

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**

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**Present:** Councillors P J Crowe (Chairman), M Maxwell, C R Thurstance D Chapallaz, K Goldie, G Palmer and T Stephenson.

**Officer present:** Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

**Also present for part of the meeting:** PCSO Pam Hope and 32 members of the public.

**110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

110.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Carlyle (work commitment), County Cllr Nigel Brook, District Cllr Tricia Cowley and PC Katie Hull.

**111 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

111.1 No 'personal' nor 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda were received.

111.2 Councillors are advised to review their respective Register of Interests and update them if necessary.

**112 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010.**

112.1 Following a proposal from Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed unanimously it was

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.**

**113 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION.**

113.1 Members of public present voiced their objections to the traffic calming works that had commenced February 2010.

113.2 IPC was asked who wrote the Parish Plan Questionnaire. IPC advised it had been written by the Parish Plan Steering Committee that had been formed.

113.3 IPC was asked who wrote the Traffic Consultation Questionnaire. IPC advised it had been written by IPC and HH.

113.4 IPC was asked who counted the votes. IPC advised that a group of volunteers (which included Parish Councillors) counted various different areas which were then passed to the parish clerk who re-counted them. All results and reply slips were sent to HH who also counted them.

113.5 IPC was asked who prioritised the actions from the Parish Plan. IPC explained that all actions were looked at and continue to be reviewed. However, many actions were subject to funding received and if they were feasible.

113.6 One resident who was a paramedic asked if HH had considered the emergency vehicles as the introduction of the speed humps would reduce response time and he was also concerned about the comfort of patients in ambulances when travelling over them. IPC confirmed that HH had considered this and had taken this into consideration when they selected the type of speed cushion.

113.7 One resident said that there had been an increase in noise since the raised zebra crossing had been installed.

- 113.8 Several residents present asked if the work could be stopped and IPC were strongly encouraged to put pressure on HH to stop the work.
- 113.9 PCSO Pam Hope said she had been made aware that some residents had approached members of the Parish Council in the street. She reminded residents to always do this with respect as the police will not tolerate anyone being bullied or threatened.
- 113.10 Questions were raised about only 60% responding to the questionnaire and whether IPC actually had a majority. IPC explained that all residents had been given the opportunity to vote and a 60% response rate was considered high. General elections don't even get that turn out.
- 113.11 One resident said that he had attended the public meeting in Oct 2008 and had voted against the speed humps. However, he acknowledged that IPC had consulted all residents and accepted democracy.
- 113.12 IPC were presented with a print out of the comments from people who have signed the www.mostsimply.com petition. It had 79 comments but no names or addresses.

**114 UPDATE FROM THE POLICE.**

114.1 Crime report from Community Police.

PC Katie Hull advised there had been 3 crimes since 4<sup>th</sup> February. There were

- 2 Criminal Damage
- 1 Burglary

**115 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS.**

115.1 Proposed Burial Ground.

Cllr Thurstance reported that the regulations have almost been finalised. The charges have now been agreed and will be published in due course. The signboard has been completed and is just waiting to have the letters painted. The plaque board is almost complete. The opening ceremony will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30 am.

115.2 Rural Programme New Travel Plan

IPC discussed the closed session and the speed hump petition that residents are being encouraged to sign. IPC felt they had a duty to continue with the works as they had consulted all residents in October 2008 with the following results

SCHEME:	LOCAL RESULTS		VILLAGE WIDE RESULTS	
	% households returned	% residents support	% households returned	% residents support
Turnpike Lane	59%	75%	60%	64%
Arlesey Road (north)	61%	68%		68%
Chambers Lane	67%	72%		83%
Bedford Road	38%	100%		85%

It was agreed that IPC would write a letter to all residents explaining why IPC had endorsed the proposals and why other traffic calming suggestions had been discounted by HH. Cllr Maxwell to draft and all Councillors to review. **ALL**

Scheduled work had been delayed in Turnpike Lane due to other road closures in Hitchin. Work on Arlesey Road will commence again once the resurfacing has settled.

Following a recent incident in Chiswick where a lamp post fell on a toddler, IPC are to ask HH the robustness of the new lamp posts recently installed. **Clk**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010 a tree fell onto Turnpike Lane. The tree was from the Manor. HH and IPC have requested that Joe Ward (the land owner) arranges an inspection of all trees adjacent to the Highway and undertakes appropriate works.

115.3 Cadwell Bridge

Cllr Stephenson reported that Network Rail had agreed to contribute £19,138 towards safety improvements at Cadwell Bridge. Cllr Thurstance met with Hilary Freeman, HCC on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. HCC's signals team have investigated three different signal controlled options and are putting together details setting out the pros and cons of each at the moment. They will need to seek independent safety advice to incorporate in the final report.

The options are:

1. Push button operated, flashing red signals that stop all motor traffic (a bit like the sort of thing you sometimes see outside of fire stations).
2. More normal, three aspect signals that will generally show green to traffic on both approaches. They would be push-button operated to change both approaches to red to allow pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders through.
3. Alternate shuttle working that allows traffic through in one direction at a time and frees up enough space under the bridge to create a narrow footway.

115.4 Garage area and Little Park behind Turnpike Lane.

Cllr Crowe reported that he had met NHH on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010. NHH had advised that they are looking at feasible options for affordable housing and allotments.

