



7/21

MINUTES

MEETING OF IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON Tuesday 20TH July 2021 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chair), Cllr Holden (Vice Chair), Cllr Burcham, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner and The Reverend Canon Tim Hatwell.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Clark, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – Cllr Mitchem declared an interest in Bewley House.
3. **MINUTES-** The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15th June 2021 were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **UPDATE FROM ST PETERS** – Reverend Canon Tim Hatwell outlined proposals to unite the benefice of Ightham and the benefice of Wrotham:

The proposal has come about because both present incumbents will be retiring in the next couple of years and they would like to lay the foundations now as they have a good working relationship.

The new benefice will be called The Benefice of Ightham and Wrotham.

The Parishes will remain distinct, both churches will remain, finances will be separate and there will be 2 Church Councils.

The Rectory in Wrotham will become the parsonage house of the new benefice and the Rectory in Ightham will revert to the Diocesan Board to sell or use for other purposes.

Joining of benefices will have the benefit of common purpose and working together.

Nothing will change whilst present incumbents are in post.

A paper was circulated to members outlining the proposals.

Cllr Rayner asked how this proposal was reconciled with the increase in housing in “Borough Green Gardens” within the next 15 years and whether the Church had given any thought to how it would handle the increase in numbers? Rev Canon Hatwell said that it was important to maintain the rural nature of the Parishes for now and that plans would be made as and when this happened, similar to Kings Hill.

Cllr Willingham thanked Rev Canon Hatwell for his presentation.

5. **PUBLIC** - None present
6. **UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR** –

Cllr Rayner reported that a music Festival for c.10,000 was being planned at the top of Wrotham Hill on 14th August from 10am to 11.30pm. Cllr Rayner outlined concerns about the transport arrangements and has raised these with TMBC. There are a couple of other large events in the locality on the same day. It has yet to come before the Licensing Committee.

Cllr Willingham asked about the plans for a lorry park at Nepicar? Cllr Rayner reported that there were such proposals to have a lorry park and associated services for drivers to be located in a field to the

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East of Nepicar. The surrounding roads would need to be reconfigured with a new roundabout near Oakdene Café. The park would pick up lorries from M20 (via A20) and M26. Cllr Rayner is due to have a meeting with David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. MOTO are putting out a consultation document. The land is within metropolitan greenbelt and within the setting of AONB so would have significant impact on the area. Cllr Emmett asked whether this is in the same location as the relief road proposed in the Borough Green Garden scheme? Cllr Rayner said that it was on the other side of the M26.

Cllr Emmett asked why the resurfacing of Common Road hadn't taken place last week as scheduled. Cllr Rayner said that he would take it up with Highways.

Cllr Holden asked about the road closure on A227 as there hasn't appeared to be anyone on site and the signage for the road closure was poor. Cllr Rayner said that the closure had been arranged by SE Water without proper consultation with Kent Highways and that the road had been closed due to it dropping where the recent sink hole was and SE Water as using an underground radar to see whether it is due to underground settlement or a more significant problem.

Cllr Burgham said that there seemed to be an uncoordinated approach to road closures. Cllr Rayner said that we should be questioning why we were seeing more rural road closures? Unfortunately, utilities often don't apply for the road closures until the last minute which is why we don't receive the notices and they prefer to close the roads rather than operate lights due to pressure from underwriters. He suggested that a Lane Charge which is levied in other Boroughs would prevent this from happening so frequently.

Cllr Fielder asked about the flood prevention plans for Oldbury Close and some of the properties had flooded this afternoon during the torrential rain. Cllr Rayner said that there were plans to put in a ridge and this would be tacked onto the Ightham Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Rayner reported that he has received the communication from Ian Grigor via the Clerk to say that he wouldn't take instructions from our Traffic Consultant. Cllr Rayner will be taking this up with David Brazier. The Clerk will not respond pending this discussion.

Cllr Rayner reported that the Local Plan had been decommissioned however the Borough Green Gardens Development would be carried forward by a separate committee into the new S18 call for sites. Some funding has put forward for this, £175k. Cllr Rayner suggested that the Clerk asked for the Minutes from the recent PTAB meeting which would have all the details.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting at 8.54pm

7. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - A227 closure and resurfacing of Common Road – It was agreed that the Clerk would email Cllr Rayner. Cllr Emmett has already taken this up with Cllr Rayner and Kent Highways. Askew Bridge – Road closure likely until beginning of September although our MP was confident that it may be earlier.

Food vans in layby – No further complaints received although Tanglewood reported people parking across their driveway. It was suggested that we put some wooden bollard up on the corner of the verge to stop people parking here as parents often use the verge for overflow parking – agreed.

Litter – the Clerk has already reported excess litter to TMBC several times. Cllr Mitchem suggested some signage and The Clerk said that there was already some litter signage but we have some additional signage that we can put up.

Footpath MR614 – Nothing to report.

A25 Surface dressing 25th July.

Footpath Maps – The Clerk reported that she had contacted Kent Explore and they no longer had the file for the map which is why the cost was so high for producing a replacement. Cllr Mitchem said that

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she had a map produced by ex Cllr Brierley and would look into getting it blown up and we could use this instead.

Mirror junction Stone Street - Not yet actioned.

Potholes on Oldbury Lane and Spring Lane and Ismays Road – Clerk to report.

Village Traffic Matters – Update –Les Henry Traffic Consultant – See above

Scout Pavilion –Replacement bench - The Clerk proposed buying a replacement wood effect bench for outside the scout hut approx. £350 – agreed.

School/ Old Scout Hut – Update – Cllr Willingham reported that himself, Cllrs Clark, Emmett and The Parish Clerk attended the formal opening of Oldbury Annexe by Tom Tugendhat last Friday. Photo' s have been sent to The Chronicle.

