



9/21

MINUTES

MEETING OF IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall to transact the undermentioned business.

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chairman), Cllr Holden (Vice Chairman), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Clark, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hogarth, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner, Borough Cllr Betts and one member of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Hall, Cllr Mitchem
2. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** – Cllr Willingham and Cllr Holden signed the Declarations of Acceptance of Office from May 2021.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – None.
4. **MINUTES-** The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 20th July 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.
5. **PUBLIC** - No comments from members of the public.
6. **UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR, COUNTY COUNCILLOR** - Cllr Betts reported that TMBC had a Green Business Grant to support businesses to become carbon neutral. The grants are for £5K or 40% green energy improvements. There are 3 days left to apply although there will be a second round. Details on the TMBC website under business support. There is also a grant scheme aimed at businesses who are supporting businesses in becoming greener, grants available up to £8k. There is also some further Government money which will be made available for businesses that have suffered due to Covid, £800k will be made available imminently.

A Tree Charter was agreed at the recent Street Scene meeting. There will be a review of all assets to identify areas that can support tree planting which helps to reduce CO². Parishes will be encouraged to join the scheme.

The Bulky Waste Freight Service is still suspended as is the garden waste collection; all priority services are being maintained by redeploying employees from garden waste collection services. A lot of money is being lost due to the suspension of services as garden waste is a charged for service so TMBC would like to see services resumed as soon as possible. The issue is due to the shortage of HGV drivers. A question was asked about a Saturday morning garden waste collection? This has been looked at in other Wards but has been open to abuse.

Cllr Betts asked whether there were any areas if interest that the PC would like to raise with him at the next meeting.

It was suggested that we looked into organising a skip to collect garden waste during the suspension of service and Cllr Rayner offered to put forward some money from his members discretionary fund towards it. It would have to go onto Council land and recycled as green waste. The issue will be monitoring it so that other waste isn't fly tipped. The Clerk will make some enquiries.

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Cllr Rayner reported the National Insurance increase; the additional money raised will go to the NHS in the first 2 years and to social care thereafter.

The Local Government Review is in its final stages and there will be an announcement at the end of October.

Cllr Rayner encouraged members to respond to the Bus Improvement Program with ideas.

Cllr Willingham asked Cllr Rayner about the Local Plan meeting with Eleonor Hoyle and concern was raised around Parishes being invited to a meeting about the Borough Green Gardens development with no agenda, particularly as the Local Plan has failed and there has been no further Section 18 consultation. The Inspectors weren't happy with the recent Plan and concern has already been raised by Local Parishes about such a large-scale development in greenbelt and AONB.

Cllr Rayner reported that the site had been taken out of the Local Plan and is being dealt with separately by multi-disciplinary teams and is being funded from Government money given to Planning Authorities for communities to build garden developments.

It was decided that we would not attend the meeting but would comment on any sites but forward at the formal consultation process.

Cllr Willingham asked Cllr Rayner about an engineering proposal from a resident in Old Lane to improve drainage in Old Lane. Cllr Rayner said that he would be prepared to give some members funding towards the initiative however would have to persuade Kent Highways to take the proposal on – they will only take it on if they perceive it to be good value and suggested that the Parish puts forward some funding as well. It was agreed that Old Lane couldn't be left in its current state. There are 2 gulley's outside Glenna and these should be investigated in the first instance.

Cllrs Betts and Rayner left at 8.25pm

7. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - Old Lane – signage, surface and drainage – Cllr Willingham reported that he had walked Old Lane and the surface has completely broken up, with raised manhole covers and erosion. The Lane is used by dog walkers and horses. Whilst we would like to see the surface made safe, we wouldn't want it to be used as a cut through. It was suggested that the Lane is redesignated so that it is not suitable for vehicles. Cllr Emmett said that the spring from the Orchard was causing some erosion. In addition to the poor surface, the issue is outside Glenna which often floods. The engineering solution proposed by the resident was similar to a cattle grid which would capture some of the debris but it was through that this would not be suitable for animals and would require frequent emptying. It was decided that the gulley's should be investigated to see where they go.

Footpath Maps. Mirror junction Stone Street – Nothing to report. A broken bench A25 was reported on the Spring Lane / A25 junction – Cllr Willingham will look at it.

Potholes reported on Spring Lane. Double yellow lines opposite the Harrow haven't been reinstated following resurfacing but this has been reported. It was reported that a resident had made a complaint to Kent Highways about the condition of Mill Lane.

Village Traffic Matters – Update on Highways Improvement Plan – Cllrs Willingham, Mitcham and the Clerk met with Claire Venner, the new Schemes Project Manager at Kent Highways. Claire Confirmed that Kent Highways won't work with a third party, ie our Traffic Consultant. Clare went through our wish list and gave an update on feasibility of each request. Some data has already been gathered and further traffic counts and speed checks were being carried out at the time of the meeting on Spring Lane and The Street. Claire said that the blanket 30mph request would be unlikely to go ahead as the data that they had gathered suggested that most of the speed limits that we currently have are correct ie general speeds are within the correct tolerance. Claire said that there would be some changes to speed limit in the vicinity of the Borough Green roundabout and this would be done in conjunction and consultation with Borough Green Parish. The Clerk has circulated the update wish

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list with comments and actions by Kent Highways. There will be a site meeting with Claire and The Traffic Group in early November to look at Oldbury Lane/A25 and Coach Road.

