



4/24

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

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

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

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None

**3. PUBLIC** -No members of the public were present

**4. MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 were approved with 1 amendment and signed as a true record.

**5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR** – Cllr Rayner reported that he had received representations from IPC regarding a loose manhole cover on A227; both BT Openreach and Highways have said that it wasn't their responsibility, Cllr Rayner has contacted a Highways Manager to resolve the issue.

Cllr Rayner reported that he had received the Les Henry Highways Report regarding Old Lane and has passed it to Neil Baker, Cabinet Members for Highways. Cllr Rayner thought that the application would be refused but would go to appeal. If the Parish is successful in getting the application refused on highways grounds, they may be able to recover costs from KCC.

**Drainage** – Engineers have been out to Oldbury today to look at the drainage issue and Cllr Rayner has put pressure on them to get works completed before September. Cllr Fielder confirmed that the work was scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> July and that his land would be used to take some of the excess water. We are still seeing large numbers of asylum-seeking children with 550 arriving on Sunday and Monday this week. This is placing pressure on KCC Children's Care capacity and KCC is having to buy accommodation. The Home Office will reimburse KCC for the cost of this however the taxpayer is funding this up front.

**The Street 20mph** - Cllr Mitchem asked whether Cllr Rayner had a response to her letter to him about the 20mph limit on The Street. Cllr Rayner said that he hadn't been directly involved in our HIP however would be happy to support us. He noted that Kent Highways had provided us with a technical reason for not pursuing our request. One suggestion was to take our request to the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) and we can request to make a representation at the JTB via Sarah Barker at KALC. Cllr Rayner said he would be happy to address this at the annual meeting next week and would ask an Officer to come along as well.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting at 7,53pm.

**6. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR** – No report.

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

**Highways & PROW Matters** – Update HIP – Update from meeting with Kent Highways on 28<sup>th</sup> March – Summary of Kent Highways Proposal for The Street:

Traffic calming, including priority signage, is not permitted on A-roads, nor in areas without a defined system of street lighting on any class of road.

Suggestion that the priority signage and associated road markings be taken out to reintroduce the element of caution. "Priority" will revert to Highway Code which is that cars travelling downhill should give way to those coming up hill. The road narrows sign will remain.

The Slow markings can be refreshed going downhill but there isn't enough length (requirement is 45m) for Slow markings going uphill.

We were also asked to consider removing centre lines on Borough Green Road to improve cautious driving - studies have shown that it is effective in reducing speed "safe systems approach".

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



It was noted that Platt had done this, and the Clerk will speak to Mike Talyor/Wendy Palmer to see whether it has been successful.

Councillors expressed concerns that if the signage is removed and unsuccessful in resolving issues, then it would be difficult to reinstate. Also, it was noted that many other villages with A roads through have traffic calming measures. The Clerk said that that we had raised this with Highways and they said that the DfT had updated their guidelines in March 2024 as they have found that 20mph limits are being overused and their implementation isn't reducing speeds.

It was decided that we should consult with residents about the proposals at the Speedwatch meeting and at the annual Parish meeting to canvas views.

A flashing slow sign was suggested but would have to be away from any residential properties.

Cllr Mitchem reported that there has been an accident involving a school child on Borough Green Road.

The Clerk reported that she had received a police report for the village for the last year and there were 13 road collisions with injury, and 8 collisions without injury and 1 traffic offence.

**Declassification of Old Lane** – The Clerk will email Kent Highways to add this to our HIP.

**Flooding Spring Lane/Oldbury Lane** – Cllr Fielder reported that the gulleys and pipes will go in in July; the gully by Oldbury Close will be fed into a drain and there will be a new gully 2-3 m from Cllr Fielders drive. There will be a catchpot in the middle of the road with a flexible top so that water can overflow. Any excess water will go onto Cllr Fielders land. The flooding issue at Oldbury Close is separate and is being investigated, Cllr Fielder suggested building up the road to deflect the water away, but Kent Highways weren't keen on this idea. **Community Speedwatch** - The Group of volunteers are meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to discuss the results from the various locations and work out a plan of action going forward.

**Les Henry Report re Old Lane** – The Highways report has been sent to TMBC and Cllr Rayner has forwarded to Kent Highways. Cllr Mitchem said that the report was a disappointing as it didn't raise any new issues not already covered.

**Footpaths** – Rerouting footpath MR614 at Oldbury – a resident has brought to our attention that there is a proposal to reroute MR614, we haven't been consulted yet and will reserve judgement until we receive the paperwork.

**Allotments** – Land to Rear Common Road – The Clerk has been in touch with RWE to quote for clearing the area. Cllr Emmett has repaired the fence to the rear of Edgefield.

**Recreation Ground** – Wicksteed - We are awaiting a date for the Wicksteed repairs. Fence repairs - due to start this week.