Skips - Work to exterior cladding - Cllr Willingham has now provided a quote to Mrs Chesson for the cladding.

Ightham Football Club – Pitch Levelling – Cllr Holden reported that he was waiting for another quote. Container – It was agreed that we should purchase a small green metal container which would house the football equipment and could be located just inside the main entrance gate, Cllr Willingham will get a price but estimated that it would cost around £800. The Football Club are having a Centenary event on 7th August at Ightham Rec.

Tennis Club - Update – Lights- Agreed subject to a price for labour to dig the trench.

Busty Stream - Ongoing maintenance - The Clerk reported that one of the residents had requested a site meeting in September to discuss the vegetation. The Clerk reported that she had received an email from KCC about maintenance of the boundary opposite the Busty Stream, the Clerk will circulate and this can be discussed in September. The Clerk confirmed that James Hayward had recently cut back the vegetation by the BT bridge.

Recreation Ground – New fence – it was agreed that the PC would pay for the new fence along the path up to Skips, Cllr Willingham will speak to Tyrells. The Rospa Inspection is due in July.

Village Hall - Update - CCTV – Defer until September.

Trees/ Hedges - Leathercote Corner - Cllr Burgham confirmed that the grass verge was not the responsibility of the home owners as he had checked the deeds. Cllr Willingham said that the hedges were overgrown on that section and needed to be tidied up but the on the section further down they were encroaching the highway and therefore needed to be cut back. We have received a quote from Treeability for the section outside Cllr Burghams house but it was agreed that we would contact Kent Highways in the first instance to see whether they would do the cutting back and how far they would cut. A decision on the green will be deferred.

Cllr Burgham - Cllr Burgham outlined an initiative to invest PC funding in local Clubs in return for a commitment to support young people in the village. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and we could start sending letters out in the Autumn. Cllr Mitchem reported that the Cricket Club had already started to talk about setting up a junior cricket team.

Memorial Stone – The Clerk reported that she had just heard that the installation of the stone and ceremony would be deferred until Easter.

War Memorial – Cllr Willingham will speak to Anthony Edwards about planting some lower plants similar to the ones at Borough Green memorial.

8. PLANNING

7.1 Planning Applications

TM/21/01606/RD - Stone Acre, Copt Hall Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DT. Details of condition 2 (Materials), 3 (Levels), 4 (Watching Brief) and 6 (Drainage) pursuant to planning permission TM/ 20/01031/FL for Demolition of dwelling and garage. Erection of dwelling.

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TM/21/01784/FL - Bewley House, Tonbridge Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9AP. Raise the summer house roof by 1.0m to form first floor accommodation of two bedrooms and a bathroom with two dormer windows and conservation roof lights, including altering the roof from hipped to gable ends. "No objection"

7.2 Planning Applications - APPROVED

21/01275/TNCA - Cophall Cottage, Ismays Road. Silver Birch - Remove as too close to neighbouring wall.

21/01452/TNCA – Charters, Tonbridge Road. T1 Holly Stool - fell.

21/01295/TPOC - Ightham Cricket Ground. Sycamore T1: make new pollard at 6 metres from ground level, this tree is in decline with cavities present throughout. T2: English Oak, crown lift by up to 2.5m with emphasis on playing field side and low branch near to clubhouse which is interfering with Club House roof. Branches are starting to interfere with the playing field. Remove major deadwood on pitch side.

21/01587/TPOC - 62 Nutfields. T1- Cherry tree to be removed, T2- All area on 2 boundaries remove almost all trees leaving only 5/6 of the nicest shrubs.

21/01191/TNCA - The Old Forge, Sevenoaks Road. Elderberry tree T1 - Fell and grind out stump on left hand boundary with Farriers Field to enable a concrete spur to be attached to existing boundary fence.

7.3 Planning Appeal – TM/20/02238/FL - Ragstones

7.4 LOCAL PLAN –Update

8. FINANCE & POLICY

The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposed by Cllr Emmett and seconded by Cllr Mitchem

Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank

Parish Clerk Salary – (Standing Order)	£684.40
Gel Creative - February (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	£1,180.06
Ightham Scouts – Reimbursement installation of defibrillator	£330.00
Edward Tyrell (Fencing) Ltd	£516.00
Paulette Furse – Internal Audit Fee	£400.00
First Aid Easy – Defibrillator Scouts **	£1,936.80

**it was agreed that the PC would contribute 50% cost on condition that the scouts made this available for community use. Remaining funding from balance of the Scout Pavilion Parish contribution.

Cheques

Parish Clerk Reimbursements	£85.51
JH Service & Gardening – Grass Cutting	£1,092.00
E-on – Unmetered electricity supply Recreation Ground	£55.81
EDF – Electricity at Oldbury Annexe	£72.71
Unity Trust Bank – Transfer	£10,000.00

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8.1 Annual Internal Auditor Report 2020/21 - Completed.

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

KALC News July 2020

KALC CEO Bulletin July 2020

Parish Partnership Panel – 2 September 2021

KALC –22 July 2021

Kent Police – Rural Police Report

TMBC – Parking Action Plan

KALC – Queens Jubilee Beacons – This can be discussed in connection with the Coxcombe Fair.

AOB

Cllr Holden reported that some new drivers had been recruited by Urbaser to address the ongoing problem with bins and recycling collections.

Cllr Mitchem asked Friends of St Peters could go on the Agenda going forward and reported that The Ightham Olympics would be in the Rec on 11th September.

Cllr Emmett reported the Xmas Tree Charity event from 6-11 December culminating with a concert in the Church with the Orpheus Trust Choir. All information is in the Parish magazine.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

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