



7/24

Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chair), Cllr Holden (Vice Chair), Cllr Burgham, Cllr Clark, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner, Borough Cllr Betts and 1 member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Hall, Cllr Hogarth

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - None

4. PUBLIC A representative of the landowner of Longcroft Meadow wanted to explain the reasoning behind the footpath diversion of MR614 which Ightham Parish Council objected to. The main reasons for the diversion are to protect the privacy of the Forest School and young children and the current pathway is dividing the land in half meaning that the landowners can't use the land as they want to. The representative said that there were no plans to build on the land and there are no trees that would need to be cut down. There are TPO's on trees on the adjoining land.

This is at an informal consultation stage and could go to a public consultation. The Ramblers have approved the change.

Councillors commented that the current fencing already made the footpath secure and that it didn't make much sense to move the footpath towards the scout field where there are also children.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – Cllr Rayner reported that there had been lots of meetings since the election on 4th July and that Tom Tugendhat had been re-elected.

The submission to the Joint Transportation Board by Ightham Parish Council has been received and noted and needs to go through formalities to make it onto the agenda for the next JTB meeting. It was noted that our requests had been rejected, Cllr Rayner reported that Shaun Holden, Chair of the Environment and Transport Committee is advocating the declassification of A262 and this could be used as a test case for declassifying the A227. Cllr Rayner suggested that the Parish Council looked at pursuing the Active Travel Scheme as a source of funding as there has been little money spent in rural areas. Ie for cycle ways on Bates Hill and Oldbury Lane. Cllr Rayner suggested that the declassification of Old Lane could also be taken forward on the basis of Active Travel. Cllr Mitchem said that we had just received information from Kent Highways on applying for a "stopping order". Cllr Rayner recommended that if taking this step, we should engage with local residents to ensure unanimity before making the application.

Cllr Mitchem also commented that we would be opposed to one way system on Oldbury Lane as previously suggested as it may increase speeding; all we are trying to achieve is a 20mph limit.

Cllr Rayner reported that the works to alleviate flooding on Spring Lane were going ahead and that he was putting £8,000 towards the cost. He asked whether the Parish Council would consider donating £4,000 and this could be put towards solving the flooding issue at Oldbury junction at the same time whilst the Design Team are on site. This would be subject to Cllr Fielder agreeing to use of his land. Cllr Rayner reported that there was no new information from the Home Office about the new entry and exit system at Dover and estimated that the greatest impact of the new checks would be felt at Christmas and Easter 2025.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children continue to arrive in Kent, impacting KCC finance, availability of property and management time spent.



Cllr Betts reported that TMBC had recently allocated £2.6 million, the largest contribution to date for climate change. 70% of this is from grant funding and the money will be used to decarbonise Larkfield and Tonbridge swimming pools by installing PV panels and LED lighting, making them more energy efficient and leaving both less exposed to fluctuations in energy prices.

On the Local Plan, the new Chancellor, Rachel Reeves has just announced changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and there is a suggestion that there is increased commitment to build homes. TMBC is in the middle of Reg 18B of the Local Plan and have decided to pause the plan until the Government has announced the changes as they may need to revise their evidence plan.

Cllr Rayner said that he thought that it would be better to publish the plan now, otherwise it would be vulnerable to NPPF changes and would cause further delays. Cllr Betts said that he would pass comments to the Leader of TMBC. Cllr Betts said that the Government had said that the timeline for changes to be announced was 100 days so expected news of the Plan by November. Everything is ready to go so if there are no changes to the NPPF the Local Plan can go straight to consultation. TMBC have a new ASB taskforce to deal with anti-social behaviour and to contact TMBC if we ever have an issue.

A Green Flag Award has just been awarded to Tonbridge and Haysden Parks.

TMBC are looking for a Green Vicar to join the Climate Change Forum.

West Kent Rural Grant Scheme has around £45k left and Cllr Betts asked whether there were any local businesses that would benefit. Cllr Burgham asked whether the Ightham Club would be eligible, and Cllr Betts said yes.

Cllr Willingham said that we no longer receive reports from the Police. Cllr Rayner advised that we take this up at KALC T&M.

6. MINUTES - The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 were signed and approved with one amendment.

7. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters – Update HIP – Response to KCC HIP requests – We have now confirmed that we would like to keep the priority signage on The Street. KCC have been looking at potential sites to put a movable Speed Indication Device (SID) but have been unable to find areas that meet the criteria and have asked us to identify places. It was noted that some ATC speed strips had been put in at the top of The Street but neither the Parish Council or Kent Highways have installed them. **Old Lane declassification** - it was agreed that we would contact residents to check that they would be supportive of declassification of Old Lane. Access to houses would remain but we would block off areas between Jade Cottage and Woodford and at the bottom of the Redwell Lane Spur. It was suggested that we install removable/lockable posts so that access could be gained for maintenance of the Lane. We have been advised that the process will take 12 months and will cost £5k if we go ahead. **Flooding Oldbury** – Works programmed 29 July to 18 August with road closure at Spring Lane, Cllr Fielder has notified neighbours. **Community Speedwatch** – The Clerk has put the data collected into a spreadsheet and will circulate to Councillors. At the most recent session at Durlings Orchard, many cars were recorded doing over 40mph. The Clerk reported that The Speed Watch Group had set up a meeting with Tom Tugendhat and local residents on Friday to discuss the ongoing issues in The Street, Cllr Clark will be attending, and Cllr Willingham also offered to attend. **PROW** – MR614 – It was agreed that we had no further comments to make on the diversion and that we stand by our original comment and principle that we don't agree with moving established footpaths for the convenience of the landowner.

