



6/24

**Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr Willingham (Chair), Cllr Holden (Vice Chair), Cllr Clark, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner, Borough Cllr Betts and one member of the public

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

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None

**4. PUBLIC** - Ray Tillott from Borough Green and Wrotham U3A came along to give some background information on the U3A and to request a donation for the local group. U3A stands for University of the Third Age; it is a club for older people however is open to anyone not in full-time employment. They currently have a membership of 114, 9 are in Ightham and U3A are looking to expand membership. The objective is to promote well being and for people to get together to learn, laugh and live. Ray has also asked neighbouring Parishes for donations towards speakers and hall hires and is asking the same of Ightham Parish Council. He passed some promotional material to the Clerk so that it can go onto noticeboards.

**5. REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR & COUNTY COUNCILLOR– Borough Cllr Betts** reported that there were updated reports on local AQMA's (air quality management areas) and the majority of the AQMA's in the area would lose their designation as the air quality has improved. The area closest to Ightham with an AQMA is Borough Green, on the junction of Western Road and A2. Although the designation will be removed, the area will continue to be monitored for Nitrous Oxide NO<sup>2</sup>. Tonbridge High Street, Aylesford and Larkfield have also improved and this is due to improved start stop technology in vehicles, an uptake in electric vehicles (approx. 20%), Euro6 fittings on lorries and improved traffic flows.

At a recent Cabinet meeting, Robert Styles, Director of Street Scene, reported that fixed penalties for littering and fly tipping have increased by 1000% since contracting an Enforcement Team.

Cllr Betts reported that Regulation 18B Local Plan is due in July 2024 and all potential sites that have been put forward for development will be published. Reg 18B will be consulted on and the next stage will be Regulation 19 which will include the selected sites and this is scheduled for November 2024. Tonbridge Town Centre will be redeveloped around the Angel Centre which will be knocked down and replaced with a state-of-the-art carbon neutral leisure centre. It will be relocated to a site yet to be determined and will be funded by TMBC and developers. Cllr Betts said that building and construction costs have risen considerably since Covid. Cllr Betts fielded various questions from Councillors and said that the flood risk in Tonbridge has been taken into account and 40% new housing will be social housing. Tonbridge pool will stay where it is.

Cllr Betts reported the West Kent Rural Grants Scheme is still open for applications with grants of up to £25k available on a 50% matched funding basis. Approved schemes support the environment and Cllr Betts encouraged the Parish Council to promote the scheme to any local business that may benefit.

**County Cllr Rayner** reported a reduced program at KCC due to the pre-election period. The works to relieve flooding at Oldbury are scheduled for July and a separate flooding issue further up Oldbury Hill will be raised at the next Environment and Transport Committee meeting; Cllr Rayner said that he had some grant funding money left over and may be able to put something towards a scheme.

Cllr Rayner chaired the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) meeting last night, where it was agreed that the JTB would widen their scope to look at issues other than parking and street lights. For example, at

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present there is no liaison between bus and train operators, whereas other Kent JTB's can organise for bus timetables to co-ordinate with train times. There is also no Active Travel money in TMBC; if the JTB had a wider scop it would be enable TMBC and KCC to be able to work together on this.

Cllr Rayner reported that Cllr Hall had done a great job of presenting Ightham Parish Councils case for traffic calming in Ightham at the JTB meeting. Cllr Rayner agreed that the request should be minuted and would be on the agenda at the next JTB meeting for Officers to determine.

Cllr Rayner said there was nothing further to report on the Local Plan until after the election.

Cllr Betts reported that Old Lane would go to Area 2 Planning Committee, likely the September meeting.

