



7/22

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chair), Cllr Holden (Vice Chair), Cllr Clark, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner and 6 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Burgham, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth, Borough Cllr Betts
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** – Cllr Willingham duly signed the acceptance of office as elected Chair.
4. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 21 June 2022 were approved with a couple of minor amendments.
5. **PUBLIC**

A member of public enquired about renting The Paddock, having recently moved into the area. The Clerk said that the land will be advertised and that he could make an application once the notice is posted. He mentioned the gate posts at the entrance of the Paddock are rotten although there is a locked barrier. He offered to mow the grass until a decision is made about the tenancy, this offer was agreed and gratefully received. The Clerk will pass the keys to the barrier for access and we will look into what repairs are needed to the gate posts.

5 members of public were in attendance to ask about the bus situation following the announcement of the withdrawal of the TW10, TW11 and TW13 in July and possible withdrawal of the 222 in October. Cllr Rayner agreed to give an update and field questions.

Cllr Rayner attended a meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee at KCC on 6th July. Cllr Rayner is not a member of the Committee and didn't vote for the proposal to make a £2.2 million cut to *subsidised* services. Due to intervention by Cllr Rayner, the 222 (and the S4) have been saved from being cut by pre-arrangement with the Cabinet Member for Highways. The 222 needs to remain profitable so there is uncertainty whether it will continue beyond October 2022.

At the same time, other commercial services have given notice to withdraw their services due to the cessation of a Government subsidy, a 25-33% decline in bus use since covid and an increase in wages and fuel costs.

TW10, TW11, TW13, are commercial services run by Go Coach; they are not subsidised and Go Coach have given notice that they will be withdrawn from July 2022 as they can no longer afford to run them. Cllr Rayner hoped that there would be discussions with Go Coach and KCC in August. There are discussions between KCC and Autocar on Thursday to continue the 222 service beyond October.

Cllr Rayner said that it was the responsibility of the Education Authority to provide transport to school. KCC have been successful in getting £35 million funding from central Government for buses but this must be used mainly for capital improvements. It has enabled KCC to start negotiations with bus companies to maintain services.

Correspondence from Officers at KCC has stated that there is no obligation to provide transport to children who are not attending their nearest appropriate school. A question was raised about whether there has to be a provision for children not attending their "nearest appropriate school", especially if

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the nearest school is full? Cllr Rayner said that Officers would have to put something in place to ensure that KCC meets their statutory obligation to get children to school and funding would come from the education budget.

A question was raised about buying a bus pass if there were no buses? Cllr Rayner recommended buying the pass as it will demonstrate that there is a need for a service, however, a refund would be available if there isn't a bus service.

Cllr Rayner recommended putting maximum pressure on KCC to make provision for those children living more than 3 miles from school.

A question was raised about how Parishes could get involved? Cllr Rayner said that there was a precedent for Parishes talking to bus companies to provide a service if they were so inclined.

Cllr Holden asked whether there was a statutory obligation under the Education Act to provide transport to the nearest appropriate school and whether the wording was open to interpretation? Cllr Rayner said that he had raised this question with a fellow Councillor this morning and concluded that the Education Act is not open to interpretation. Children from Ightham that have previously travelled to other areas in Kent for school and parents make their choices based on there being a school bus. Parents buy a bus pass in good faith so there should be a bus provision. The lack of buses in September will cause chaos and the Parish and Parents were urged to write to Kent MP's to ask for help.

Cllr Holden said that the extra car journeys that will result from lack of buses will add thousands of extra miles which is an environmental issue.

Cllr Rayner said that the situation has arisen because the finances at KCC have been getting progressively worse, and there is no money for subsidies, however the saving of £2.2 million is a relatively small amount which has caused a huge problem and we need to put pressure on KCC to rethink the funding.

Cllr Rayner reported that parents have already sent letters to Tom Tugendhat and there is an active large group of Parishioners that are campaigning to reinstate the services and a petition is up and running.

