

IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2011 AT IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.45PM

Present: Cllr J Edwards (Chairman), Cllr S Brierley, Cllr R Chartres, Cllr P Cracknell, Cllr B Gillow, Cllr D Hall, Cllr M Holden, Cllr Willingham and nine members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr K Mitchem

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. Cllr Hall declared an interest in respect of the Fairlawne Estate Matter and Cllr Willingham declared a potential interest in respect of the Redwell planning application.

3. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- TM/11/00007/FL 17 Nutfields, Ightham – coppice one Salix and remove over-hanging branches from two others – no objection if Liz Guthrie is happy with the plan
- TM/11/00116/FL 13 Spring Lane, Ightham – single storey rear and side extension – no objection
- TM/11/00159/FL Warren Farm House, Tonbridge Road, Ightham – change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage (resubmission of TM/09/03129/FL) - we strongly support this application for change of use on the basis that the existing garden of Warren Farm House is very much on the small side for a family house and the enlargement will have a minimal impact on the openness of the Green Belt.
- TM/11/00268/TNCA Coquetdale, Oldbury Lane, Ightham T1: cut back branch from oak tree overhanging from neighbour. T2 crown lift oak and remove dead wood. T3: remove Christmas tree. T4: coppice Hazel - no objection if Liz Guthrie approves.
- TM/11/00276/TNCA The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Ightham – as detailed on schedule – summerised by: T1 Mulberry: 15% crown reduction; T2 Eucalyptus: reduce height by 3m min; T3 Oak: lift and reduce crown, T4 – Oak: remove dead branches. T5 – Beech: lift crown, T6 Holm Oak: fell, T7 Dove tree – dead wood, T8 Oak – remove dead/broken branches, T11 Cedar: remove dead broken branches, T14 and T15 – Sycamores: fell - no objection if Liz Guthrie approves.
- TM/10/03409/FL Woodhay, Copt Hall Road, Ightham – two storey side and single storey rear extensions: replace entrance porch; dormer to front and rear; replacement detached double garage – no objection
- TM/11/00218/FL Redwell, Redwell Lane, Ightham – construction of new parking area set within the existing bank to the east of the property with bin store – no objection

Planning Applications granted

- TM/10/02756/FL Spring Lane, Ightham – new single storey rear extension and replacement detached garage
- TM/10/03151/FL Theodore House, High Cross Road, Ivy Hatch – refurbishment, alteration and rebuild of existing coach house
- TM/10/02487/FL The Rowans, Bates Hill, Ightham – reconstruction of existing garage, changing existing extension roof from flat to pitched, removal of small rear extension and alterations to fenestration, enlargement of entrance drive to improve sight lines.

On planning matters, Cllr Chartres reported that the owners of Bank House had purchased a piece of land for parking their vehicles, thus removing them from the area in The Street but TMBC have turned down their request to use the land for parking. Cllr Chartres said he has had a long conversation with the owners and suggested that the Parish Council should support this because it conceals cars from The Street.

4. MINUTES of the meeting held on 18th January 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Kent Highways – items to be reported –
Numerous potholes around the parish had been reported to the Clerk for submission to Kent Highways.

On Highways matters Common Road and Back Lane are to be closed for a replacement water main. The Chairman said he had spoken to the contractors, who said that it will be some time before the closures take place and this will be on a slow rolling process, and there will always be access to residents' houses

Mrs Chesson – lease for Guide hut – no further correspondence has been received from Mrs Chesson and it was suggested that the Clerk send a reminder.

Removal of Telephone box in Sevenoaks Road – Cllr Chartres reported that a member from the BT national team had inspected and the telephone box has been tidied up, but it has no hand set. Removal will then be reviewed at the next national review.

Proposed new scout/football building – Cllr Holden presented plans, which were favourably received by all councillors. He said the Scouts have asked about their position regarding tenure and Cllr Holden said that the new building will be ours by virtue of the fact that it is situated on Parish council land. The Scouts would require a long lease and will come back to us with their proposals. Cllr Holden also said he feels we need clarity as to whether they have all funds in place before building begins.

Cllr Chartres said we should submit our application for car parking as soon as possible and it was agreed that we should appoint the same architect, ie Latitude.