School/ Old Scout Hut – Update - The Clerk reported that the Lease has been signed. The Clerk reported that she would prepare an invoice for the rent and change over the energy supplier for the electricity. It was reported that the gutter was leaking, Cllr Willingham will look at it.

Skips – Nothing to report.

Ightham Football Club – Pitch Levelling – Cllr Holden reported that he had met with O’Keefe’s to get a quote for pitch levelling, we should receive this within a couple of weeks. Various quotes had been received for a 10 foot metal sea container for the football equipment, all around £2,000 plus VAT and delivery. It was agreed that Cllr Holden would purchase the container from a local firm in Westerham and Cllr Willingham would source some lintels for the container to sit on. The container would be used to store the line marker, nets corner flags and balls. The container will need to have a vent. Cllr Fielder suggested that the Parish should employ someone to clear the footpaths and that we could keep equipment in the container. No decision was made.

Tennis Club - Update – Lights – The cables have been laid and the bases are ready for the lights to be installed. 9 lights 450mm high are on order. A remote switch will be installed at the bottom of the footpath and it was suggested that a switch combined with a timer would be preferable so that the lights aren’t accidentally left on. Cllr Holden reported that there had been a changeover in the Tennis Committee.

Busty Stream - Ongoing maintenance - Cllr Clark reported that she had walked the Busty following a report from a resident about overgrown trees/vegetation. Some photographs were circulated of areas that need to be maintained. The area in the vicinity of the bridge was particularly overgrown and a discussion was had about whether the Parish Council should step in and get it cut back. Cllr Holden reminded members that the Flood Forum had been set up and since its inception the advice was that we should encourage the riparian owners to take responsibility for their areas and only offer assistance in recommending contractors. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would post the photographs on the Flood Forum What’s App Group with a reminder to residents to maintain their section of the Busty. Cllr Holden said that he would approach Katia from the Flood Forum to start up meetings again.

Recreation Ground – New fence – this will be installed next week. The Rospa Inspection has been completed and The Clerk handed the report to Cllr Willingham. It was noted that one of the benches was broken and Cllr Willingham will get someone to fix both benches.

Village Hall - Update - Solar Panels – Cllr Willingham had received a quote for solar panels on the south side of the village hall roof (around £10k) and asked whether the Parish Council would consider outlaying the funds and for them, this was agreed. The Clerk suggested that we should apply for the Green Energy Grant and this was agreed. Cllr Willingham said that he was meeting with the contractor in October and that a deposit would be required. It wasn’t thought that planning permission is required but the Clerk will check.

Trees/ Hedges - Common Road Allotments – The Clerk has received a couple of request from residents about reducing the height of some of the trees at the allotments. It is unfortunate timing as Treeability have just carried out extensive work in carrying out a visual tree inspection and all the necessary work. The trees in question are not dangerous, it would be to increase light. Members were not supportive to cutting trees just to allow light and Cllr Emmett suggested that they should only be topped sympathetically if at all and at the cost of the Parish Council. The Clerk has requested a report and quote from TreeAbility and we will make a decision once received.

Litter Pick – It was decided that we should do a village litter pick on Saturday 13th November.

Bus Shelter – A227 – Cllr Holden reported that he had cleaned the bus stop. We have had communication asking whether the Parish Council would like to take over ownership of the shelter as it was due to be removed. It was agreed that we would take over the shelter as we wouldn’t want to lose it. The Clerk will contact Andrew Young at TMBC.

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Coxcombe Fair – Donation to cover cost of running the event – Cllr Holden has attended a meeting with Cedric Read about the Fair will be next June to celebrate the Queens Jubilee, the Parish Council has already agreed to fund the road closure. The 2012 fair cost in the region of £7.5 k to run and we have received a request to assist with funding in the event that the fair fails to make a profit and cover costs. It was agreed that the Parish Council would donate up to £7.5k subject to the organisers preparing a budget and having a Committee responsible for finances. Some orders will need to be placed now to secure contractors. This was agreed. Cllr Holden has agreed to go along to the event meetings. The event organiser will be responsible for organising insurance including weather insurance.

Roadworks on A227 – The A227 is closed again for repairs due to settlement following work to repair the sink hole. The road is due to reopen on 27th September. Cllr Willingham will speak to the Highways Engineer as there is concern that this will keep happening.

8. PLANNING

7.1 Planning Applications

TM/21/01880/FL – Grenna, Chapel Row, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9AQ. Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey garden room. “No objection.”

TM/21/01925/FL – Larchfield, Copt Hall Road Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9DT. Proposed ground floor extension at front; new patio area in front garden; and new front door. “No objection.”

TM/21/01949/FL - 62 Nutfields, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9EA. Rear Orangery extension and new entrance gates and flank wall. “No objection to the sun room but object to the wall and gates”

TM/21/01837/FL - Land South Of 1 New Cottages Ismays Road Ivy Hatch Sevenoaks Kent
Removal of stables (to be re-used) and building of a new build to look exactly the same as the previously granted conversion ref TM/20/01943/FL. “No objection.”