Cllr Holden asked what we could do as a Parish? We responded to the Consultation in April.

Cllr Rayner recommended contacting Go Coach about the TW10, TW11, TW13 and asking how much it would cost to ensure the services could continue with a view to working with other Parishes to meet those costs. This would put KCC under pressure. He also suggested contacting David Brazier to ask what steps are being taken to provide transport under the statutory obligation.

Cllr Fielder asked where the money for the bus passes went? Cllr Rayner said that it went into a central pot.

Members of the public left at 8.24pm

6. UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR, COUNTY COUNCILLOR- Cllr Rayner said that the Local Plan would not pass through all the stages before the next election. There is a change in Conservative Policy to support the change in status of Greenbelt in order to support Borough Green Gardens.

7. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - Update on HIP – The Clerk reported that recent changes had not been accepted as the HIP needs to be transferred to a new template, we have also been asked to

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prioritise our requests, the Clerk will circulate and make some suggestions before completing the new template. Double Yellow Lines Update - The Parish Council withdrew the request for DYL on Oldbury Lane following a number of objections. The Parish would still like to pursue the DYL on Old Lane which is part of the same Traffic Regulation Order. **Declassification of Old Lane** – the Clerk has not received a response from PROW. **Flooding Oldbury Close** – Cllr Fielder reported that he was meeting with KCC Engineers on 2nd August to look at options around drainage. The Clerk asked whether they could also discuss the other traffic issues at the top of Oldbury Lane on the junction with Spring Lane.

Cutting Leathercote Corner – The Clerk has drafted a letter and asked Cllr Burgham for comments before sending to residents

Gas Works - Borough Green Road – The Clerk reported that the work seemed to be going well.

Temporary Road Closure - Back Lane, Ightham - 2nd August 2022 – Water Connection

Temporary Road Closure - Spring Lane, Ightham- 2nd August 2022 – Drainage works

Items to report: Erosion around manhole cover on Old Lane, 3 deep potholes on Common Road, the Clerk has reported these twice already and they are getting worse. Overgrown vegetation on Mill Lane and at the footpath at the top of Coach Road near Oakenhurst.

Cllr Clark asked about the bench on A25 and it was confirmed that we had agreed for it to be removed.

Overly bright lights were reported at a property on Common Road and Cllr Willingham will speak to the owners. It was agreed that we should have a consistent approach to external lights and light pollution.

Scout Pavilion/ Football Club - Request for steps to the changing rooms from the football pitch –Cllr Holden reported that after a site visit, he had concluded that steps would be a good idea as the grass has worn away on the bank. Cllr Holden asked about extending the fence and it was agreed that additional fencing or planting would be a good idea. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the steps upto £1,500. The steps will be slabs to match the existing slabs around the building. Mr Reid of the Scouts will organise contractors and invoice the Parish direct.

Tennis Club – Update – Cllr Mitchem reported that water pressure is still poor at the Tennis Club. Cllr Willingham suggested that a new main from the A25 would be the only solution as we have looked at the possible causes and no obvious reasons have been found. If the Tennis Club can get 2 quotes, the Parish can discuss them at the next meeting. The Tennis Club reported that roots had buckled the path on the way to the Tennis Courts. Cllr Willingham said that he would speak to the Electrician about a timer for the lights.

Request for funding - Ightham Scouts has been selected by Kent Scouts to attend the World Scout Jamboree in 2023 in South Korea and approx. £4k funding is required. It was agreed that we would contribute £500, this was agreed.

Busty Stream - Update - The Clerk reported that there were 2 wheelbarrows in the Busty near to the Garden Centre. Cllr Clark agreed to speak to the owners to find out if they were theirs and ask them to remove them. Cllr Clark reported that the vegetation in the Busty by Durlings field was overgrown; the Clerk will ask for it to be cut back.

Recreation Ground & Car Park – The date for remedial works to the car park is 25th July and will last 10 days, the Clerk has informed the school and other users. The Rospa Inspection is due in July but we haven't yet received the report. **Container repair** – someone has tried to break into the container and buckled the panel and lock, Cllr Willingham will organise the repair.

