



9/24

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall

Present: Cllr Willingham (Chair), Cllr Holden (Vice Chair), Cllr Clark, Cllr Emmett, Cllr Fielder, Cllr Hogarth, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner and 2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Burgham, Cllr Hall, Borough Cllr Betts

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - None

3. PUBLIC - Members of the public gave reasons for objecting to the rerouting of footpath MR614. They also said that the consultation papers were confusing as it looked as though the Order had already been made. The deadline for comments is 7th October. It was noted that the TPO on the trees behind Longcroft Lodge, requested in 2020, was never signed off and it was suggested that we should reapply adding an additional tree. Cllr Willingham reported that the Parish Council had already objected to the diversion.

4. MINUTES - The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 20 August 2024 were approved as a true record and signed by Cllr Willingham.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Rayner suggested that the MR614 footpath consultation is mentioned in the Parish magazine, even if it falls after the deadline as there is scope to extend the deadline.

The flood defence works at Oldbury have now been completed and Cllr Rayner is pleased with the way in which work has been undertaken and thanked Cllr Fielder as work would not have been possible without using his land.

Cllr Rayner attended a meeting with our MP Tom Tugendhat, residents and members of Ightham Speedwatch on 16th September. Residents in The Street are concerned about speed and the impact on the village infrastructure by HGV's. It was agreed that Tom would formally write to Cllr Rayner as Chair of Joint Transportation Board (JTB) about how to address this. In the long term we would like to declassify The Street as an A road, the road is unsuitable for HGV's and has insufficient width for large vehicles to pass. In the shorter term we will look at other measures. Speedwatch member and resident Mr Connor has passed some data and supporting documentation to Cllr Rayner which can be passed to Tom. The Clerk gave Tom photo's and details of crashes on The Street.

Cllr Rayner chaired the JTB on 16th September and members of the Parish Council and residents attended. Neil Baker, Cabinet Member for Highways also attended. Cllr Mitchem outlined our requests for a 20mph limit on The Street and reasons why they have been turned down. Cllr Rayner said it is unusual for submissions to be made directly to a Cabinet Member and he was sympathetic to the views of the Parish Council and residents. Cllr Rayner was optimistic that Officers will reconsider their decision. It is the first time that a Parish Council has challenged a Highways Improvement Plan decision. A Teams meeting has been set up for 24th September between Ightham Parish Council Traffic Group, Kent Highways Officers, Cllr Rayner and Neil Baker and a representative from Ightham Speedwatch. It was noted that the Ightham HIP was 32 pages long and nearly all of our requests had been rejected

Cllr Fielder mentioned that the new 20mph limit had been set up in Sevenoaks although there were varying speeds along Seal Hollow Road between 30 and 20mph which was confusing.

Cllr Rayner said that our requests for reductions in speed should be in preparation for "Active Travel" where funding is available.

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



Cllr Emmett mentioned that the 30mph limit throughout Ightham didn't come up at the JTB and is now urgent; speed along Common Road is derestricted and there are at least 10 children walking to school. Cllr Rayner suggested that we have now opened a discussion, and we should challenge this on the HIP.

Cllr Clark asked whether there is anything we can do about restricting the weight and size of the HGV's coming through the village, we have recently had an increase in HVG traffic due to diversions from the closure of Seven Mile Lane. Cllr Rayner suggested that if we could ascertain infrastructure damage, then this would help to build a case for declassification/weight restrictions. We should use our MP to help us lobby for the changes. The Latest Transport Plan (LTP5) is currently being consulted on and Cllr Rayner recommended that we respond to it and mention declassification. Cllr Rayner was thanked for all his support on JTB and Oldbury drainage.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters – Update HIP – Cllrs Mitchem, Emmett, Clark, Hall and the Parish Clerk to attend the aforementioned HIP meeting on 24th September via Teams. **Report** - Potholes on Ismays Road. Hedges outside Glenfield (the Clerk said that Highways have already been out to look at this), large branches in the verge opposite the Garden Centre and on the footpath along A25 alongside Collingwood. **Old Lane declassification** - Petition – we have informally spoken to residents and now need to get their formal approval before we proceed to the application. The Clerk has written to the Highways Definition Team to find out how to proceed and what the implications are for residents so that we can inform them in advance of the application. There is currently a backlog with the Team and we are awaiting a response. A new unsuitable for motor vehicles sign has gone up at the junction of A25 and Old Lane. The Clerk was asked to report a fallen tree and obscured sign at the top of Old Lane. **SID locations** have been sent to Kent Highways and the Team are currently assessing their suitability. **Flooding Oldbury** – see above. **Speedwatch** – A session has been booked for next week. **Overnight HGV Parking on Dark Hill** – Following a report of HGV's parking overnight on Dark Hill Road, the Borough and County Council have been asked to put in double yellow lines. In addition, H+H Celcon has been approached about relaxing rules around overnight parking. It was noted that MOTO at Wrotham has been turned down again and that there is currently no overnight parking facility for HGV's. **Request for dog bin on The Street** – We have had a request for a dog waste bin on the Street and will speak to residents/TMBC to see whether there is a suitable location that residents would be happy with.

