



11/20

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**on Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chairman), Cllr Holden (Vice Chairman), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Betts
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None
3. **VACANCY** – Cllr Willingham had approached a couple of people but no uptake. The position is still advertised via TMBC and on the Parish noticeboards.
4. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2020 were approved with one amendment. Cllr Willingham will amend in manuscript and sign. Cllr Hall asked why the condition requested by the Parish Council on land south of 1 New Cottages hadn't been added to the planning permission. The Clerk will check with TMBC.
5. **UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR** - Cllr Rayner reported that there had been some good news for the 5 Parish Alliance on the Local Plan. Sevenoaks District Council recently lost their Judicial Review against the Local Plan Inspectors who had stopped the Local Plan Inquiry on the basis that Sevenoaks had failed in their duty to co-operate with neighbouring Boroughs. Failure in the duty to co-operate means that a Local Plan cannot be amended and the whole process must start again. Cllr Rayner reported that the Inspector who had raised serious concerns about the legalities of the TMBC Local Plan, had suspended their hearings as they had serious concerns about the legalities of the Plan. They said that they would write to TMBC to ask them to respond to their concerns. To date the letter hadn't been sent to TMBC and Cllr Rayner thought that the Inspectors had been waiting for the outcome of the Sevenoaks Judicial Review as it was likely that they would find that the TMBC Plan was similarly flawed.

Cllr Rayner raised the issue of recent flooding at Chapel View. Kent Highways recently cleared the ditches and had to cut back several trees which will need to be reinstated. On cutting back the trees it became evident that garden waste was being dumped in the ditches. Cllr Rayner said that he was reluctant to pay to reinstate the trees if dumping of garden waste continued as the ditches would need clearing again. He asked whether a member of the Parish Council would be willing to do a site visit to try and resolve the matter, Cllr Willingham said that he would go and speak to the residents.

Cllr Rayner reported on the Ightham Highways Plan. Cllr Rayner and Cllr Betts had brought up the Highways Plan at the September Joint Transportation Board meeting and were informed that all Highways Plans are currently on hold. We have recently received a letter from Tom Tugendhat asking about the status of the Plan, following several letters from residents about traffic and speeding issues asking how he could help. Cllr Rayner responded to Tom Tugendhat and informed us that the Plan would be put forward to Kent Highways Officers in the new year when they had more time.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting at 19.49.

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



## 6. MATTERS ARISING

**Highways & PROW Matters** Road closure Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch on 18 November 2020 for Tree surgery. Styants Bottom Road, Seal Chart from 23rd November 2020 for up to 20 days for drainage work. The Clerk reported that Kent Highways were planning on resurfacing Mill Lane. Cllr Holden reported that the recent “resurfacing” of Back Lane and Common Road had just been patching and some tarmac had been dumped on the roadside. Cllr Emmett said that the work done was not of a good standard. The Clerk will report to highways. Pothole on junction A227 with Ismays Road. Cllr Fielder reported that the weeds had been cleared from the junction Oldbury and A25. Cllr Fielder reported leaves on the footpaths between Common Road and the recreation ground.

**Village Traffic Matters** – Update – The Clerk reported that the Police had carried out speed checks on A227 and 2 vehicles were stopped for excess speed, 2 summonses issued and 1 vehicle seized. We will request a further speed check on the Borough Green Road and Fen Pond Road.

**Scout Pavilion** – Defibrillator - The Clerk reported that she had ordered the defibrillator and cabinet to go onto the new scout pavilion.

**Old Scout Hut** – Update – Lease – The Clerk had reported that we were still awaiting comments on the lease but had received a message from the Head of Ightham School to say that it was being chased up. The Clerk reported that she needed to speak to Skips about the split of the water meter. We have received a detailed breakdown of charges to install a fire alarm at the old scout hut for £425 for a fire safety inspection and £2,595 for a fire alarm and £395 for broadband installation. Cllr Willingham suggested that we may be able to get a better quote for the fire alarm. It was decided that the Parish Council would cover all the costs but we would add £200 to the annual rent. It was decided that we should wait for an alternative quote for the alarm before letting the school know.

**Ightham Football Club** – Pitch Survey – Cllr Holden reported that he had contacted 3 contractors about the pitch levelling but only 1 had come back to him. They had requested an electronic drawing and Cllr Willingham will forward this on. This company would be able to carry out the work during the summer holidays in 2021 and reseed at the beginning of September and maintain the pitch for the next 12 months.