**Village Hall** - Update - Solar Panels – Cllr Willingham has received a quote for solar panels and will pass it to Paula Price. We have received an email from Paula Price to say that there is a serious leak, and they have a contractor in mind to investigate further as they are not sure of the exact source. The contractor can also deal with some other minor repairs and the damage to railings. It was agreed that we should ask Paula to go ahead and get the repairs done. Cllr Mitchem reported that there are weeds growing out of the guttering and we should ask for this to be added to the list. Clerk to email Paula.. EV charging points – Nothing to report. Next stage Feasibility Study – it was agreed that we should look at East Peckham and Otford Village Hall before carrying out a feasibility study. Cllr Holden will go to the Village Hall AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Mitchem said that the caretaker's number was no longer in use and that we should update the website. The Clerk will email the caretaker to check the preferred contact number. **Substation lease & renewal car park lease to TMBC** – UKPN have agreed fees with Warners. The Clerk will look into wayleave prices. TMBC have decided to surrender

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



the lease for the car park so we no longer require their permission for the substation, and we will sign the Deed of Surrender at the annual Parish meeting next week as it will need to be signed by 2 Councillors in the presence of an independent witness. We will ask TMBC to remove their signage from the car park once the Deed has been signed,

**Flooding** – Busty & drainage mapping – Cllr Holden has had a new version of the NFF software installed. Cllr Holden will provide maps for Councillors to check the drains marked up before the autumn.

**Noticeboards** – Cllr Willingham to ask John Ballantyne

**Annual Parish Meeting** – Arrangements 25<sup>th</sup> April – The Clerk has had responses from various organisations and will chase up invitations to the Church, Cricket Club and Tennis Club.

**School** – Cllr Fielder reported that the guttering was leaking at Oldbury Annexe, Clerk to email the school.

**8. FINANCE & POLICY**

**8.1** The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded Cllr Mitchem

Clerks Salary & Expenses	£925.00
Gel Creative - (Standing Order)	£50.00
EDF – Electricity Pavilion (Direct Debit)	£215.15
Zen Internet - Business Full Fibre 2 Price rise*(Direct Debit)	£54.61
Anthony Edwards – Work at Parish and Churchyard	£tbc
JH Estate & Garden	£tbc
Boyer - Planning Consultants Fee	£1,050.00
RBS Rialtas – Software licence renewal	£230.40
Ightham Village Hall – Rental	£262.50
Les Henry – Highways Appraisal	£tbc
nPower Unmetered supply	£137.59
KALC – Annual Subscription	£907.71

**8.2 Income**

Interest Nat West	£171.94
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**8.3** Alternative bank - The Clerk reported that Unbiased had come back with no suitable matches for Parish banking. Cllr Emmet reported that Kings Hill had an alternative bank, the Clerk will email their Clerk.

**8.4** AGAR - Internal audit and dates – Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> June – sign of AGAR at June meeting. Clerk to email internal auditor.

**9 PLANNING**

**9.1 LOCAL PLAN** – Reg 18 Call for Sites – Sites in Ightham

**9.2 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**24/00472/PA** Holly Lodge, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9DE. Oak tree- T1 (applicants ref) reduce crown by approx. 20% and T2 (applicants ref) reduce crown by approx. 10-15%. T1 of Tree Preservation Order. 17/4/24 “No objection providing TMBC are happy”

**23/03284/TPOC** – Copthall, Ismays Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9BB. 1 x Sweet Chestnut (applicants ref. T 1 adjacent to Redwell Lane and indicated by pink dot on map) - Reduce failed lateral over highway as indicated by green lines on annotated photo attached to agents email dated 13th March 2024. T6 of Tree Preservation Order. .”No objection.”

**24/00476/PA** - The Bothy And Forge, Fen Pond Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9JF. Group of Lionbeams (G1 applicant reference) Reduce overall Crown by 2 Meters. Trees have outgrown their environment. 1 x Birch (T2 applicant reference) Reduce canopy by 2 meters to point of previous works to maintain structural integrity Standing in W3 of TPO. “No objection.”

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



**24/00556/PA** - Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, TN15 Listed Building Application: Installation of a double leaf service gate to the north of the Walled Garden and a pedestrian gate on the eastern wall of the Walled Garden. "No objection"

It was noted that a lot of demolition work was being carried out at Oakfield, Copt Hall Road and a large tree has been cut down. Cllr Mitchem will follow up with Enforcement.

**9.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED**

**23/03431** 10, Oldbury Close, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9DJ. 2 x Beech (that belong to 10 Oldbury Close and are on the boundary of 10 Oldbury Close and Glenwood - shown in applicants' photo) - Reduce crown and sides by 40/50% 1 x Cedar (in Glenwood - shown in applicants' photo) – Fell Deadline expired. [re-registered following clarification of species and location]

**10. CORRESPONDENCE – (\* circulated in advance)**

Parish infrastructure statement for completion - 1<sup>st</sup> June - Defer to next meeting.

Local Green Space – Information

Invitation to attend Kent's 9th Community Speedwatch Conference **Saturday 15 June 2024** commencing at **09:00am**

**KALC T&M Area Meeting** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Cllr Emmett to attend.

**11. AOB**

**Potholes** – Common Road outside Roquebrune, Coach Road by Carpathians, Ismays by Treetops, Borough Green Road outside Tattlebury and on A25 by Crown Point.

Cllr Hall asked whether a gate could be installed on the footpath between Ismays and Sandy Lane as bikes were using it.

Cllr Hogarth reported that she was following up the abandoned car at Dark Hill that has been there for several weeks. The 40mph sign has turned around on Borough Green Road.

The meeting closed at 9.47 and went into Part 2.

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