**6. MINUTES** - The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 May 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

**Highways & PROW Matters – Update HIP** – Response to KCC on HIP recommendations - KCC has recommended removal the centre lines on the Borough Green Road as a traffic calming measure as it has been shown that speeds are lowered giving drivers the perception that the road is narrower. The cost of removal is £25,000. It was agreed that money would be better spent elsewhere and should be deferred until the road is due for resurfacing and there is some hard evidence that it works to reduce speed. KCC also recommended removing priority signage on The Street so priority would revert to the Highway Code. Following discussion with the PC and residents it was decided that the existing signage should remain in place for now. **Flooding Oldbury** – discussed above. **Community**

**Speedwatch** – Sessions are continuing and KCC has been passed data from Kent Police and noted the excessive speeds on Borough Green Road (average 38-40mph) and indicated that there may be some funding available in the future to fund some changes. They have suggested that we allow Speedwatch a chance to bed in and if this does not help to lessen the speeding issues along Borough Green Road then we could use this evidence to support a bid for funding. **Movable SIDS** – We have received some information on movable Speed Indication Devices will ask Kent Highways to identify suitable locations, ideally we would have them located on Bates Hill, Fen Pond Road and Borough Green Road. **Blanket 30mph limit through the Village** – KCC has suggested a site meeting, and the Clerk will arrange this and for all other matters to be discussed at the same time. **JTB Meeting**

**Feedback.**- Cllr Hall reported that he had attended the JTB last night to put forward our case for a 20mph limit through The Street and Oldbury Lane and a blanket 30mph limit throughout the village. Cllr Hall was invited to sit with Members in the Chamber and the presentation was well received with Borough Cllrs Taylor (Borough Green) and Palmer (Platt) speaking in our favour. Both said that it has taken years for similar schemes to be adopted in their Parishes but it was worthwhile persevering. Wouldham Parish Council was also in attendance; they had faced similar traffic issues in the centre of their village and they were requesting a temporary traffic scheme to be made permanent due to the huge improvement of traffic through their village. This helped to set the scene for our request. Cllr Taylor made a point that we should qualify for SIDS as we have no street lighting. It was noted that Platt has a 20mph limit off the main road.

**Footpaths** – Rerouting footpath MR614 at Oldbury – The Clerk communicated our objections to Kent PROW for rerouting and has noted the short deadline. The response was that the incorrect date had been put on the documentation. The Applicants' representative requested a copy of our minutes so the specific concerns could be identified, considered and responded to. The Clerk sent the draft minute but has heard nothing further.

**Allotments** – Land clearance to the rear of Common Road is scheduled for 20-21 June and the Clerk has written to the neighbours to let them know. A Land Registry Search failed to show ownership of

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the fences so we will wait to see what condition they are in once the rubbish has been removed. It was noted by Cllr Emmett that we should secure the perimeter, and this was agreed.

**Recreation Ground – Wicksteed repairs –** The Clerk has checked the Sovereign Inspection Report against recent repairs carried out by Wicksteed and has identified the outstanding repairs. Most of the repairs are to the wetpour and the Clerk has asked Sovereign for a quote.

**Village Hall - Update - Solar Panels –** a question was raised about installing solar panels if the hall is to be refurbished/rebuilt? It was noted that this was a long-term project and the solar panels could be reused. In a recent planning application, it was noted that solar panels are worthwhile. Cllr Willingham has identified 2 local companies and will contact them. **Damage to railings –** In hand. **Feasibility**

**Study -**It was agreed that we are now at a stage to engage a professional and that the Clerk should contact the agent that Platt used to give us a quote for a feasibility study. The scope should be to give us an outline of options, ie rebuild or refurbish, costs involved for each and recommendations of recent sustainable projects. This will enable us to consult with parishioners on the options available.

**Flooding –** Busty & drainage mapping – Nothing to report. It was noted that there was a leak from one of the pipes on the bridge and the Clerk has reported this to SE Water. It was also noted that the banks are overgrown and we will ask James Hayward to cut them back and this should be added to his routine schedule.

**Noticeboards –** Village Hall header panel installation – Cllr Fielder was asked to fit the header on the noticeboard outside the Ightham Club. Agreed.

**Litter Pick –** Scheduled for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**Archive -** Succession planning. A volunteer has agreed to take over the archive.