**Tennis Club** - Nothing to report.

**Ightham Cricket Club** – Update – Cllr Willingham reported good progress of the extension; the roof is now on and felted. Windows will be fitted next week and then work can start inside. The second stage of payment can now be paid.

**Busty Stream** - The Clerk reported that she had ordered Flood Sax and had updated the Emergency Report and uploaded it to the Whats App Group. Cllr Willingham had inspected the Busty at the weekend and reported that it was clear and running well. The Clerk reported that a tress had recently come down near to the Nursery and Cllr Willingham had spoken to the owners who were going to remove it. Cllr Mitchem asked about digging out silt near to Elim Bungalow and Cllr Willingham said that there was a reluctance to do this as it would require a digger and a skip. Cllr Holden reported that he had attended an online Flood Forum and that a Kent Wide Forum was mooted so that information could be shared, one of the topics to be shared was riparian ownership. Cllr Holden said that he would continue to attend the meetings.

**Flooding** – Replanting at Chapel View – discussed above with Cllr Rayner. We have heard no further reports of flooding in Tebbs Way, Ismays Road, Old Lane or Copt Hall Road although it was noted that several drains are blocked with leaves. WE are still awaiting a date for Cllr Rayners meeting with the Highways Engineers however Cllr Fielder reported that the soak away in Spring Lane was due to be fixed next week.

**Recreation Ground** –Winter Maintenance – Cllr Fielder reported that he had yet to cut back the Beech hedges. Cllr Willingham said that he would order 25 Beech whips from Coblands to fill the gaps. Cllr Hall said that we need to make an allowance to fill the potholes in the recreation ground car park. The Clerk reported that Covid signs had been put up in the park but that we had received a

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complaint about people not social distancing. It was decided that the park should remain open. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with the wet pour contractor and was awaiting a site meeting, The Clerk will order a replacement porthole and new bin for the play area.

**Village Hall** - Nothing to report.

**Crime Report/Neighbourhood Watch** - Nothing to report.

**Climate Change** - Nothing to report.

**Allotments behind Common Road** – Visual Tree Assessment – The Clerk reported that a tree had recently come down at the allotments behind Common Road and damaged a neighbour shed roof. The Clerk had contacted Treeability who removed the tree and recommended a visual tree assessment, this was agreed. We have received a quote to remove a fallen branch at Robin Hill and this was agreed. Cllr Emmett suggested that we asked Treeability for a discount in return for giving them all tree work. The Clerk agreed to speak to them. Cllrs Willingham and Fielder had met at the Old Scout Hut to look at the Sweet Chestnut and Oak. A branch has come down in Arboret and it was agreed that we should pay to clear it and that the Sweet Chestnut and Oak should have overhanging limbs and deadwood removed. The Clerk will notify Treeability.

7. **PUBLIC** - No members of the public were present.

## 8. **PLANNING**

### 8.1 Planning Applications

**TM/20/02238/FL** – Ragstones, Mill Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9BH. Demolition of existing bungalow, garage and outbuildings and erection of a replacement dwelling and garage. *“No objection”*

**TM/20/02318/TNCA** - Ightham Mote. T1 Ash - Reduce crown by 25% and height by 4m, T2 Ash - Fell to near ground level, T3 Ash - Reduce scaffold limbs with Ash Dieback by 70% and remove all deadwood within remaining crown, G4 Ash x2 - Reduce scaffold limbs with Ash Dieback in lower crown by 70% and remove all remaining deadwood, T5 Ash - Fell to near ground level, T1 Field Maple - Fell to near ground level, T2 Field Maple - Fell tree with 50% crown dieback to near ground level, T3 Poplar - Reduce 1 scaffold limb to SE of crown by 50% in overall length and sever Ivy at base by a 0.5m width around circumference, T4 Poplar - Reduce 2 end weighted scaffold limbs to E and NE of crown by 50% and sever Ivy at base and remove 0.5m width around circumference. *“No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content”*.

**TM/20/02330/TPOC** – Larchfield, Copt Hall Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DT.

T1 Beech - crown reduce whole crown by approximately 2-3m, crown lift over lawn and paving by 1-2m, T2 Oak - remove suckers on trunk up to main fork and T3 Beech - crown lift by approximately 3m. *“No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content”*.

