate Change Strategy report was due to be circulated to the Street Scene Committee on 23rd September in time for their meeting on 5th October.

Cllr Mitchem asked Cllr Betts for his thoughts on protecting land and he recommended writing to the MP to lobby for a change in legislation.

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Cllrs Betts and Rayner left the meeting at 20.54.

5. PUBLIC - Mr Bentall from the Cricket Club reported that the Club had received 3 quotes for the works necessary to refurbish and bring the cricket pavilion to League standards ranging from £24k to £34k. They have received a £1,500 grant from Cllr Rayners members fund, and have £4,500 in their account earmarked for electrics and plumbing. This means that the Club has around £18,000 - £19,000 shortfall if they accept the cheapest quote and they are meeting with the builder to finalise the quote. The Club has already spent £10k on ground works. Cllr Willingham said that he would recommend some financial support from the Parish Council and Cllr Holden said that the Club had put forward a good case at the July Parish meeting, the Club is an integral part of the village and as the Club has no other sources of funding. The work needs to happen if the Club is to maintain league status and the Club itself. Cllr Cracknell asked whether membership had increased during COVID and Mr Bentall said that there had been a handful of new members and the pitch is in use 7 days a week.

Cllr Willingham asked for a proposal for funding – Cllr Holden proposed that we should fund the total of £19k and asked whether we had the authority to do this and the funding? The Clerk said that we are able to provide funding for recreation/playing fields under the Local Government Act (LGA 1972, Sch 14 para 27) and that we did have the budget but may need to divert funds from another cost centre. Cllr Fielder proposed and Cllr Emmet seconded that we pay £19,000. This was unanimously agreed between members with agreement that the amount is capped at £19,000 and that there should be a condition that the Club is opened up for Ightham Juniors. Mr Bentall gave thanks and said that he would email the school.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications

TM/20/01782/TNCA Theodore House, High Cross Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NN. T1 remove declining Silver Birch in rear garden <https://publicaccess2.tmbc.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/20/01782/TNCA> Ightham (Wrotham, Ightham And Stansted) "No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content"

TM/20/01883/TNCA Prestons Cottage, Rectory Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9AJ. T1 Oak tree removal of dead wood and T2 Cherry tree removal of tree. "No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content". It was agreed that Cllr Willingham would go and look at this to confirm our response as the paperwork was lacking in detail.

TM/20/01837/TNCA Oldbury Farm House, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DE. G1 Group of Bay Laurel adjacent to log store, between road and house reduce to hedge height, T1 Large Lawson Cypress on left of path remove deadwood and large failed stem, T2 Large Weeping Ash reduce by 3-4m back to healthy timbers, T3 Mulberry in lower lawn area remove broken branch reduce height by 2m and prune overextended sections and T4 Large Declining apple remove dead sections. "No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content"

TM/20/01744/AGN Land North of The Stables Chart Farm, Styants Bottom Road, Seal Chart Sevenoaks, Kent. Prior Agricultural Notification: Erection of hay barn <https://publicaccess2.tmbc.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/20/01744/AGN> Ightham (Wrotham, Ightham And Stansted). "No objection."

TM/20/01747/FL Fir Bank, Coach Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0PE. Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and the erection of replacement dwelling. "Ightham Parish Council

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has no objection to the application above however due to its prominent position would like to see a condition that the landscaping plan is adhered to and followed up by TMBC to ensure that it is implemented.”

TM/20/01750/FL Hemmings Bank, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DD. Single storey side extension, internal alterations and new bi-fold doors. “Ightham Parish Council has concerns about over development but leave to TMBC to determine.”

6.2 Planning Decisions -

Approved

20/01031/FL - Stone Acre - Demolition of dwelling and garage. Erection of dwelling.

20/01229/FL - Farnehill - Demolition of existing garage block; erection of a single storey flat roof extension to the rear elevation and the installation of a new window to the ground floor bedroom on the side elevation.

20/01744/AGN - Land North Of The Stables - Prior Agricultural Notification: Erection of hay barn (approval not required).

20/01706/TNCA - Ightham County Primary School - T7 Cherry - decay at base, fell 1 stem to 2m height; G2 Cherries x7 - Crown reduce overhang along side of court by approximately 3-4m . Chip stacked debris from earlier fallen tree. T1 Leaning Goat Willow - Crown reduce whole crown by approximately 2-3m and crown lift to 1m above fence.

20/01552/TNCA - 55 Nutfields - T1 Lawson and T2 Yew to fell and stump grind, T3 Birch to fell to near ground level.

20/01509/TPOC - The Bower House, Tonbridge Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9AJ.

T2 Beech x2 - Crown reduce height by approximately 3m and 1.5m on the sides, sever clematis, T3 Whitebeam x2 - Crown reduce height by approximately 2m and 1.5m on the sides, T5 Large Conifer - Dismantle to near ground level and prune adjacent apple to clear roof by approximately 1m and T6 Golden Conifers x2 - Reduce to approximately 10ft. Fell to near ground level very small conifer adjacent. (permission not required).

