



4/23

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chair), Cllr Holden (Vice Chair), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Clark, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner and Borough Cllr Betts

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Cllr Hall

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Cllr Willingham declared an interest in planning application TM/23/00555/LDE.

3. PUBLIC - No members of the public were present

4. MINUTES - Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 21 March 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Rayner reported that decisions on any substantive matters were deferred until after the elections. Cllr Rayner referred to the numerous potholes on the roads and recommended that most efficient way to get them fixed was to report them on the KCC portal. The Clerk raised the question of resurfacing of A25 bypass and adjoining roads as it wasn't clear whether the section of Sevenoaks Road between A25 and A227 was included. Cllr Rayner recommended that the Clerk should write to him to ask whether it would be possible to arrange a site inspection.

Cllr Burgham asked why the resurfacing wasn't done last year during the road closure. Cllr Rayner said that the money wasn't available in last year's budget and that it wasn't always possible to co-ordinate with the Utilities companies. The road closures will start on 5th June and will be between 9pm and 5am for up to 9 nights. Access will be maintained for residents.

Cllr Betts gave some information about litter budgets: for 2023/4 there is a budget of £900k for TMBC and this covers litter picking, dog waste bin emptying, fly tipping, education, and scheduled road sweeping. Frequency of the collections depends on footfall and varies from a 4 weekly schedule in busier areas to 12 weekly in the rural lanes. Waste services should be emailed if there are any areas of concern. There is also a member of staff who is available to come out and present to schools on litter and recycling upon request. In Ightham, litter was collected on A25 on November 26/7, December 3/4, January 28/29 and 24th March 2023. There was a collection on Fen Pond Road on 13th March 2023. TMBC also run seasonal events such as the Spring Clean and if Parishes want to arrange litter picks, TMBC will provide equipment. It was noted that IPC have taken advantage of this. Cllr Betts reported that the Shop Front Scheme and the Green Business Grants opened this week.

The Green Business Grant offers up to £8k or 50% cost to improve energy efficiency.

Cllr Betts reported that the Tree Officer at TMBC had chased up the Forestry Commission about replanting at Chapel Farm and they reported that they are currently gathering evidence.

Cllr Mitchem contacted Cllr Betts to commend the service at the recycling centre at Allington. Cllr Betts said that it was a state-of-the-art facility which is carbon neutral and easy to use.

Cllr Willingham asked whether there was an update on the Local Plan? Cllr Betts said that TMBC are still gathering evidence and had decided at a recent meeting to proceed with the existing timetable but will adjust housing numbers when the new legislation (Levelling Up Bill) comes in.

Cllr Mitchem asked about Traveller allocation and Cllr Betts said that he had emailed David Davis for an update but was aware that consultation has taken place to assess the needs of travellers but that the provision has not yet been met.

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



Cllr Fielder asked about the tree whips from the Jubilee. Cllr Betts said that the whips were available for the new planting season in October 2023. It is a mixed woodland pack with 50 trees, and we will need to identify land for planting and send through the co-ordinates.

Cllr Holden asked about the uptake for Solar Together. Cllr Betts reported that it had been better than anticipated in the previous round. It was noted that planning permission is dealt with separately by notifying the Planning Authority. Cllr Rayner reported that if you have panels and a battery is purchased to store electricity, it can drastically reduce electricity bills. Additionally, some providers provide a reduced tariff if you don't use electricity at premium times which is possible if you are using stored electricity from a battery.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters - HIP update- Gateways - We have received designs and location plans for the 3 gateways and a costing of £5,833 which was approved. The Clerk raised a concern about the location of the new gateway at Ismays Road obscuring sight lines onto A227 as it had been moved to the verge opposite the triangle. The Clerk will raise this with KCC. We have been asked which other matters on our HIP we would like to prioritise. 1. 20mph on Spring Lane - A recent speed survey showed that the speeds were compliant with existing speed limits on Oldbury Lane and Spring Lane. It was decided that we would like to pursue the 20mph limit due to it being on a school and nursery pedestrian route. 2. Blanket village 30mph limit - Cllr Holden noted that there were several villages in Kent that had 30mph limits throughout their villages. He asked Councillors to note where these were so that we could use the information to help us.

