

**MINUTES FOR THE PARISH MEETING OF  
ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 8.40 PM  
ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011**

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**Present:** Councillors Miles Maxwell, (Chairman), Philip J Crowe, Mick Barber, David Chapallaz, Samantha Taylor and Colin R Thurstance.

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

**Also present for part or all of the meeting:**

106 residents from Ickleford + 4 residents from Hitchin

**1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

1.1 As Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Maxwell presided the meeting and requested Katrina Henshaw, Proper Officer of the Council to take the minutes.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Kathy Goldie (another commitment), Cllr Stuart Gray (away) and 1 resident.

**3 INTRODUCTION**

3.1 This Parish Meeting was convened by six local government electors of the parish of Ickleford and the business to be transacted at the meeting was to propose having a Referendum of the whole Parish to be held regarding the removal of the roads humps (16 road cushions and 3 flat top humps).

3.2 One of the six local government electors of the parish of Ickleford who had called the meeting gave a brief outline for their reasons requesting a Poll.

- It is known that there are people for and against humps but not how many.
- Road humps do slow down traffic but do they make it safer?
- Prior to the humps no fatal accidents.
- The most dangerous road through Ickleford is Bedford Road and the safety improvements have done nothing to make this road safer.
- Humps in local area (Letchworth) have not been properly maintained.
- Ickleford residents have not had the chance to vote on having humps.
- The humps have been in place for approximately one year which is a reasonable time to measure their impact on quality of life in the village.
- Request for a closed ballot as he claimed that some residents had said they felt intimidated by IPC and worried they may have planning applications refused.

3.3 The Chairman responded by explaining

- The whole village was surveyed in October 2008 and voted 2:1 in favour of the schemes.
- Following the Safety Audit comments and the undertaking of the B&A report, Hertfordshire Highways considers the scheme successful and complete.
- A Parish Poll is not binding.
- A Parish Poll would cost the Parish Council £1,000 as estimated by NHDC. Cllr Maxwell asked if 'Most Simply' would be prepared to pay towards this cost as they had previously offered to contribute towards costs to re-ballot the village. They declined.
- Cllr Maxwell explained that IPC had not budgeted for a Parish Poll so IPC would need to decide where to take the money from. The only money that is unallocated is money budgeted for grants to village organisations. He invited residents to offer suggestions as to which organisations should receive less. No one volunteered.

3.4 The Chairman advised residents that IPC had received an email assuring them that provided this poll proceeds fairly and as requested, and the result demonstrates little support for the removal of the road humps then it is guaranteed that the www.mostsimply.com campaign will stop. Cllr Maxwell asked 'Most Simply' to define little support. They declined.

#### **4 DISCUSSION ON TRAFFIC CALMING AND PARISH POLLS**

4.1 There was a lengthy debate amongst the residents present about the traffic calming with strong feelings both for and against the speed cushions and humps.

4.2 There was then a debate on Parish Polls. Again there were strong feelings for and against Parish Polls. Some residents thought it would be of interest to find out what the village wants. Other residents felt that Parish Polls were a waste of public money

#### **5 VOTE ON HAVING A PARISH POLL**

5.1 The Chairman asked only the local government electors for the Parish of Ickleford to vote with a show of hands if they wanted to have a parish poll on the removal of the humps. The votes were counted by the Chairman and one of the six local government electors of the parish of Ickleford who had called the meeting. The results were

- 52 For having a Parish Poll
- 61 Against having a Parish Poll

#### **6 DEMAND FOR A PARISH POLL**

6.1 A Poll was then demanded by ten local government electors of the parish of Ickleford.

#### **7 QUESTION FOR THE PARISH POLL**

7.1 After a discussion on the wording of the question, a resident proposed that the question should be 'Provided there is a pedestrian crossing outside the school, do you want all road humps (16 road cushions and 3 flat-top humps) in Ickleford removed (YES/NO)?' This was seconded by another resident and the Chairman asked only the local government electors for the Parish of Ickleford to vote with a show of hands if they agreed to the wording of this question. The votes were counted by the Chairman and one of the six local government electors of the parish of Ickleford who had called the meeting. The results were

- 55 Agreed with the wording
- 36 Disagreed with the wording
- 21 Abstained

The Chairman to notify the Returning Officer at NHDC that a Parish Poll has been demanded and the wording of the question is, 'Provided there is a pedestrian crossing outside the school, do you want all road humps (16 road cushions and 3 flat-top humps) in Ickleford removed (YES/NO)?'

**MM**

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.