Website update – The Clerk reported that she had still received no update from Ightham School, but the webmaster has now posted up-to-date Minutes. The Clerk said she still awaits updates from many organisations and businesses in Ightham, but as she has heard nothing she will assume no-one wants changes made. Therefore she will submit what information she has by the next meeting and consider it complete. Cllr Hall said the website is boring compared with other parishes, but the clerk said it was agreed that we should not expend funds on a revamp.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration – Coxcombe Fair – Cllr Cracknell has offered to form a committee and Cllr Chartres said he will deal with arranging for the road closure.

6.CORRESPONDENCE

Ivy Hatch – Fairlawne Estate – blocked paths – the Chairman read out a letter, which had been received from Dr Harland protesting about Fairlawne Estate fencing off the footpath along High Cross Road, which had been in regular use for many years, and an email he had sent to Cllr Hall fully supporting this protest. Members of the public, who had also protested and were attending the meeting for this item, were invited by the Chairman to speak at this point, and reiterated their views deploring the action taken by Fairlawne Estate. Cllr Hall explained that the Fairlawne Estate had carried out a boundary audit and it was not their intention to upset anyone. He said he is working on a solution to this problem and has taken an interim measure to open the gate into Scathes Wood. The Chairman suggested that we keep in contact with Fairlawne Estate and by the time of our next meeting, we hope to have a solution.

KCC Grounds Maintenance quotation – it was agreed that this should be accepted.

7. FINANCE

The following accounts are submitted for payment, proposed by Cllr Holden and seconded by Cllr Chartres.

Ruth Morris salary	£ 397.66
Ruth Morris – expenses	£ 280.84
J P Stephens – website	£ 30.00
AON Limited – Village Hall annual insurance premium	£2462.94
Ightham Village Hall – hire and storage fees	£141.00
Anthony Edwards – January accounts –Parish £461.60 – Church - £32.00	£493.60
R Lee-Amies	£206.35
Architects – re: new Scout/football hut – 2 invoices totalling	£4,150.00

Financial position at 31st January 2011

Current account - £3,868.71(includes unpresented cheques for £1906.80)

Deposit account – £55,534.00

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Chartres reported that Copt Hall Road will be completely resurfaced in mid-May and several roads in neighbouring parishes are scheduled for resurfacing.

Hope Farm: Cllr Chartres reported that Planning Committee members visited the site on 28th January and will report back to the Committee meeting. The poly tunnel only protrudes into the Green Belt by a very small amount and the only neighbour directly affected is not at all concerned by this.

Cllr Chartres reported that the Ightham School walking Bus has won the TMBC award for the Walking Bus Project and was presented with a trophy for the whole of Kent. He said the School may need more funding as the Government has stopped funding for walking buses.

Cllr Cracknell said there had been a further meeting for the Village Fair and asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to sponsor an item such as programme printing in the sum of £200-£250 and this was agreed.

She also said that St Peter's prepare the village information Booklet and asked if the cost of this could be borne by the Parish Council as in the past. This was also agreed.

Cllr Cracknell raised the question of difficulty in attempting to make a hall booking. The Clerk said she had also had difficulty in contacting Mrs Austin and Cllr Willingham said he knew of the problem, but it was difficult to get anyone to take on the bookings and caretakers job. It was felt that with the present situation bookings are undoubtedly being lost.

Cllr Brierley reported that the small pedestrian gate into the Recreation Ground needs attention and Cllr Willingham said he will speak to Mr Lee-Amies regarding its repair.

Cllr Brierley also said that she is attending the Kent Heritage Trees Project on 10th July.

Cllr Hall asked if there was any further news in respect of the Chequers Inn redevelopment. Cllr Chartres said he felt we should write to TMBC asking for consideration to be given to a footpath through from the Village Hall Car Park to The Street. He suggested that the Chairman should write to Katie Iggleden saying that we would like to have this considered with the planning application.

Cllr Willingham said that the Pavilion light has been repaired. He said that the Pavilion is absolutely filthy and he is going to speak to Mr Hitchcock, who is the person responsible for the Football Club and if they cannot keep it clean, then we must ask them to leave.

He also said that the stopcock in the Pavilion had been turned on and this has caused water damage.

Ightham School had requested an estimate from Edward Tyrrell (Fencing) Limited for the repair of the chestnut fencing behind the goal area. The quotation is in the sum of £89.00 plus VAT and it was agreed that this cost should be borne by the Parish Council and the Clerk should write to Tyrrell's confirming this.

Cllr Gillow reported that Ightham Mote reopens fully on 5th March. Scathes Wood coppicing has now been completed and paths will be reinstated.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting should be held on Thursday 7th April.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.