

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 8th December 2011

Present: Parish Councillors M Maxwell (Chairman), M Barber, D Chapallaz, K Goldie, S Gray and C Thurstance

Officer present: Pauline Martin (Parish Clerk)

Also present for part of the meeting: County Councillor Brook

96 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

96.1 Apologies for absence received from Cllr Crowe (holiday)

97 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

97.1 Cllr Goldie disclosed a personal interest in Item 103.2 as the planning application is for her property. She will not be involved in the council's decision in connection with this application.

97.2 Prior to the meeting Cllr Crowe disclosed a personal interest in Item 103.7 as the planning application is for his property. He will not be involved in the council's decision in connection with this application.

98 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

98.1 Following a proposal from Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Taylor it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2011 are approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

99 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

99.1 No residents were present.

100 UPDATE FROM POLICE

100.1 The clerk read out a report received from PCSO Masella. The report stated that PCSO Masella had taken the speed indicator device to the village on several occasions during the last month. She had used it at different times to get a varied result. If someone was found exceeding the speed limit they would be sent a warning letter. So far no-one has been found speeding. PCSO Masella has also been at the school at the end of the day to monitor parking and chat to parents and has been a regular visitor to Glebe House. She met with the new owners of the Green Man and continues to do regular patrols around the village.

The clerk was asked to get in touch with PCSO Masella and ask if the police could also target motorists using their mobile phones or not wearing seatbelts. **CIK**

100.2 Joint Panel Meeting

The clerk advised that during a recent conversation PC Bridget Jones had advised that Joint Panel Meetings would be coming to an end to be replaced by Community Messaging, an internet based forum to decide police priorities in the ward. Nonetheless there is to be a Neighbourhood Engagement Panel meeting for any interested parties and businesses on Tuesday 10 January with a view to producing a locality plan. Cllr Barber volunteered to attend this meeting and items for him to bring to the attention of the panel will be discussed at the January Parish Council meeting. **MB**

101 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS AND TO CONSIDER/AGREE NEXT ACTIONS.

101.1 Rural Programme Travel Plan

Cllr Gray is still waiting for his ID which has been ordered. He will advise when he has anything further to report. **SG**

- 101.2 Garage area and Little Park behind Turnpike Lane
There have been no further developments on this project.
- 101.3 Hyde Mill
Arborcare attended the site to remove the trees whose roots were causing a problem. Subsequently a complaint was received from a resident of Laurel Way about the removal of trees as the gas works in Hitchin are now visible from their property. Cllr Thurstance explained that the area was not a conservation area and therefore did not require planning permission. Also some of the screening was lost due to work that had taken place on Mrs Parker's land and therefore was not due to actions by the Parish Council. In addition the tree roots, as well as causing a problem for the Hyde Mill excavations, were detrimental to the stability of the weir. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the residents to pass on this information. **Cik**
- 101.4 Mapboards
Cllr Chapallaz has not been able to resolve this matter. It was agreed that the clerk would look into alternative solutions. **Cik**
- 101.5 Ways to prevent parking on the Common Land opposite The Cricketers
Cllr Gray spoke to the landlord of the Cricketers and asked if he could put out cones when an event was taking place. The landlord was in agreement with this. Cllr Barber spoke to Herts Highways about the yellow lines in the bus layby and was assured that these are as they should be and that delivery lorries would not be penalised for parking there.
- 101.6 Bus shelter renovation
The clerk has obtained a second quote for the renovation work from Justin Ramsey of £645 + Vat. This compared favourably with the previous quote. Before making a decision, Cllr Barber will discuss the details of the work involved to ensure that it is a like for like quotation and that the correct materials will be used. **MB**
It was also brought to the Council's attention that some of the white posts on the Village Green could do with painting. The clerk will speak to Rob Carter who has in the past arranged for these to be painted. **Cik**
- 101.7 Moving of bus stop
Cllr Barber has been in discussion with Daniel Tanock from the Passenger Transport Unit. He will come back to us with further information and associated costs. **MB**
- 101.8 Proposed Youth Club
Cllr Taylor reported that this is moving forward. Ickleford School has now agreed to host the Youth Club. This seemed a more practical solution as the Sports and Recreation Club would be unable to accommodate the Youth Club once the cricket season starts. Cllr Taylor will agree a rent with the school and check that the school's insurance covers the Youth Club for any possible damage and liability. **ST**
- 101.9 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday Event for the village in 2012.
Cllr Gray advised that the Family Fun Day can be held at Ickleford JMI School. There will be a disco, bar and possibly some form of entertainer. Other ideas are still being discussed e.g. 50's themed event in the Village Hall. Cllr Maxwell will also ask the school if they will be providing a commemorative item for the children to mark the occasion. **MM/SG/MB/ST**
- 101.10 Driveway Lighting at ISRC
The clerk has obtained a quote to replace the broken lamp bowl. The cost is £65 + VAT. Following a proposal from Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Thurstance it was
RESOLVED
To have the lamp bowl cover replaced. **Cik**
- 101.11 PCSO Funding
The Council discussed whether residents were getting value for money from the co-funded PCSO arrangement, and were not convinced that this was the case. Following a proposal

from Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gray a vote was taken on whether to continue with the PCSO Funding.

Cllr Maxwell, Chapallaz, Gray, Taylor and Thurstance voted against continuing

Cllr Barber voted to continue

Cllr Goldie abstained

It was therefore

RESOLVED

Not to renew the PCSO contract when it is due for renewal at the end of March 2012

REASON

Ickleford has not been receiving a value for money service

102 NEW MATTERS

102.1 Advertising Boards on Common Lane

Cllr Maxwell advised that this matter was discussed as recently as July and at that time it was agreed that no action need be taken. As per the standing orders six months needs to have passed before a matter can be discussed again. Therefore this item will be discussed at the January Parish Council Meeting.