**Tennis Club -** Request for storage shed on the recreation ground – It was suggested that this would be better inside the perimeter of the club with a possibility of moving the fence as it would be too vulnerable outside having had a couple of attempted break-ins of the football container. The bank has collapsed at one of the corners of the court and we have been asked to install sleepers to shore it up. We have received a quote for £900 and this was approved. We have also had a request to cut back foliage and strim around the perimeter and above the footpath and we will ask James Hayward to do this. 3 of the path lights aren't working, the Clerk will contact an electrician.

**8. FINANCE & POLICY**

**8.1 The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposed by Cllr Fielder & Seconded by Cllr Hall who initialled invoices**

Clerks Salary & Expenses	£929.22
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	£1,207.86
JH Estate & Garden May	£768.00
JH Estate & Garden April	£1,032.00
J Weller Bookkeeping – Internal Audit Fee	£500.00
Les Henry Associates – Highways Appraisal Old Lane	£600.65
Clear Councils- Insurance Policy Renewal (Paid 31/5/24)	£3,123.83

**Income**

Interest	£262.50
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**8.3 Alternative bank - CCLA -** Defer to next meeting.

**8.4 AGAR 2023-4 -** All papers and reports were circulated prior to the meeting

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



1. To Note the Annual Internal Audit Report - a comment was that we should use accruals but it was agreed that we should continue to use cash accounting. Clerk to provide quarterly statements of account against the budget – agreed.
2. To approve and sign the annual governance statement 2023/4 – The Clerk read the statements which were approved and signed.
3. To approve and sign the Accounting Statements 2023/4 – approved and signed.
4. To note the bank reconciliation and analysis of variances
5. To note the notice period for the exercise of public rights 1 July to 9 August 2024 - agreed.

## 9 PLANNING

9.1 LOCAL PLAN – Reg 18B – Awaiting Consultation, see above.

### 9.2 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**24/00702/PA** Ivors, High Cross Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, TN15 0NR. Replacement barn dwelling for previous enacted permission (TM/07/02472/FL). "We leave to TMBC to determine"

**24/00914/PA** - Sunfield House, Tonbridge Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9AR. Demolition of existing two storey flat roof extension and erection of a new two storey wrap-around extension to side and rear of property. Existing double garage to be reduced in size. "No objection"

The Clerk was asked to check the application for Stone Acre as an additional application has been pending for a while.

### 9.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

**24/00476/PA** The Bothy And Forge, Fen Pond Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9JF. Group of Hornbeams (applicants ref. G1) - Reduce overall Crown by 2 Meters. Trees have outgrown their environment. 1 x Birch (applicants ref. T2) - Reduce canopy by 2 meters to point of previous works to maintain structural integrity All Standing in Woodland W3 of Tree Preservation Order.

**24/00316/PA** - Redwell Croft, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9EE.. Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: Single storey rear extension.

**24/00176/PA** - 3, Nutfields, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9EA. 1 x Oak - agent's ref: T1 - Crown reduce from 14m high to approx. 12m - Crown reduction of approx. 2m to previous prune points, remove suckers and sever ivy.

1 x Oak ref: T2 (standing in communal land to rear) Reduce whole crown by approximately 2-3m (tree currently approx. 15m, new height 12-13m)

1 x Pine ref: T3 (standing in communal land to rear) Reduce long extended low branch on south side by approximately 2m and remove the low limb on Westside.

1 x Pine ref: T4 in (standing in communal land to rear) Remove the first two lowest limbs from the ground up. All standing in Woodland W1 of Tree Preservation Order

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

TMBC – Notice of Election - Poll and Persons nominated

Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan Examination Stage 3 Hearing Sessions 16 June-24 July

2024 <https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/localplanexamination>

KALC Training Bulletin

Next PPP Meeting 21/11/2024

Next KALC T&M Area Meeting 11/07/2024

Request for a village flagpole – It was agreed that the Church has a flagpole for special occasions and an additional one wasn't necessary (Vote for, 4 against and 1 abstention).

## 11. AOB

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Cllr Mitchem reported that the Cricket Club had an attempted break-in last weekend, nothing was taken.

Ightham Open Gardens will be held this weekend.

The Kings Men Choir is on 11<sup>th</sup> July and tickets are on sale for £20.

Close 10.12pm

The meeting went into Part 2

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