TM/21/02195/TNCA - 6 Oldbury Close, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9DJ. T1 Oak - Crown reduce to previous pruning points, removing approx 3m all around the tree. To allow more light to the houses behind and reduce the risk of the regrowth at the previous reduction points from failing. “No objection.”

TM/21/01887/RD- The Coach House, Upper Brooms, Common Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9ED. Details of condition 5 (Glazing units and mechanical ventilation system) submitted pursuant to planning application TM/21/01188/FL: Demolition of existing dwelling, replacement dwelling, associated landscaping and temporary access track. No comment.

TM/21/02337/TNCA - Glebe House, Bates Hill, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9BG. Poplar (T1)- Fell as too close to the property and is now inappropriately large for the location. Beach tree (T2)- Fell as showing signs of stress and decay posing a danger to the property adjacent. “We would prefer that the poplar is reduced in size rather than felled, no objection to the beech tree.”

Planning Appeal - TM/21/00083/FL – Brackenwood, Pine Tree Lane – Conversion of residential outbuilding to provide single dwelling.

7.2 Planning Applications – APPROVED

TM/21/01278/FL - Construction of a relocated parking area in the lower section of Mount Field to the east of the Walled Garden and the existing parking area; removal of the temporary visitor reception building and the erection of a replacement visitor reception and shop building, Glasshouse and Bothy

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within the restored Walled Garden together with associated landscaping and drainage works - Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NT.

TM/21/01319/LDE - Lawful Development Certificate Existing: Use of land as residential garden land - 5 Chapel View Chapel Row, Ightham, Sevenoaks Kent, TN15 9AQ.

TM/21/00932/TNCA - Oak T1 to crown lift by approximately 2m removing secondary branches only, and remove major deadwood; T2 Catalpa to dismantle to near ground level; T3 decayed Cherry to fell to near ground level; T4 leaning Koelreuteria to fell to near ground level; T5 Oak to dismantle to near ground level; and T6 Holm Oak to crown reduce whole crown by approximately 3m to reduce detritus on court and allow more light - The Old Rectory. Rectory Lane. Ightham. Sevenoaks. Kent TN15 9AL.

TM/21/01027/FL - Extension of a 3 bedroom semi detached dwelling, the extension comprises of a bedroom built above what is currently the garage, a single storey garden room to the rear, and a new, enclosed porch to replace the existing awning - 7 Durlings Orchard, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9HW.

TM/21/01161/LDE - Lawful Development Certificate Existing: use of building as a dwellinghouse and building works in the form of a glazed link - The Chase, Sandy Lane, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0PB.

7.4 LOCAL PLAN –Update TMBC – Borough Green Garden Engagement Meeting on 4th October – The Clerk was asked to respond to TMBC to say that we wouldn't be attending the meeting.

8. FINANCE & POLICY

The following accounts were proposed by Cllr Emmett and seconded by Cllr Hogarth.

Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank

Parish Clerk Salary – (Standing Order)	£684.40
Gel Creative - (Standing Order)	£50.00
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 (Standing Order)	£46.20
Smurfit Kappa – Newspaper Bin rental village hall (standing Order)	£54.00
Anthony Edwards - Churchyard and Parish Maintenance	£1,418.90

Cheques

Parish Clerk Reimbursements	£15.95
JH Service & Gardening – Grass Cutting	£1,056.00
Information Commissioners Office – Data Protection Fee	£40.00
TreeAbility – Work at allotments	£2,592.00
EDF – Electricity at Oldbury Annexe	£30.56
EDF – Electricity at Scout Pavilion	£218.22
Kent County Playing Fields Association	£20.00
PKF – Audit Fee	£480.00
KALC – Training	£120.00
Warners – Legal Fees Lease	£984.00
ICO – Data Protection Fee	£40.00
Playsafety – Reospa Inspection	£103.20
Rodney Willingham – Work in connection with the lights at the Tennis Club	£562.52
Castle Water – Water rates for Scout pavilion	£35.41

8.1 Conclusion of Audit – The audit by PKF Littlejohn has concluded and the accounts signed off.

9. CORRESPONDENCE – (**circulated in advance of the meeting*)

KALC News September 2021*

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KALC CEO Bulletin September 2021* Boundary Review *
Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership newsletter Summer 2021
Inside Track – KCC information on national, regional and local sources of funding
Summer edition of the Kent PCC's Newsletter
Rural affairs under the spotlight Introduction
Email from Claire Venner - new Schemes Planning & Delivery Project Manager for Tonbridge and Malling to arrange meeting to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan.
KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres Booking System – Consultation – Deadline 30th September *
KALC - Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway Project. Consultation – ends 1st December 2021
Citizens Advice in North & West Kent Big Energy Saving Network Project - Offer energy advice sessions to local community groups
KCC Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy launch - September 15th *
Kent County Council regarding the SBS Men's Shed Conference on 8 October.
Kent Plan Bee August 2021 Newsletter.
Tonbridge & Malling Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting 22 September*

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

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