



1/23

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Willingham (Chair), Cllr Clark, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk and County Cllr Rayner

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Burgham & Cllr Holden

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – None

**3. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR** – Cllr Rayner reported that he had recently attended meetings at Trottscliffe Addington and Vigo Parishes to discuss buses. The impact of the bus reductions has started to take effect now and further cuts will take place in February and those Parishes will lose the 58 and 70 that serve and connect with services to Maidstone Hospital. Cllr Taylor from Borough Green has been speaking to bus operators and co-ordinating local Parishes to apply for the Community Bus Grant to provide *some* services utilising the school buses during daytime. Replacements for the 58 and 70 are due to be trialled shortly.

At a meeting of the Children’s Young People and Education Cabinet Committee meeting this morning, it was agreed that there would be a consultation to not extend the 16+ subsidised bus pass beyond September. This is likely to have an adverse impact on rural bus services used by sixth formers and college attendees.

There will be a consultation on the re-use of buildings in Kent. There will be no impact for Ightham however, KCC currently have desks at Tonbridge Castle and these will move to Tonbridge Library. From June, consideration will be given to the ongoing patronage of libraries and under used facilities may be in jeopardy.

Nothing substantive to report on the Local Plan.

Cllr Mitchem asked whether Cllr Rayner knew what the ongoing arrangements were for clearing litter from verges as she had been informed by TMBC that it was low priority. Cllr Rayner suggested that Cllr Mitchem send an email to Cllr Betts and Cllr Montague copying in Cllr Rayner to ask for an update.

Cllr Emmett asked whether we could use Community Payback for clearing Litter and Cllr Rayner said that he would support this although it was noted that the service should already be provided by the Borough Council.

Cllr Hall asked Cllr Rayner what KCC were doing to save money? Cllr Rayner said that he had asked that same question at meeting today in the budget discussion. There are deficits in a number of the budget heads, in particular a huge deficit on the SEND budget which will need to come off next year’s budget. Council tax is due to rise by 4.99% and the provision for adult social care by 2%.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting at 20.05.

**3. MINUTES** - Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 2022 – The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by Cllr Willingham

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

**Highways & PROW Matters** - HIP update – The Clerk reported that the gateways and signs had been ordered at a cost of £2k (*Clerk to check whether this is a total cost or cost per sign*). Kent Highways are also providing a costing for an additional sign at Ismays Road. Cllr Hall reported that the salt bins had been refilled except the one at The Old House. The Clerk reported that there has been a request for an additional salt bin on Upper Spring Lane and that the salt for the roads around the war memorial were stored in the wall by the bus stop; this has become overgrown and needs refilling. The Clerk reported that she had requested litter picking on A25 verges and Fen Pond Road. Cllr Mitchem had also reported and informed that it would take up to *8 weeks* as it is low priority.

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



Also reported:

Hedges at Collingwood/A25 side overgrown

Bates Hill street sign still not reinstated

Fallen sign on Bates Hill near the Rectory (reported)

Multiple potholes on Sevenoaks Road. Pothole outside the Crown Point in the direction of Sevenoaks,

Pothole near the George & Dragon. Pothole near Seven Wents.

Compacted leaves on footpath near to the bridge, Cllr Willingham will ask James Hayward to clear.

Cllr Mitchem reported that the Enforcement Officer will attend to enforce no parking on double yellow lines in The Street

**Tennis Club** - Update - Lights - Cllr Willingham to check. Water Main works - awaiting start date.

**Allotments** –Clerk has sent the Tenancy Agreement and is awaiting signature.

**Recreation Ground & Car Park** –Rospa Inspection – Clerk is waiting to hear back from Wicksteed about repairs. Container repair – Not yet done. Jubilee bench/ memorial bench – the Jubilee Bench will be installed this week, Cllr Mitchem will arrange for the plaque. The Clerk will get prices for a replacement memorial bench. Cllr Willingham reported that he has the wood to repair the bench in the play area. Cllr Willingham to contact the electrician about the path lights.

**Village Hall** - Update - CCTV Solar Panels - Cllr Willingham reported that he was waiting for a price for solar panels.

**Plough** – Parking Signage - Cllr Willingham reported that parking hadn't been too bad recently on weekends.

**Skips** - Lease Renewal – The Clerk has been in touch with the Lessee about renewal of the lease and asked to check the terms of the lease going forward under the automatic renewal.

**Buses** - Community Transport Grant. Proposal to maintain service to Maidstone hospital – See above.

**Scout Pavilion** – Cllr Willingham has spoken to the Scouts about the high electricity bills and was informed that new thermostats had been installed which would hopefully make the building more energy efficient. It was noted that the lights were on at night. It was suggested that a representative is invited to the next meeting to discuss the payment arrangements of future bills. The Clerk was also asked to enquire whether we were eligible for cash back on the electricity bill under the Government scheme.

