

IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 18th JANUARY 2011 AT IGHAM 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 K Mitchem, Cllr Willingham.

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. None

3. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- TM/10/03151/FL Theodore House, High Cross Road, Ivy Hatch – refurbishment, alteration and rebuild of existing Coach House – no objection
- 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 – no objection on the assumption that materials used will match existing.
- TM/10/03463/LB Bewley Farm, Tonbridge Road, Ightham – LBA: conversion of existing derelict Granary (storage)
TM/10/03462/FL building into 4 bedroom single family dwelling house – we have no objection to the proposed conversion which will ensure the survival of a listed farm building with no further agricultural use. There may, however, be a problem with the north facing windows which overlook Bewley House. We are not clear whether the granary is within the garden curtilage or not and must leave it to TMBC to decide on the planning policy implications of its location.

Planning Applications granted

- TM/10/02482/FL Hope Farm, Sandy Lane, Ightham – replace existing fence along northern boundary of the Paddock adjacent to the public bridal path with a similar fence of timber posts about 1.3 metres high with stock netting.
- TM/10/02268/TPOC Land adjacent to 13 & 14 Fen Meadow, Ightham – felling/coppicing Oaks causing subsidence of 13 Fen Meadow. Willows are old and structurally weak and collapsing over boundary fence (TPO ref 12-24-15)
- TM/10/02939/FLX Boundary Cottage, Fen Pond Road, Ightham – extension of time limit of planning permission TM/07/03174/FL (extension to garage - increase in height) to enable roof void to be used as a home gym
- TM/10/03129/FL 1 Copt Hall Cottages, Ismays Road, Ightham – construction of a detached garage (resubmission of application TM/10/00505/FL)

Planning Applications refused

- TM/10/02846/FL Lambtons, High Cross Road, Ivy Hatch – internal alterations and addition of 2 no dormer windows to front elevation together with 2 no conservation windows to each oast
- TM/10/03067/FL Long Ridge, Common Road, Ightham – demolish existing garage/outbuilding, construction of single and two storey side and rear extensions including double garage

Planning Applications withdrawn

- TM/10/02923/FL Planet Plants, Back Lane, Ightham – erection of a detached dwelling for occupation by horticultural manager and partner of Planet Plants Nursery.

Planning Appeal

- TM/10/02239/FL The Well Springs, Rectory Lane, Ightham – single storey rear and side extension – (resubmission of TM/10/00419/FL)

Other Planning matters

Hope Farm – Cllr Chartres said there is an enforcement visit planned for the following week, but the Parish Council and near neighbours are not invited. The poly tunnel is hidden away, but won't be if it is moved outside the garden curtilage. He said we

had not been advised of the enforcement notice due to a change of procedure, and the Chairman said he has complained to TMBC and Cllr Chartres said he will send an email along those lines.

The Chequers Public House – the Chairman had received a telephone call from Niche Developments advising that they have purchased the property with the intention of converting the public house into two cottages and the barn into a single dwelling. Their insurers insisted that they erect hoardings to prevent vandalism. They will be applying to TMBC for planning permission.

4. MINUTES of the meeting held on 21st December 2010 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Mitchem for compiling the Minutes in the absence of the Clerk.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Kent Highways – items to be reported

A25 between Common Road and Coach Road – two signs have been demolished

Stop sign at Ismays Road junction with Common Road has still not been replaced.

Drain blocked on Bates Hill outside Elmhurst

Drain on A227 outside Double Dance is badly broken – sprayed with paint about a year ago, but no further action

Mrs Chesson – lease for Guide hut - nothing further to report – no reply has been received from Mrs Chesson.

Removal of Telephone box in Sevenoaks Road - Cllr Chartres is in communication with BT who advise that we can purchase the kiosk for £1 and dispose of it ourselves, but we would be responsible for the cost of disconnecting the electricity etc. He has advised them of the dilapidated state of the kiosk and has sent a list of items needing repair/refurbishment. The Chairman said we should keep pressure on BT to remove the kiosk themselves and reinstate the site. and let Cllr Chartres continue the battle.

Proposed new scout/football building – Cllr Holden said this is progressing and we will be receiving accounts for consultancy and architect's fees. The Chairman stressed that these should be received during this financial year.