Footpath Consultation – MR614 – The Clerk was asked to reiterate our previous comments.

Allotments – Land clearance at The Paddock – Work has been completed but there is still remaining debris that has been seeded over and a small pile of asbestos remaining. The Clerk has asked RWE to come back and clear the debris and Cllr Willingham said that he would arrange for the asbestos to be removed. Allotment to rear of no 10 – Nothing to report. Quote for treework as per VTA £2,460 – Cllr Emmett has a copy of the work sheet and said that he would arrange to do the tree work behind Robin Hill with Antony Edwards. The Clerk was asked to get a revised quote from Treeability. The Clerk has also requested a quote from Nick Connell.

We have had a request to reduce the Oak trees by 18-20 ft on land to the rear of Edgefield to increase light; Cllr Emmett spoke to a tree expert at RHS Wisley who recommended that we don't cut them as it could damage the trees which are 100 years old. It was also noted that there is no right to light. It was agreed that we wouldn't cut them back as they have just been checked in the VTA and no work has been recommended.

Recreation Ground – Repairs to wetpour and equipment - The Clerk has asked to add on additional items identified in the Rospa report and we are awaiting a date for Sovereign to come and quote. The Clerk has also asked for them to repaint the swings. We have received a quote for 2 new litter bins from TMBC for £638.05, it was agreed that we should go ahead. An Oak fell onto the fence at the top of the recreation ground damaging the fence - The Clerk will ask Tyrrells to quote to replace the fence and for some minor fence repairs in the play area. The Clerk will ask James Hayward to reseed grass

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



by the bench in the play area. Repairs to Drainage – The Clerk has contacted Southern Water about recurrent overflow of sewerage from the manhole cover on the path.

Village Hall - Update - Solar Panels – We have received a quote for £22k for 30 panels and £10k for 10 panels, these include labour and batteries. We are awaiting a further quote before making a decision. Cllr Willingham will contact the Treasurer to find out how many Kwh the hall uses a year so that we can determine the number of panels required and size of battery. We can sell back surplus electricity but will need to find the correct company. Octopus has been recommended and currently offer 17p per Kwh. The Clerk will investigate grant funding for panels once we have received all the quotes. **Damage to railings** – The chosen contractor hasn't been able to give a date for work, Cllr Willingham will speak to The Chair of the village hall committee about using another company.

Repairs - The blocked drains were cleared in August. The leak in the toilets has been fixed and a pressure reducing valve has also been fitted to prevent further issues. The top toilets are in a very poor state and we are awaiting a quote for redecoration. A wasps' nest was removed from the brickwork near the main entrance.

Following a bad leak, the Committee has received a bill £6,476.39; they have submitted a 'Leak Allowance' form to Castle Water but have requested a contribution from IPC towards the bill. It was agreed that we would see what Castle Water would contribute and would then make up the balance. We have received a Rates Bill for £280.21 (for the year up to March 2025) for the Car Park.

UKPN –TMBC surrender of lease – Cllrs Willingham and Holden signed the lease and the Clerk will deliver it back to Warners to be executed. **Feasibility Study** – The Clerk has contacted 2 Companies, 1 has replied to say that they are winding up and we are waiting to hear from the second. The clerk reported that she attended an event at the Bat and Ball Community Centre which was very modern, Cllr Mitchem said that she would try and get details of the Architects.

Flooding – Busty & drainage mapping – Cllr Holden reported that he was having difficulty printing off the maps. Cllr Willingham will ask Nick Connell to clear the Busty by Durlings.