Broken bridge – Churchyard footpath, this was raised with the Church Warden who said they could fix it. **Temporary Road Closures** - Rectory Lane, Ightham - 6th June 2023. A25 Ightham Bypass, Borough Green Road and Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green - 5th June 2023 overnight from 9pm to 5am for up to 9 days. Cllr Fielder asked about the sign on Bates Hill and the Clerk reported that she had received an email to say that it had been ordered. Broken sign at the end of Ismays Road – reported.

Allotments – Broken fence – Cllr Emmett reported that he had bought some fence posts to repair a section of fence which had partially collapsed in the allotment garden. We have received a request to put a shed on Parish land and this was rejected as structures aren't permitted under the tenancy agreements. The Parish Council doesn't want to set a precedent and there could be potential insurance implications.

Recreation Ground & Car Park – Wicksteed repairs - the Clerk reported that the parts have been ordered and repairs due to be carried out mid-May. Clerk to chase up wet pour quote. **Container repair** in hand but low priority. **Memorial bench** – Cllr Willingham has ordered that metal fixings and will ask James Hayward to instal the bench. **Coronation Event** - Ightham Recreation Ground 7th May – Cllr Willingham has ordered the portaloos and they will be located in the disabled bays in the car park. It was decided that the ground was too wet for the truck to drive over the field. **Bonfire** – November – defer to next meeting.

Tennis Club - The Clerk reported that several of the path lights have been vandalised. We have CCTV of one of the lights being vandalised and this has been passed to the police. It was agreed that we should have an additional CCTV camera to cover the path up to the Tennis Club. The Clerk has been asked whether the Parish Council would accept a change of wording in the Tennis Club Constitution such that there will be a committee member responsible for liaising with the Parish Council instead a member of the Parish Council being on the committee. This was agreed. A rent review for the Tennis Club was due in 2022 and it was agreed that we should increase the annual rent to £150 as this would cover the increased water charges.

Village Hall - Update - CCTV Solar Panels – Cllr Willingham is following up with Solar Together. Changing station – Cllr Willingham has asked a contractor to install the changing station. Clerk to

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



order new salt bin. (Cllr Holden note that the salt was compacted in the bin on Back Lane, Cllr Willingham will ask Anthony to break it up so that it could be refilled.)

Flooding – Busty & drainage mapping. Cllr Holden reported that there had been no issues during recent rainfall. Cllr Holden met with David Jordon from The Flood Forum to go through the mapping system. All water courses will need to be registered on the database and Cllr Holden recommended that they were marked onto a hard copy of a map first and then transferred to the database.

Elections – 4th May. Nominations have now closed, and all 9 members of the Parish Council have been nominated. As there were no additional applications, there will not be a contested election on 4th May. The new Council will be formed on 10th May. The Clerk reported that DPI's only need to be completed if there were any changes since the forms were last submitted. Expenses forms will need to be completed after the elections even if there are none, this is a legal requirement.

Ightham Mote – Site visit – The Clerk reported that members of the Council have been invited to Ightham Mote for a tour and update on the car park plans. The Clerk will liaise with Ightham Mote to choose a suitable date.

A25/Spring Lane – Bench repair /removal – It was agreed that the broken bench on A25 should be removed and not replaced.

7. FINANCE & POLICY

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

Clerks Salary & Expenses	£875.78
HMRC – Clerks Tax	£23.40
Gel Creative - (Standing Order)	£50.00
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 (Direct Debit)	£49.20
Anthony Edwards – Work at Parish and Churchyard	£1,213.26
EDF – Electricity Pavilion	£206.00
JH Gardening – Grass cutting	£tbc
KALC – Annual subscription	£990.88
nPower – Unmetered supply agreement	£59.02
WelMedical – New defibrillator battery	£279.54
KCC - Gateways	£5,833.94
Cyan Teak Furniture - Memorial Bench (reimburse S Huseyin)	£495.00
Carol Clark – reimbursement for flags for Coronation	£27.80
Income	
TMBC – Precept	£64,758.00

7.2 Banking - The Clerk reported that she had investigated CAF Bank and they would be able to provide an account for us. Cllr Emmet reported that Kings Hill used and recommended them and the Clerk reported that out internal Auditor also used them. It was agreed that following research and recommendations, we should apply to open an account with CAF Bank. The Clerk also has details of CCLA and Cambridge Building Society and will investigate them as well as we will need an additional account.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Planning Applications

TM/23/00522/FL - Sandleford Warren, Copt Hall Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9DT.
Change of use of existing outbuilding to a 2 bed detached. “Objection.”