Website update and redesign – following the meeting in December it was generally felt that it is not necessary to redesign the website which would incur costs for the Parish Council. The Clerk reported that, having checked the website it appears that our webmaster is not keeping it up to date and that the latest Minutes appearing are for September. It was suggested that perhaps we should look for a new webmaster. The Clerk also reported that despite several email requests no update had been received from Ightham Primary School. Cllr Cracknell said she would pursue this with the headmistress.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Mary Allwood has written to the the Parish Council suggesting a Coxcombe Fair to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. It was agreed that we should celebrate this and the Clerk was asked to reply to Mrs Allwood. The Chairman said it will be necessary to obtain permission to close the road. Cllr Cracknell said St Peter's has already appointed Diane Coleman to the committee for the Jubilee fair.

Dorman Varitex Vehicle Activated Signs – the council agreed that we should obtain prices from this company and also contact our Liaison Officer at Kent Highways to ascertain if we can get SID or SAD signs free of charge.

Royal British Legion – Great Poppy Party Weekend – although it was agreed that this was a good idea it falls the week before and therefore too close to our Village Fete

7. FINANCE

Setting of the Precept for 2011/2012

Budget figures were presented to all councilors for 2011/2012 along with Income and Expenditure accounts for the current year. The Chairman explained that he had met with Clls Hall, Holden and Chartres and they had agreed that our Precept should be increased by 40% in view of the fact that there are no funds available from other sources including TMBC and KCC and we needed to have monies available for the new scout/football building and associated car parking.. This was agreed by all councilors.

The following accounts are submitted for payment, proposed by Cllr Mitchem and seconded by Cllr Willingham

Ruth Morris salary		397.66
J P Stephens – website		30.00
KCC Commercial Service – half yearly grounds maintenance charge	855.38 VAT 154.94	1040.32
Samaritans, Tunbridge Wells – donation		100.00
Ightham History Project – 50% of agreed contribution towards Ightham history book		250.00

Additional account for payment - Received 15th January 2011

Anthony Edwards 2 accounts for Churchyard for October, November & December (£1138.80)	
And Parish work for same period (£518.00) – total:	1656.80

Discussion took place on the fact that Mr Anthony Edwards had presented his invoices covering a 3 month period, which meant that our budgets for the churchyard and parish work has been exceeded. The Clerk said she had assumed, as was the case with Mr Lee Amies, that no work was being carried out during the winter months. The Clerk was asked to write asking him to present his invoices monthly to reach us before our meetings on the third Tuesday in the month.

Financial position at 31st December 2010

Current account - £5,437.02 (includes unrepresented cheque for £30.00)
Deposit account – £55,526.72

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Chartres reported that Nutfields have formed a residents association partly because of difficulties with the management company.

Cardboard skip on Village Hall car park – Cllr Chartres said James Reid is in negotiation with Smurfitt attempting to get a skip with larger apertures as the current one has small apertures which is causing a build-up a large cardboard boxes outside and on top of the skip and on the ground. If he is unable to resolve the problem he will have the skip removed.

Cllr Gillow apologised for the fact that Ightham Mote was closed for the Parish Council's December meeting and suggested a summer meeting this year.

Ightham Mote opens in March for the 2011 season.

Scathes Wood coppicing has stopped due to the weather and ground conditions.

Cllr Cracknell said arrangements are going well for the village fair.

She said comments had been made that the footpaths in the village were icy during the heavy snow in December. Cllr Chartres suggested that we should ask residents to clear snow outside their houses in the centre of the village and ask Anthony Edwards to clear the rest. Cllr Cracknell said an article will be placed in the magazine about the taking of salt for private use. Cllr Chartres suggested a notice in each salt bin saying it is for highway use only and not for private use – Cllr Cracknell volunteered to make up the signs.

Cllr Brierly said she had contacted Liz Guthrie at TMBC regarding unauthorised tree work, which was being carried out at Coquetdale as they had already taken down one tree and cut back others, including one belonging to a neighbour. The Chairman suggested a note be placed in the summer issue of the magazine advising parishioners to contact Liz Guthrie at TMBC with any doubts and queries about trees in conservation areas.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.