Litter Pick – Saturday 28th September 10am – The Clerk reported that she would be away but would leave the equipment in the hall. Cllr Willingham agreed to hand out the equipment and Cllrs Mitchem and Holden are available on the day.

Tennis Club - The lights on footpath have been repaired at a cost of £310 and we have had a quote to replace 1 light for £170 which was agreed. Cllr Willingham will ask James Hayward to cut back the Laurel hedge facing the football pitch as it has become untidy.

Trees - Quote for tree work in recreation ground, allotment and Jubilee Crescent as per VTA £1,624 – It was agreed that we should ask Treeability to do the work.

7. FINANCE & POLICY

7.1 The following accounts were proposed by Cllr Fielder and seconded by Cllr Clark. Cllr Hogarth to authorise payments:

Clerks Salary & Expenses	£934.49
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
JH Estate & Gardens – Grass cutting & Clearing Busty July & August	£3,216.00
Anthony Edwards - Maintenance to churchyard and Parish land	£1,374.10
RWE – Allotment clearance	£2,400.00
TMBC – Rates for car park	£280.21
KALC – Advanced Planning post-election briefing	£60.00
KALC – Clerks Conference	£84.00
Lucas Electrical – Light repairs on path	£310.00

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

**Income**

Precept	£65,110.00
Interest NW Deposit Account	£271.46
Balance as at 31.8.24: Unity £91,387.42, NW Deposit £228,044.44, NW Current – awaiting statement	

7.2 AGAR – Accounts have been audited and signed off my Mazars with no matters of concern. The Clerk has posted the notice on the noticeboard and the website. There is a requirement for gov.uk emails to be set up for Councillors for 2025 audit.

7.3 Banking – Cllr Holden reported that Lloyds do a Treasurers Account and Barclays do a Community Account. The Clerk will investigate whether they will do something for Parishes. The Clerk reported that she had attended the Finance Conference and spoken to Scribe about a new accounts package, as Rialtas is becoming expensive to run.

8 PLANNING

8.1 LOCAL PLAN — We are awaiting Reg 18B which has been delayed pending the NPPF Planning Consultation.

8.2 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/01252/PA - Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, TN15 0NT. Listed Building Application: Repair and conservation of leaded glass, including temporary removal to conservator's studio, repair, conservation and return to site for reinstatement. "No objection".

8.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

24/01251/PA Hawkwood, Common Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9AY. Non material amendment to planning permission TM/22/02611/FL for change of material to the garden room from oak frame to cavity wall construction, alterations to the window arrangements and reduction in roof height to accommodate a parapet wall.

24/01048/PA - Redwell, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9EE. Proposed first floor rear extension onto balcony and internal alterations.

24/00983/PA - Squirrels Herne, Copt Hall Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9DT. Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: New detached garage (Certifies).

24/01025/PA - 65, Nutfields, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9EA. 1 x Birch (applicants ref. T2) - Dismantle to near ground level. Standing in Woodland W1 of Tree Preservation Order.

24/01256/PA - Ightham County Primary School, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, TN15 9DD. Applicants ref, T1 Oak - Remove 2x large low limbs over play area , T2 Oak - Crown reduce overhang over play area by approximately 2-3m, cut low branches over fence back by approximately 1-2m and T3 Sycamore - Crown lift by approximately 2m over play area. Reason for work is to reduce the heavy overhang of trees over the play area and let more light in.

8.4 PLANNING APPEALS

We have received Appeal letters for Stone Acre and Camomile House. There is no opportunity to make further comments.

9. CORRESPONDENCE – (* circulated in advance)

KALC News September 2024*

KALC Training Bulletin*

Next PPP Meeting 21/11/2024*

KALC – New website log ins*

KALC MOTIONS FOR KALC AGM - Deadline 7th October

Tom Tugendhat - Proposed changes to Planning rules*

News highlights for Tonbridge and Malling*

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



Proposed Solar Park at Stangate Landfill Site* Tuesday 17th September 2024 3-7pm BGVH – The Clerk and Cllr Mitchem attended the presentation. There will be a formal planning consultation to follow.

KALC T&M Area Meeting - Thursday 26th September 7.30pm Kings Hill Community Centre.

CASP Burning Issues Workshop – Saturday 14th September – Plaxtol Village Hall.

10. AOB

Cllr Holden asked for the Clerks salary to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting –Tuesday 15th October 2024

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

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