115.5 Horses crossing the car park at ISRC

There was mixed opinion whether it was safer for horses to cross the car park or continue to exit onto Chambers Lane. Cllr Stephenson felt that it would be safer for horses to cross the car park as they would not have to go on a road. Cllr Thurstance was concerned about horses being in a car park with the children's play area so close. Cllr Thurstance was also concerned about the potential damage to the car park as although the surface meets bridleway conditions, there are areas that are soft that would get damaged. This was discussed and it was agreed that horses would not be allowed to cross the car park by vote with 5 Councillors in favour and 2 Councillors (Cllr Stephenson and Cllr Goldie) against.

115.6 Height restriction for ISRC car park

The all-in-one 3.6m wide gate and height restriction barrier will be installed as agreed.

115.7 Hyde Mill

Cllr Thurstance reported that Mrs Parker's solicitors are still working on transferring the land. When the land is transferred there will be a condition stating that it is prohibited for anyone to use the land for anything other than archaeological reasons. IPC will also need to erect a fence around the area.

115.8 Village of the Year 2010 competition

Deadline for entries is 29 April 2010. The clerk to complete the entry form and distribute to all Councillors for comments. **Clk**

115.9 Annual Parish Meeting (25<sup>th</sup> March 2010)

All Councillors have been supplied a draft copy of the poster / flyer. It will cost £140 to print 850 A5 flyers, 4 A4 posters and 1 A3 poster. It was agreed to have these posters and flyers printed. Flyers to be distributed by 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

**116 NEW MATTERS.**

116.1 Dog fouling on Arlesey Road

There has been an increase of dog fouling between Witter Avenue and the School. The Police and NHDC have been made aware of this.

116.2 Mapboards

IPC's grant application to NHDC to replace the two map boards has been unsuccessful. The cost to replace them is £467.50. This was discussed and following a proposal from Cllr Maxwell and seconded by Cllr Goldie and agreed unanimously it was

**RESOLVED**

**That IPC would have these boards replaced.**

**REASON**

**To continue to encourage people to use the footpaths in Ickleford by making them aware of where they are.**

Cllr Chapallaz to coordinate.

**DC**

116.3 Extra screening for ISRC/Burial Ground car park

Cllr Crowe had visited this area and suggested that a planting a tree may provide the extra screening that is required. This was discussed and it was agreed that a flowering cherry would look nice. Cllr Crowe to get quotations.

**PJC**

116.4 Chapel Field

Richard Nicholls has confirmed that he is retaining Chapel Field to graze horses in.

**117 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

117.1 10/00191/1HH 1 Greenfield Avenue, Ickleford. SG5 3XR

Part two storey and part single storey rear extension.

The planning application was discussed and it was

**RESOLVED**

**That IPC would not object to this application.**

**REASON**

**IPC see no planning reasons to object.**

**118 PLANNING DECISIONS.**

118.1 No planning decisions have been received.

**119 CORRESPONDENCE.**

- 119.1 RAK – Asking if IPC have any suggestions for the name of the road for the new properties on the old Ickleford Garage site. Suggestion for names from Councillors includes Garfore Court, Mallard Close, Pump Drive and Pump Lane. Councillors to think of other suggestions. **ALL**
- 119.2 St Paul's Warden PC – Volunteers can be trained to use equipment to monitor speeding traffic. Cost of equipment is either £2,000 or £3,000. Councillors discussed this and it was agreed that IPC would not participate.
- 119.3 Resident – Requesting IPC and CMS look to provide suitable alternative nesting sites for the skylarks. IPC had looked at alternatives and there were no suitable sites so it was agreed that nature would be allowed to take its course as birds will always find nesting areas.
- 119.4 Resident – Requesting the complete set of results for the traffic calming survey. It was agreed that this information could be supplied by the clerk. **Clk**
- 119.5 CPRE – February 2010 newsletter.
- 119.6 HAPTC – February 2010 newsletter. Includes training dates
- 119.7 Department of Transport – Transport and Works Act 1992: Application for the proposed Network Rail (Hitchin (Cambridge Junction)) Order. The inquiry will open at 10.00 am on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at the Spirella Ballroom, Bridge Road, Letchworth Garden City.
- 119.8 Hertfordshire Police Authority – Launch of Hertfordshire's Policing Plan 2010/13. Cllr Crowe to attend. **PJC**

**120 FINANCE.**

- 120.1 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting.  
No receipts have been received.
- 120.2 To approve payments for the month of March 2010  
Following a proposal from Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Goldie and agreed unanimously the payments of £4,584.43 were approved and the cheques were signed.

**121 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES.**

- 121.1 Common Holders.  
Cllr Thurstance reported that Defra had advised they would not be paying any money towards the upkeep of the Common in the future. Basil Plews and Mike Wadsworth are looking into this.
- 121.2 Rand's Educational Foundation Governors  
Cllr Thurstance reported that grants had been awarded to organisations at the last meeting. Ickleford Cricket Club received £1,000 towards coaching course fees, for additional coaches, to support the increase in the number of colts and St Katharine's Church Choir received £200 towards new books.
- 121.3 Ickleford Village Hall Committee.  
Cllr Crowe reported that the committee are investigating new curtains and having professional cleaners to clean the hall.

121.4 Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club Committee

Cllr Crowe reported the committee had been presented with the draft accounts which showed a £1,608 profit. This was slightly lower than previous years due to the way squash subscriptions are now paid.

**122 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.**

122.1 The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm.

122.2 The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.