

IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 16th AUGUST 2011 AT IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.45PM

Present: Cllr J Edwards (Chairman), Cllr S Brierley, Cllr R Chartres, Cllr M Holden, Cllr K Mitchem and Cllr R Willingham

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr P Cracknell, Cllr B Gillow and Cllr D Hall

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.** None.

3. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

TM/11/01444/FL Woodfold, Old Lane, Ightham – variation of conditions 1 and 2 on TM/07/01238/FL: change of use for stationing of two caravans for residential use, fencing and sheds for occupation by a single gipsy family - Whilst TMBC is more expert in defining flagrant breaches of planning laws, Ightham Parish Council continues to object, in the strongest possible terms, on behalf of the almost 50 residents, whom IPC represents, who are well-known to TMBC through their active opposition to the apparent flouting of planning laws at Woodfold. The occupants of Woodfold have, for the best part of a decade, indicated their inability to find a suitable alternative legal site, and the time elapsed would suggest that their efforts have not been strenuous. Furthermore, by definition a traveller is itinerant, yet the occupants seem to be afforded the status of travellers, when, in fact, they have been in one place for a number of years.
IPC understands that planning applications from occupants of properties adjoining or close to Woodfold have been refused permission to build properties for their families and, whilst IPC accepts that there are no precedents in planning, it would seem highly inappropriate for TMBC to operate what might seem to be double standards. IPC understands that there will shortly be appropriate accommodation within a reasonable distance at the Coldharbour site and sees this as the opportunity for TMBC to bring to an end the breaches of planning law which have taken place over the years at Woodfold.

Cllr Chartres reported that nothing further would happen for a while as TMBC is waiting for the implementation of draft legislation and for the Coldharbour site to be ready.

TM/11/01824/FL The Copse, Common Road, Ightham – detached double garage – no objection

TM/11/01985/TNCA Little Cluny, The Street, Ightham – Silver Birch – fell as damaging hard-standing (replant opposite side of access). Sycamore – Fell – self-seeded and outgrown situation – no objection providing Liz Gurthrie is content

TM/11/01944/FL 3 New Cottages, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch – enlargement of existing sand school. Change of use of land from paddock/grazing land to sand school/equestrian area – no objection.

Planning Applications Granted

TM/11/01214/FL The Chase, Sandy Lane, Ivy Hatch – part retrospective application for the erection of a 2.75m high plastic coated chain link fencing around tennis court

TM/11/01598/TNCA Glebe Cottage, Oldbury Lane, Ightham – remove 1 x Silver Birch which is situated next to driveway. The birch is unhealthy with a few hollows, dead ends of branches, a very thin canopy and if the birch fell it is close to the property

TM/11/01323/FL Fen Pond Cottage, Fen Pond Road, Ightham – single storey extension and single garage

TM/11/01111/FL Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch – application to retain existing entrance and exhibition building for a period of 5 years

Planning Appeal Decision – TM/11/00661/FL - Pine Ridge, Common Road, Ightham replacement garage – appeal dismissed

4. MINUTES of the meeting held on 19th July 2011 – were agreed and signed by the Chairman with one small amendment.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Kent Highways – items to be reported:

High Cross Road – potholes have been marked but no further action has been taken and they are now in a very bad state of repair
Coach Road – direction sign has been demolished
Coach Road pot holes along the whole length – too numerous to mention, and some are extremely deep. Also we should request that this is now put onto the resurfacing programme.

Coach Road sign has also been damaged (TMBC responsibility)

It was reported that Kent Highways ‘pay back team’ have carried out extensive vegetation clearance on the A25. However, Cllr Brierley reported that there are a large amount of branches and trees overhanging the footpath from Oldbury Place. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to the occupier asking for this to be cleared. Also letters would be passed to all councillors to distribute in their areas of responsibility.

Cllr Brierley had contacted Kent Highways as Old Lane had been resurfaced from Woodfold to the entrance at the A25. It appears that Kent Highways were not responsible for this, and it is assumed that the occupier of Woodfold had the work carried out. In addition, it was agreed that we should now contact Kent Highways again and advise them that the vegetation and debris needs clearing from the remainder of Old Lane and three large potholes filled in to make it safe enough for the Ightham School Walking Bus to use the Lane.