Allotments – Land clearance at The Paddock – The Clerk reported that she had been to look at the Paddock with Cllr Emmett and RWE had done an excellent job of clearing the debris however there was a lot of glass remaining and we have asked RWE to quote for removing 3 extra inches or so to



remove it. They had uncovered 3 cars and a motorbike. It was agreed that we should do the work to make the area safe. It was noted that the fences are intact. Treeability have inspected the trees at the allotment and have also suggested ongoing management of the area, it was agreed that this would be a good idea. We are awaiting a quote.

Recreation Ground – Wicksteed repairs – approval of quote from Sovereign for repairs to the wetpour and equipment £7,419.39 –this was approved.

Village Hall - Update - Damage to railings – We have been passed 2 quotes one from Dave Daly £1,730 and one from Laddingfords £650-950. Cllr Willingham will speak to Paula Price as work is required to repair the guttering and unblock one of the drains and the quotes covered different work. The Clerk has received details from Platt Memorial Hall of consultants who will be able to help us with a feasibility study. It was agreed that the Clerk should set up a meeting for the end of August. **Solar Panels**. – Cllr Holden had received details of some contractors who install solar panels; Cllr Willingham has already received a quote and it was agreed that we would obtain a couple of other quotes, the Clerk will contact a supplier in Plaxtol and Cllr Holden will contact Ecolution Trosley. It was noted that once panels have been installed, we would need to ensure that we are with the right energy company to get the best rate for buying electricity, Octopus seems to be recommended. Once we have quotes, we can apply for some grant funding.

The Clerk reported that Warners had been in touch to say that they had had difficulty contacting TMBC regarding the surrender document for the car park and that legal fees had risen to £2,000. Warners confirmed this morning that they had made contact.

Flooding – Busty - James Hayward has cleared Busty and it was reported that the pipe that was leaking under the bridge had stopped leaking although still needs to be repaired. Drainage mapping – no update.

Litter Pick – Saturday 28th September, 10am – The Clerk will contact TMBC to order additional bins.

Tennis Club - Update - The Clerk reported that she had had difficulty contacting the electrician to fix the lights. Cllr Willingham has also contacted an electrician. Both will chase them up for a quote.

U3A – Donation request – following the presentation last month, it was agreed that we would donate £100.

Plough – Parking – We have received an email from a resident asking whether we could contact the new owners of the Plough to put up signage for the car park to alleviate parking on the junction, The Clerk will speak to the new landlord.

Parish Magazine - Printing contribution – it was agreed that we would contribute £1000 towards the printing costs.

8. FINANCE & POLICY

8.1 The following accounts were submitted for payment: Cllr Fielder proposed, and Cllr Burgham seconded, and both initialled the invoices. The Clerk passed bank statements and reconciliations to Cllr Holden to check and sign. Clerk awaiting Nat West Current account statement for June.

Clerks Salary & Expenses	£1,006.92
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
nPower – Unmetered electricity supply	£111.72
Ightham Village Hall – Rental	£300.00
JH Estate & Gardens – Grass cutting & Clearing Busty Stream	£tbc
Anthony Edwards - Maintenance to churchyard and Parish land	£1138.32

**Income**

Interest	£245.13
VAT refund	£6,852.90

Balances

NatWest Deposit Account 30.6.24	£220,623.77
Unity Current Account 30.6.24	£74,619.80
NatWest Current Account 31.5.24	£90,847.70

8.3 Alternative bank - CCLA – It has been impossible to get a high street bank to take us on and our alternative is to go outside the FSCS requirements and invest with an investment bank such as CCLA. We would need to amend our standing orders to invest and we are reluctant to do this so for the meantime will keep our money in NatWest and Unity only.

8.4 AGAR 2023-4

The Clerk asked Councillors to note a correction of the notice period for the exercise of public rights: 1 July to 9 August 2024

9 PLANNING

9.1 LOCAL PLAN – Reg 18B – See above

9.2 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/01035/PA Collingwood, Common Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9ED. Retrospective application for relocation of sand school with associated engineering operations. “No objection”

24/01025/PA 65, Nutfields, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9EA. T2 Birch - Heavy bleeding on trunk showing root disease, most likely honey fungus as other trees adjacent have previously been affected. Dismantle to near ground level. Tree leans heavily towards neighbour's property and may fall as the roots are degraded. Standing in group W1 of Tree Preservation Order. “No objection”

24/01049/PA Redwell, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9EE. Listed Building Application: Proposed first floor rear extension and internal alterations. “No objection”

24/00983/PA Squirrels Herne, Copt Hall Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9DT. Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: New detached garage. “No objection”

9.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

24/00825/PA Tudor Cottage, Trycewell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9HL. T1 (Applicants ref.)- Sycamore - Crown lift tree to 5m over boundary fence.

24/00706/PA Grasmere, Borough Green Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9HS. First floor extension and new roof, ground floor side and rear extension and internal alterations.

24/00723/PA 27, Nutfields, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9EA. New porch in place of the existing

9.4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS REFUSED

24/00583/PA Sycamores, Bates Hill, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9BG. 1 x Sycamore - Remove 1 overhanging limb specified in applicants annotated photos. Standing in Group G1 of Tree Preservation Order.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – (* circulated in advance)

KALC News July 2024*

KALC Bulletin 28 June*

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

Conway – Clearance of private drainage and assets



11. **AOB** – Cllr Clark reported someone regularly speeding along A25 in the early hours of the morning.

Cllr Mitchem reported that the War Memorial was overgrown with weeds. Cllr Willingham will speak to Anthony Edwards.

Cllr Mitchem reported that David Williams has suggested a small print run of the Ightham book following lots of requests. It would cost around £1,000, and books would then be sold for £20. It was agreed that we would be supportive of this if it goes ahead.

Date of next meeting –Tuesday 20th August 2024

The meeting closed and went into Part 2 and closed at 10.22pm