Village Hall - Update - CCTV Solar Panels – Cllr Willingham reported that the panels would be fitted under the second tranche of TMBC sponsored works in October. Cllr Mitchem asked whether a baby changing unit could go into the disabled toilets and agreed to get some prices, this was agreed. The Clerk reported that the 2 black bins in the recycling centre have now been removed by TMBC following a request by Cllr Betts. We will monitor the situation regarding fly-tipping.

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Plough – Parking Signage – Cllr Willingham will speak to the owners about a car park sign to deter people from parking in the road.

Coxcombe Fair - Distribution of Surplus from the Coxcombe Fair 2022 – Cllr Holden thanked Cllr Mitcham for her efforts in organising the communication regarding the distribution of funding. Cllr Mitchem said that some money had been earmarked for a Jubilee bench in the village and asked for suggestions. Cllr Fielder suggested an additional bench near to the Tennis Courts. The Coxcombe committee will pay for the bench.

Allotment – Tree works Completed – Cllr Emmett reported that there was some mulch left at the allotment to the rear 10, TreeAbility have agreed to remove it although removal wasn't included in the quote. It was agreed that the Parish would lease the parcel of land behind Squirrels Herne to the new owners, the Clerk will prepare a tenancy agreement. The Paddock will be advertised on the website and noticeboard opposite the Harrow. The Clerk will put together an application form with Cllrs Willingham and Holden. We have had enquiries from residents already and The Clerk will send an application form to them direct. It was agreed that the land, despite its name, is not suitable for livestock now that the stable block has been removed and given the proximity to residential properties. The deadline for applications will be the end of August and a decision will be made at the September meeting.

Village Matters –Tree Planting locations - Cllr Betts will check the tree pack but estimated that there are around 25 saplings. Cllr Hogarth has ordered the Jubilee tree plaque.

Ukrainian Refugee Programme – Information sharing between Parishes – Cllr Holden suggested that we should add any information to our website. He also asked that all out of date information on the website is removed.

Memorial Stone Ceremony – Feedback and ongoing maintenance – Cllr Willingham said how well attended the ceremony was. Cllr Emmett has emailed the Heritage Centre to thank them for the fly past. The memorial stone has now been transferred to us and we will take responsibility for maintenance. The Clerk said that Anthony Edwards would be maintaining the ground around it. Cllr Willingham suggested a donation to Shoreham Air Museum and £500 was agreed.

Churchyard – Cllr Mitchem reported that she had attended the church tidy up and said that she would check what the maintenance to the Churchyard involves.

Ightham Primary School - All weather play area – We have received a request for a contribution towards drainage work at the bottom of the pathway to the school as it often floods. Cllr Willingham reported that he had met with the school Governor to look at drainage solutions and suggested that 2 Acco drains were installed on the path with a soakaway in the recreation ground, This would take the water away from the area. It was agreed that we would support the school and the Clerk said that we are limited on what we can donate under the LGA 1972. A contribution would have to be a “donation” under S137 LGA and we have already used some of this funding this financial year, it is set at £11k. It was agreed that we would contribute up to a maximum of £4,000 on a matched funding 50:50 basis with the school PSA.

8. PLANNING

Cllr Willingham reported that he had been approached about getting our views on an application in the village. It was decided that in the interests of transparency, we would not be able to give any opinions until we received a formal planning application.

8.1 Planning Applications

22/01376/OA - Land East of Heronshaw, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent,
Outline Application with some matters reserved: Demolition of existing structures and erection of a single dwelling with associated hardstanding, parking and landscaping via existing access from Oldbury Lane. “Objection on the basis of AONB, Greenbelt and being on the boundary of the conservation area.”

22/01480/TNCA - 4 Oldbury Cottages, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DE.

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Silver Birch : 30% reduction and thin canopy. "No objection"

22/01318/FL - Demolition of existing garage and erection of a detached oak framed garage - Theodore House, High Cross Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NN. "No objection."