## 5. FINANCE & POLICY

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

### Online Transfers - Unity Trust Bank – Cllr Hogarth to authorise

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Clerks Salary November (Standing Order)             | £733.00 |
| Gel Creative - (Standing Order)                     | £50.00  |
| Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 (Direct Debit) | £49.20  |
| JH Estate & Garden Services Ltd - November          | £528.00 |
| JH Estate & Garden Services Ltd - December          | £192.00 |
| Npower – Unmetered supply agreement                 | £56.10  |
| Anthony Edwards – Churchyard                        | £554.40 |
| Anthony Edwards – Parish Maintenance                | £373.30 |
| EDF – Electricity Pavilion (Direct Debit)           | £206.00 |

### Cheques – Signed by Cllrs Mitchem and Willingham

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| HMRC – Clerks Tax | £10.20 |
|-------------------|--------|

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



|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Request for donation from the Counselling Centre    | £100.00 |
| Request for donation West Kent Mediation            | £100.00 |
| Warners – Legal Fees restrictive covenants          | £899.60 |
| Clerks Expenses                                     | £22.10  |
| Communicorp – Clerks & Councils Direct subscription | £14.00  |

**5.2 Budget** - The budget proposal was circulated in advance. Capital and special items include building reserves for the eventual rebuilding of the village hall, football pitch levelling, solar panels and EV chargers at the village hall, tree planting and highways improvements. Routine expenditure comes to around £76k. The budget was agreed. It was agreed that the Parish Clerks hourly rate should rise to £20.53

**5.3 Precept** - Due 20 January 2023 – It was agreed that we would not raise the precept this year, a 0% increase will equate to approx. £129k. There will be no change for band D properties for the Parish element of the Council Tax.

**5.4 New Internal Auditor** – Cllr Willingham reported that he had contacted a lady who can audit our accounts and has passed details to the Clerk.

**5.5 Review of Policy Documents** – the Clerk will review all our policy documents so that they can be Signed off for our 2022-3 audit.

## 6. PLANNING

### 6.1 Planning Applications

**TM/22/02581/TPOC** – Sycamores, Bates Hill, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9BG. T1 (applicants ref.) T1 of Tree Preservation Order -Oak in rear garden - remove ivy and lift canopy to 6m from 4m. T2 (applicants ref.) T3 of Tree Preservation Order -Sycamore in rear garden - remove ivy and lift canopy to 6m from 4m. T3 (applicants ref.) T2 of Tree Preservation Order - Sycamore in rear garden - remove one stem whose canopy is touching the house. "No objection."

**TM/22/02786/FL** - Tilers Rest, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9HA. Removal of conservatory, glazing and roof. Construction of habitable room including installation of crown roof. "No objection."

**TM/22/02787/FL** – Glenna, Old Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9AH, Two storey side and rear extension with roof extension (revision of TM/20/01648/FL). "Support"

**TM/22/02804/FL** - The Groom, Chart Farm, Styants Bottom Road, Seal Chart Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0ES Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with associated parking. *Cllr Willingham to visit*

**TM/23/00031/TNCA** -George & Dragon, The Street, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9HH. T1- Ash tree, to be felled. T2- Ash tree, to be felled. *Cllr Burgham to check*

**TM/23/00033/RD** - Land East of Fairways, Back Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent. Details of Condition 5 (surface water drainage and run off) submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/22/02272/FL (Erection of a stable block and sand school for private use (Revision to TM/22/01313/FL). No comment.

**APPLICATION NO: TM/82/1138/R(ii)AB& (KCC/TM/0162/2022)** Stangate West Landfill Site, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8RA. Proposed reprofiling of Stangate West Landfill Site and updated aftercare scheme pursuant to Condition (ii) of Annex B to planning permission TM/82/1138 and Conditions 2, 3 & 18 of planning permission TM/94/579. 'No objection to the above application, however, neighbouring properties have raised some concerns about the interruptions to the gas management system necessary for the reprofiling (with the likely migration of landfill gas to neighbouring farms and properties) and would seek assurances that they will not be adversely affected'

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



## 7.2 Planning Applications – APPROVED

**22/00578/FL** - Land Rear Of 3 New Cottages, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Ightham, Kent. Demolish 3 buildings and erect replacement barn.

**22/02604/TNCA** - 5 Oldbury Cottages, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9DE. Beech tree back boundary right hand side: 30% reduction to maintain tree in accordance with surroundings.

## 6.3 Planning Applications REFUSED

**22/02333/FL** – Ashwell, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0PG. Single storey rear extension, first floor side extension inclusive of external alterations and replacement fenestration. *Clerk to circulate delegated report.*

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE – (\* circulated in advance)

KALC News November\*

Bus Fare Cap Grant - £2 Fare Cap Scheme - all local bus services across Kent and East Sussex will offer a maximum fare of just £2 for any single journey between 1 January and 31 March 2023

The Kent Classic Road Cyclo Sportive - Sunday, 29th October 2023

**KALC - Civility and Respect Project-** Take the Pledge – *It was agreed that Ightham Parish Council would take the Pledge, Clerk to sign up.*

**KALC Community Awards Scheme 2023** – Nominations – A suggestion was made and agreed by Councillors – Clerk to complete the paperwork

Elections Bulletin Issue 1\*

KALC Winter Training Program

Parish Partnership Panel - Thursday 9 February 2023 \*\*online meeting

Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership Winter newsletter.

Tonbridge & Malling Corporate Strategy - 2023-2025 – Consultation deadline Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Letter from Tom Tugendhat on Planning Reform (Case Ref: TT32517)

My Community Voice Kent – January edition

## 8. AOB

Cllr Mitchem reported that there would be a village litter pick on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 10am and will be advertised in the Parish magazine.

Cllr Mitchem asked whether the Clerk would confirm when there were no planning applications on List B – agreed.

The Clerk reported that the School had sent a thank you note for the Parish contribution towards the drainage works.

Cllr Hall asked the Clerk to circulate the schedule of meetings for 2023.

## The meeting went into Part 2

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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