**TM/20/02351/TPOC** - High Dapple, Copt Hall Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DT.

Silver Birch x 2 trees to east of house in rear garden, fell to ground level. Goat Willow tree to east of house, in rear garden, fell to ground level. Norway Spruce tree in rear garden to north of house, crown raise to 5 metre. Beech tree to south west of driveway overhanging football goal, crown raise to 6m over driveway and goal. Beech tree adjacent to driveway entrance, crown raise to 6m over driveway. 2 no Beech trees on front boundary overhanging Copt Hall Road, crown raise to 6 metres over road. Reasons items 1 and 2 - condition/age of trees, proximity to house and effect on light, and general management of extensive tree cover, items 4-7 - access, safety and highways compliance. *“No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content”*.

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**TM/20/02412/TPOC** - 6 Nutfields, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9EA. G1 Group 1 Oak and 3x Beech - cut back by 2-3m and clear overhanging tree branches from adjacent land. *“No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content”*.

**TM/20/02489/TNCA** - The Grange, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9EE. T1 Thuja - fell, T2 Thuja - crown lift to 5m and T3 Laylandii - reduce by 50%. *“No objection providing Liz Guthrie is content”*.

**8.2 Planning Decisions Approved**

**20/01943/FL** - Land South Of 1 New Cottages, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatc,h Sevenoaks, Kent.  
Conversion of existing stable block into self-contained residential dwelling and creation of new access to Ismays Road.

**20/01604/FL** - Longcroft Lodge, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DE.  
Erection of 2 no. four bedroom houses, installation of an access road and demolition of stable block / outbuilding in woodland area to the rear (as an alternative scheme to that approved under TM/18/00668/FL).

Cllr Mitchem reported that she had been in contact with the Officer at TMBC to query the wording in the planning decision about the track as it is unclear, contains typo’s and could be misconstrued. TMBC have responded to confirm that the condition still meets the test in that it is relevant and enforceable. We will keep an eye on the landscaping and check that the conditions are fulfilled as regards demolition of the stable block and size and surface of the track.

**Planning Appeal** – Cllr Hall asked about the Planning Appeal for Crown Point Nursery and The Clerk reported that she has responded to say that it was not appropriate for the Parish Council to comment.

**8.3 LOCAL PLAN – Borough Green Gardens Update** - See above.

**9. FINANCE & POLICY**

The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposer Cllr Emmett, Seconded by Cllr Hall.

**Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank**

Parish Clerk Salary & Tax November – (Standing Order)	£654.80
Gel Creative - November (Standing Order)	£50.00
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 October (Standing Order)	£46.20
Anthony Edwards – Parish Maintenance and Churchyard	£1145.09
Smurfit Kappa – Newspaper Bin rental village hall	£54.00
First Aid – Defibrillator	£2,161.20

**Cheques**

Parish Clerk Expenses	£37.74
Edward Tyrell – Fence repairs at Rec	£486.00
EDF- Electricity Scout Pavilion	£238.21
Treeability – Common Rd Tree clearance	£604.80
Weddle & Co – Covid Signage	£288.00
Royal British Legion – Wreath & Donation	£100.00
Cricket Club balance on second stage	£3513.60
JH Estate and Gardens	£840.00

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**10. CORRESPONDENCE – (items circulated/ available prior to the meeting)**

KALC AGM 28 November 2020  
KALC SEMINAR - chairing virtual meetings - skills for councillors – 10<sup>TH</sup> December 1.45pm  
KALC NEWS OCTOBER 2020  
Dunbrik Waste Transfer Station - temporary site closure 8 weeks from 12 November for repair works  
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Community Hub  
Innovation Park Medway – Consultation on creation of a mixed use business park, featuring c101,000sqm of predominantly high-tech and innovation-oriented commercial uses. Ends 30 November [www.tmbc.gov.uk/ipm](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/ipm)  
NHS registry service for COVID-19 vaccine studies  
NALC CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN  
Kent Police - latest Rural Task Force Report and Rural Matters newsletter  
Rural Market Towns Group – Request for Ightham Parish to become a member.  
KCC and Kent and Medway CCG New Crisis Support Cards

**11. AOB**

Cllr Holden asked when we should request a meeting with TMBC to discuss enforcement issues and it was suggested that this would be better when we could have face to face meetings.  
Cllr Mitchem had previously suggested that we have a rota for attending KALC and PPP meetings and this was agreed. Cllr Fielder said that he would attend the next KALC meeting and Cllrs Hogarth and Hall said that they would be happy to attend future meetings The Clerk said that all meetings would be remote until April 2021.  
The Clerk was asked to respond to Tom Tugendhat's email about Highways – the Clerk was asked to clarify the process of Joint Transportation Board and meetings with Officers with Cllr Rayner beforehand.

A gift for Cllr Cracknell was discussed and various suggestions were made.

The meeting closed at 21.13

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