20/01507/TPOC - 4 Nutfields - T1 Oak - Crown reduce whole crown by approximately 2m. Right stem has rubbing damage from Pine - reduce back to stump 1-2m from main trunk. Crown lift by approximately 2m over road, T2 Pine - Dismantle to near ground level, G1 Beech Saplings x3 and Laurel - Fell to near ground level. T5 Sweet Chestnut - Crown reduce whole crown by approximately 2m. Sever Ivy and remove suckers on trunk.

20/01517/TPOC - 3 Nutfields - G1 Oak and Beech x 9 -Crown reduce height by approximately 2m and garden overhang. Crown lift by approximately 1-2m.

20/01479/FL - Dimber - Rear extension, filling in porch area.

20/01404/TPOC - The Ightham Club - Line of trees west of Club and car park. Crown lift on car park side to match crown lift on other side. To prune back branches above this by approx. 50% to suitable growing points, and to reduce the height by 3-4m (3m for the Beech and 4m for the Sycamores).

20/01350/FL - 13 Spring Lane - Demolition of existing garage and construction of a two-storey workshop and garage.

20/01296/LDE - Hope Farm - Lawful Development Certificate Existing: Building and area of hardstanding used as a domestic garden store incidental to the enjoyment of the main dwelling house for an uninterrupted period since at least 19th June 2010. (certifies).

20/01133/FL - 1 New Cottages - Conversion of existing stables into a self-contained residential dwelling.

20/01628/FL - Spicklewood - Demolition of existing garage and outbuildings. Construction of new garage block with ancillary accommodation and alterations to existing house.

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20/01612/AGN - Orchard Hill Farm - Prior Agricultural Notification: agricultural store to be built on the side of the existing barn. Made from timber weatherboarding sides with metal box profile roof. (Not required)

Planning Enforcement – It was agreed that we would request a meeting once we had gathered some information on the enforcement cases that we had submitted.

It was noted that Longcroft Lodge applicants has submitted a counter response to the objections that were put forward. There have also been some further objections from residents. It was noted that the owners had started to put some fencing up along the boundary and the footpath. A resident had questioned whether the fencing was in the correct place and raised a concern about barbed wire. The Clerk had emailed Sam Honey at PROW to question the legality of the type of fencing and received a response to say that barbed wire was deemed a public nuisance. The Clerk will contact PROW again once the fencing is fully installed so that he can determine whether it is lawful.

Chapel Farm – Replanting – The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Liz Guthrie who had contacted the Forestry Commission (FC) regarding the replanting which is now overdue. The FC reported that they would be writing to the owners to remind them the replanting needed to be done by the end of the next planting season or official action would be taken.

6.3 LOCAL PLAN – Borough Green Gardens Update - Update – Hearings – 6-8 October and 3-11 November via Microsoft Teams.

7. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - Gullies and drains need clearing on A227/ Bates Hill. The Plastic bollards outside the Cricket Club have been damaged and need replacing.

Village Traffic Matters – Update – A227 Lorries – Cllr Cracknell reported that the traffic through the village was awful and that the volume and speed of traffic on A227 had worsened. We have received a couple of complaints from residents about this and Tom Tugendhat had made a reference to the problem in the recent Parish Magazine. There is no enforcement from the Police, the only restrictions in place are from local operators who restrict the times that the lorries can drive through the village. It was noted that the A227 is a strategic A road and therefore no restrictions could be placed on lorries using the road. Cllr Holden suggested that we pass a resolution to confirm our commitment to our Highways Plan as set out in October 2019, recommended by Les Henry Associates to ask Cllr Rayner and Cllr Betts to take it forward to the Joint Transportation Board and copy in our MP who has offered his support. This was agreed. The Clerk will also set up a meeting with local residents to explain what the Parish Council are doing to try and address the issues of speeding. Cllr Mitchem asked whether anything could be done about the lorries? Cllr Willingham said that there was nothing that could be done to stop the lorries unless the road was downgraded but this may then have implications for getting the road salted and repaired. Cllr Holden said that as long as it remained a bus route then it shouldn't be an issue.

The Clerk has requested a concealed entrance signage on Mill Lane following a request from a resident. A resident had reported parking on double yellow lines on Common Road on weekends. The Clerk said that this could be taken up with Andy Edwards.

Scout Pavilion – Update - It is hoped that the scouts will be able to use the pavilion by the end of the month. They have to meet at multiple venues due to restrictions on numbers meeting due to COVID although they are exempt from the rule of 6. **Defibrillator** – The Scouts have found a carpenter to build a cabinet and it was agreed the Clerk would source a defibrillator and heated cabinet first so that the wooden cabinet could be built around it.

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Old Scout Hut – Update – The Licence has been signed and first rental received. A letter of thanks had been circulated from the Governors. Cllr Willingham reported that the guttering needed replacing and Cllr Cracknell suggested that we should get this done sooner rather than risk incurring further costs. This was agreed. The Clerk reported that the Lease is currently with KCC.