22/01313/FL - Erection of a stable block and sand school - Land East of Fairways, Back Lane, Ightham Sevenoaks, Kent. "No objection"

22/01316/FL - Part single storey, part two storey rear extension, creation of modest glazed link to original annexe outbuilding (within 5 metres) including demolition of existing garage outbuilding (also within 5 metres) and creation of new first floor gable window to serve existing bedroom (amendment to extant permission to extend granted on 1st March 2021 under reference TM/20/02752) - Redwell House, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9EE. "No objection."

8.2 Planning Applications – APPROVED

22/00642/FL - Installation of external wall insulation and render finish to existing external walls and replacement of UPVC windows – Beechwood, Tonbridge Road, Ightham.

22/01143/LDP - Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: Introduction of outdoor swimming pool and poolhouse including games room and home gym within rear garden, along with associated hard surface around pool - Redwell House, Redwell Lane, Ightham.

22/00593/FL - Conversion of the hip to gable to create additional room and enlargement of kitchen area internally - 15 Fen Meadow, Ightham.

22/00344/FL - First floor extension over existing, new ground floor garden room and new detached car barn - Robins Rest, Back Lane, Ightham.

22/01050/TNCA – Various tree work- 9 Oldbury Close, Ightham.

22/01099/TNCA - Various tree work - Ightham County Primary School.

8.3 LOCAL PLAN –see above

9. FINANCE & POLICY

9.1 The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposed by Cllr Mitchem and seconded by Cllr Clark.

Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank

Clerks Salary	£701.00
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
JH Estate & Garden Services Ltd	£1548.00
GT Engravers	£239.40
Anthony Edwards – Work to churchyard and Parish	£1,098.52

Cheques

Clerks Expenses (inc Seal Medical Supplies - Defib Pads)	£105.75
HMRC Clerks Tax	£2.20
Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund	£100.00
Shoreham Air Museum - Donation	£500.00
Ightham Village Hall - Rental	£240.00
Nopower - Unmetered Power Supply	£76.05

The Clerk was asked to check when our next contribution for the church magazine bumper edition was due.

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Business Reserve Account: £120,806.23 Current Accounts: £tbc Unity Trust Bank Account: £71,000

9.2 Internal Audit -Update - The Clerk reported that the External Auditor has confirmed receipt of our paperwork.

9.3 VAT return – The Clerk reported that she had submitted our VAT return today for approx. £8,000

10. CORRESPONDENCE – (* circulated)

KALC News June 2022

TMBC – The Borough Council has adopted (on 27 April 2022) a revised version of the Kent Model Code.

Parish Partnership Panel - Thursday 1 September 2022 at 7.30pm **Online meeting.

Parish Infrastructure Statement - List of projects for S106 agreements - Deadline 3 August – The Clerk has submitted our request for S106 funding towards a roundabout at the Oldbury/Sevenoaks Rd/A25 junction.

KALC Meeting 21st July – The Clerk will be attending as Secretary.

Utility Aid – Audit of utility bills – We have received an offer to review our utility bill of the Scout Pavilion to see whether we have the best deal. It was suggested that we check out the company first and check with KALC whether any other Parishes have used them. The service is free.

Borough Green Community Surgery – Outside Nisa, 19th July 10am-12pm

Free CPR, Defibrillator and Basic First Aid Training Session at Reuthe's -Saturday 30 July 2022

Kent Resilience Forum - Operation Brock will continue during Summer 2022

Kent Police Recruitment Drive

Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership Newsletter Summer 2022

KCC Bus Funding Reduction Consultation – Update- Following the discussion above it was confirmed that the Clerk would do the following:

- Contact Go Coach to get details of what it would cost to subsidise the bus services
- Circulate the letter from Cllr Taylor , Borough Green PC to Baroness Vere
- Contact neighbouring Parishes to co-ordinate our approach
- Draft a letter to send to KCC and Tom Tugendhat

The meeting closed at 10.45

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