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TM/23/00555/LDE Land Opposite Rose Wood, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch Sevenoaks, Kent. Lawful Development Certificate Existing: To confirm use as Class B8 (Storage) "No comment"

TM/23/00627/FL - Yew Tree Cottage, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NZ. New two storey side extension with rear facing dormers. "No objection"

TM/23/00512/LDE - Land Rear Of 3 New Cottages Ismays Road Ivy Hatch Sevenoaks Kent Lawful Development Certificate Existing: Use of a garage as an independent dwelling house for a period in excess of ten years (Use Class is C3). "We don't believe this should be granted if it has been used unlawfully"

TM/23/00685/FL/ TM/23/00686/LB - Gibbons Place, Tonbridge Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9AP. Proposed garage/store as a replacement for existing dilapidated outbuilding, to be demolished."No objection."

TM/23/00721/FL - 14 Fen Pond Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9JE. Single storey front, side and rear extensions. "No objection."

8.2 Planning Applications APPROVED

TM/23/00474/TNCA - Applicants ref T1 is a Picea Abies (Norway Spruce) and the intention is to fell, clear and grind the stump - **Glebe House** Bates Hill Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9BG.

TM/23/00371/TNCA - Pollard 1 English oak Quercus robur (T1) adjacent to the house. The tree is causing shading and damp on the roof and the canopy has now started to rest on the property's roof, due to the fact its within a couple of metres of the house, bring it down by about 50% in height - **Arboret** Oldbury Lane Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9DD (permission not required).

TM/23/00322/FL - Single storey extension and alterations to existing bungalow incorporating a dormer window (Revision to refused application TM/22/02564/FL) - **Lower Bank** Sevenoaks Road Seal Chart Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0HB.

TM/23/00255/FL - Single storey side extension and internal reconfiguration - **Sycamores** Bates Hill Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9BG

9. CORRESPONDENCE – (* circulated in advance)

TMBC - Voter ID is being introduced at the Local elections in May

TMBC - New email newsletter sign up: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/newsletter>

TMBC- Parish Infrastructure Statement for completion 16th June 2023

KALC - Coronation information events on the Coronation weekend from 6th May – 8th May*

Community Payback Scheme - Nominate a project in your area. – Agreed that we should apply for litter picking/ possible tree planting. Put on May agenda.

NuVenture/Mike Taylor - Retention of once-weekly 'shoppers bus' - bus services 58 and 70 using community grant.

National Testing of The UK's New Emergency Alerts System On Sunday 23rd April 2023 @ 15:00hrs

KALC NEWS APRIL 2023 – Cllr Holden reported that there was an article on social media and said that we should consider this and add it as an agenda item. The Clerk was asked to check whether other Parishes have a social media presence.

Kent Police Community Engagement Event - 26 April 2022.

10. AOB

Cllr Mitchem reported that a letter had gone to residents in The Street to put bunting up for the Coronation on 3rd May. Red, white and blue flowers have been ordered to go around the War Memorial. The Clerk will check the bin delivery with TMBC and pass keys to the barrier to Cllr Mitchem for the event on 7th May.

Cllr Clark will put flags around Jubilee Crescent and Leathercote Corner on 5th May.

Cllr Fielder reported that Spring Lane was closed on Thursday 20 April.

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



Cllr Clark reported a fallen tree and a branch leaning on an overhead cable and will report via the portal.

Cllr Clerk asked whether we could order a litter bin for outside the Farm Shop. The Clerk will follow up as part of the shop front scheme.

Cllr Willingham reported some parking issues near the layby opposite the Church. As there are no yellow lines, there isn't much that can be done and we wouldn't want lines here as it is used for parking for the Church.

Ongoing issues with sewerage smells at Collingwood – this has been reported to the Environmental Team who are following it up.

11. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 16th May 2023 – AGM Ightham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting went into part 2 and closed at 10.35pm.

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