Ightham Football Club – New season – Cllr Holden reported that he had spoken to James Hitchcock and the Club had had their first 2 games and won both. They now have a large squad. They aren't currently using the changing rooms due to COVID. The Club gave thanks for the new goal posts and brushes. The Clerk had sent in the paperwork for the grant funding. The Club had reported some trees overhanging and that the grass was too long. Cllr Willingham will speak to James Hayward about cutting once a week during peak season.

Tennis Club – Mr Reid reported that Harpers were coming to do snagging and would look at the water pressure issue on 21st September.

Ightham Cricket Club – Discussed above.

Busty Stream & Flooding – Cllr Willingham had met with James Hayward at the Busty to discuss removal of the silt. The Clerk and Cllr Cracknell said that only minimal silt should be removed on advice from Emma Burdett. It was agreed the Clerk and Cllr Willingham would do a site visit and email photos to Emma for her advice. The banks can be strimmed and cleared. Cllr Willingham had tried to make contact with the tenant of the field to ask about maintenance of the section leading to the culvert. WE have received emails from residents about isolated flooding in Oldbury, Chapel View, Tebbs Way, Ismays Road, Old Lane and Copt Hall Road. The Clerk will email Cllr Rayner. Cllr Willingham agreed to go and visit the residents in Tebbs Way.

Recreation Ground –Wet pour quote - We have received 2 quotes for wetpour – one for 100m² and one for 50m². There are some sections that were raised in the recent Rospa report that have cracked. 50m would allow for the repairs and 100m would allow for some of the pieces of equipment to be joined together. The bench near to the top gate will need to be moved. Defer until the next meeting. Under the new guidelines from the Government the park can remain open. The Clerk is trying to source some COVID signage to remind users of the guidelines.

Village Hall - Cardboard recycling – It was reported that the recycling unit is nearly full and is being emptied every 2 weeks. The area is looking tidy.

Climate Change - Farm Waste - Defer to next meeting.

Allotments behind Common Road – Renewal of agreements - The Clerk has prevised the agreements and is due to send them out this week.

Trees – Visual Tree Inspection - We are awaiting the VTA from Treeability. Some dead branches were reported above the tennis club, Cllr Willingham will ask James Hayward to remove them.

Concern has been raised about an oak and sweet chestnut near to Skips. It was agreed that we would look at the VTA before deciding on any action to be taken.

8. FINANCE & POLICY

The following accounts were submitted for payment – proposer Cllr Cracknell, seconded by Cllr Hogarth:

Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank

Parish Clerk Salary September – (Standing Order)	£654.80
Gel Creative -August & September (Standing Order)	£100.00
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 August & September (Standing Order)	£92.40
Decorite – Painting external old scout hut (transferred)	£530.00
Decorite – Painting internal old scout hut (transferred)	£3,590.00
Anthony Edwards – Parish Maintenance and Churchyard July(transferred)	£1,471.41

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Oncall Carpets – Flooring old scout hut (transferred)	£1,800.00
Newitts – Goal posts (Transferred and to be reimbursed)	£1,201.54
Anthony Edwards – Parish Maintenance and Churchyard	£1061.08

Cheques

JH Estate & Gardening Services – Grass cutting July (Paid)	£1,548.00
Warners – Legal Fees (Paid)	£1,687.20
Yellow Duck Signs – Disabled bays signs (Paid)	£173.40
EDF – Electricity Old scout hut (Paid)	£43.96
EDF – Electricity New scout hut (Paid)	£58.37
JH Estate & Gardening Services – Grass cutting August	£696.00
ICO – Data Protection Fee renewal	£40.00
True Plan – Old scout hut lease plan	£234.00
KALC – Clerks Conference	£60.00
Smurfit Kappa – Newspaper Bin rental village hall	£54.00
Parish Clerk Expenses	£132.94

Income

Ightham Primary School - Rental	£500.00
TMBC – Precept	£62,526.00
KCC – Cricket Pitch Grant	£1500.00
KCC – Farmers Market Grant	£500.00
Reimbursement Wrotham PC – Over payment	£382.28
VAT Reimbursement	£10,575.54

9. CORRESPONDENCE – (Please email Clerk if you would like to receive information)

JPCTCG – Meeting with Tom Tugendhat 24th September
Kent Police Rural Task Force Report & Newsletter
KCC Electric Vehicle Charging Points Grant – The Clerk was asked to get some further information.
KCC Public Notice Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys
KALC CEO Bulletin - August 2020
KALC - Government consultations on reforming the planning system (*Parish response required*) **CPRE** - Planning System shake-up
NALC National Salary Scale 2020/2021
KALC Dynamic Councillor - 1st October 2020 – via Zoom 9.45am
KALC NEWS August 2020 – Online
KCC - Allington IWMF - extension of consultation period to 16 October 2020
Parish Partnership Panel - Thursday 3 September - Kent County Council Services Update <https://kentenviropower.fccenvironment.co.uk/peir-report/>.
Highways England - M20 Moveable Barrier works – overnight closures from 1 September for Operation Brock

10. AOB Cllr Hogarth asked about the cones opposite the George and Drago and will take it up with KCC.

The meeting closed at 22.30

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