Cllr Chartres reported that Kent Highways has now replaced all the signage required around the Parish, including larger signs along the A25, an additional signs had been placed by TMBC at Mill Lane, High Cross Road, etc.

Mrs Chesson – lease for Guide hut – no reply had been received to our letter of 5th August.

Proposed new scout/football building - nothing further to report.

Proposed new car parking facilities on Recreation Ground – a letter has been received from TMBC stating that it was unable to validate the planning application due to further information being required in respect of protection of the Lime trees and traffic flow etc. It was suggested that Cllr Chartres speak to the architect and then the Chairman would contact Steve Humphrey at TMBC to express IPC’s concerns at unnecessary expenditure of public funds in processing a Community Project.

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebration – Coxcombe Fair – nothing further to report in the absence of Cllr Cracknell

Recreation ground – repairs to children’s roundabout – Cllr Willingham has had no success with two contacts he had been given. He is now attempting to contact Playsafe, who are used by TMBC, to see if they can help.

Dog-tying post for Recreation Ground – it was agreed that a post for four dogs should be installed and Cllr Mitchem has this in hand before the school returns for the autumn term.

Salt bin for Nutfields – nothing further to report until Kent Highways decision in the autumn.

Churchyard – dangerous tombstones – no further information received from St Peters

Lime trees on A25 by Recreation Ground – inspected by KCC and confirmed all are safe.

Lime trees in Ightham Recreation Ground – these have not yet been inspected by the tree consultant, Duncan Simpson. Cllr Chartres suggested that we ask Liz Guthrie, Tree Officer for TMBC to inspect them for us and at the

same time we could ask for her opinion on the mitigation that is proposed to minimise any impact on these tree roots by the proposed car park extension.

Bus shelter at end of Spring Lane – Cllr Willingham said due to staff holidays he has not been able to attend to this.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman had received a letter from Russett Homes regarding sheltered housing. This was passed to Cllr Brierley to pass to Mrs Gill Pitt of Darby & Joan Club.

TMBC – ‘Love where you Live’ – new anti-littering campaign and TMBC will keep us informed of progress. It was suggested that we invite David Campbell-Lenaghan to be the speaker at our Annual meeting in 2012 – the Clerk to invite him.

Burslems Stonemasons - offer of War Memorial cleaning for £350 plus VAT (2008 - £360.00 plus VAT) – it was agreed that we should accept this offer.

Tonbridge & Malling Citizens Advice Bureau – donation request (£100 donated in July 2010). It was agreed that we donate £100

South East Water – notification of water meter installation programme from 2012.

Cllr Brierley had received an invitation to attend a meeting of the Kent Voluntary Emergency Group and she will attend.

Email Correspondence.

Marius Carboni – Plaxtol PC – Neighbourhood Plans – it was decided that we do not wish to be involved and no reply is needed.

Road Closure – Oldbury Lane - 24th October for 5 days for gas mains replacement

7. FINANCE

The following accounts are submitted for payment:

Ruth Morris salary

£397.66

Ruth Morris –Expenses

£302.33

J P Stephens – website

£30.00

R Lee-Amies – work at War Memorial, Copt Hall Road and Village Hall car park

£485.21

Anthony Edwards – churchyard – June

£547.00

Anthony Edwards – Parish work

£126.75

KCC - Landscape Service – ground maintenance –first half yearly invoice

£132.00

VAT £26.40

£158.40

Ightham Village Hall – hire and storage charges

£168.00

Ightham History Project – Second payment

£250.00

Tonbridge & Malling CAB – Donation

£100.00

The Clerk reported that invoices were still not being received from Anthony Edwards as previously requested. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to him asking for invoices to be submitted in month following work and also pointing out that our Auditors have asked for details of work carried out.

Financial position at 31st July 2011

Current account - £1,383.13 (includes unpresented cheques for £309.98)
Deposit account – £80,402.90

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Holden reported that Kent has received funds for enhanced Broadband in rural areas.

The meeting closed at 9pm.