102.2 Procedure for dealing with Planning Applications

The planning applications are currently not being as efficiently as they could be. Therefore following a proposal by Cllr Goldie and seconded by Cllr Taylor it was

RESOLVED

That planning applications be dealt with electronically in future

REASON

To speed up the process

Any councillor wishing to view large scale drawings can obtain these from the Clerk.

103 Planning Applications

103.1 CB/11/02835/Full – Land at Arlesey Landfill Site, Mill Lane, Arlesey Single wind renewable energy turbine and associated sub-station

Arlesey Town Council did not respond fully to Ickleford Parish Council's request for their views on this application.

The councillors looked at the application in more detail and sent the following response to Central Bedfordshire Council

Ickleford Parish Councils **objects** to this application

REASON

The wind turbine will be visible and audible from certain areas of Ickleford and will affect the tranquillity of Ickleford Common, an acknowledged area of natural beauty.

103.2 11/02638/1HH – 21 Longmeadow Drive, Ickleford SG5 3TJ Single storey rear extension with lantern roof.

Cllr Goldie has declared a personal and prejudicial interest as it this is her property and would therefore not be involved in any discussions on this application

As agreed in minute ref 89.2 the planning advisors looked at the application in more detail between meetings and sent the following response to NHDC

Ickleford Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

REASON

Ickleford Parish Council could see no planning issues

- 103.3 11/02566/1HH – Gable House, Westmill Lane, Ickleford SG5 3RN
Erection of single storey garage/office/garden store and ancillary rooms following demolition of existing Garage.

As agreed in minute ref 89.3 the planning advisors looked at the application in more detail between meetings and sent the following response to NHDC

Ickleford Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

REASON

Ickleford Parish Council could see no planning issues

- 103.4 11/0203/1HH – Oughton Barn, Bedford Road, Ickleford
Retention of two storey rear extension and detached carport

Due to NHDC deadlines the planning advisors looked at the application between meetings and sent the following response to NHDC

Ickleford Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

REASON

Ickleford Parish Council could see no planning issues

- 103.5 11/02857/1HH – 15 Ryder Way, Ickleford SG5 3XN
Single storey rear extension

Due to the NHDC deadline, councillors will look into and respond to this application between meetings

KG/SG/DC

- 103.6 11/02844/1 – House Martins Barn, Westmill Lane, Ickleford SG5 3RP
2 x solar pv slates on the south roof of Barn 1 and 2 x solar pv slates on the east roof of barn 2

Due to the NHDC deadline, councillors will look into and respond to this application between meetings

KG/SG/DC

- 103.7 11/02883/1HH – 27 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford SG5 3XB
Single storey front porch and lounge extension

Cllr Crowe has declared a personal and prejudicial interest as it this is his property and would therefore not be involved in any discussions on this application

The planning advisors looked into this application at the meeting and it was agreed that the following response would be sent to NHDC

Ickleford Parish Council has **no objections** to this application

REASON

Ickleford Parish Council could see no planning issues

104 PLANNING DECISIONS.

- 104.1 None made.

105 FINANCE

- 105.1 Budget Forecast for the remainder of 2011/12

All councillors were supplied with Appendix A showing the predicted expenditure for the remainder of this year and the estimated monies to be carried forward. Please note that the money for Cadwell Bridge and Little Park is ring-fenced specifically for these projects.

105.2 Budget 2012/13

The expected expenditure was discussed and following a proposal by Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Barber and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That the Precept would remain at £42,500 and that the money would be allocated as follows

	2012/13 Precept	Estimated Money carried over	Total available
Wages	£10,000.00	£2,099.39	£12,099.39
Admin	£6,750.00	-£3,092.63	£3,657.37
Open Spaces	£5,000.00	-£589.84	£4,410.16
Recreation Facilities	£3,000.00	£1,729.30	£4,729.30
Village Improvements / Repairs	£625.00	£1,749.83	£2,374.83
Burial Ground	£3,750.00	-£520.42	£3,229.58
Little Park	£1,000.00	£11,225.65	£12,225.65
Grants	£4,000.00	£2,168.13	£6,168.13
Small Project Fund / Youth Club	£250.00	£500.00	£750.00
Cadwell Bridge	£0.00	£27,625.00	£27,625.00
PCSO	£7,125.00	£93.75	£7,218.75
Hyde Mill Project Fund	£0.00	£525.75	£525.75
MISC incl. Diamond Jubilee	£1,000.00	£20.28	£1,020.28
	£42,500.00	£43,534.19	£86,034.19

105.3 Payments since last meeting

Following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance, seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously the following payments were approved

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ickleford Village Hall	Grant as agreed	102424	£500.00
ISRC	Grant as agreed	102425	£2,000.00
Ickleford Pre-School	Grant as agreed	102426	£1,230.00
St Kats Junior Church	Grant as agreed	102427	£190.00
		TOTAL PAID	£3,920.00

105.4 Receipts since last meeting

<u>Receipt From</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
North Herts Partnership	Grant from Rural Community Pot	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	£1,000.00

105.5 Payments for the month of December

Following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance, seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously payments totalling £4,206.70 were approved

106 REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Brook advised that Council Tax will remain unchanged for the forthcoming financial year. He also explained that he had a Highways Budget of £90,000 which had to be split between 8 parishes. Each parish had sent him a wish list – the total of which far exceeded the budget so it was decided that each parish would get 1 item. In the case of Ickleford, this is the resurfacing of Walnut Way.

107 OTHER REPORTS**107.1 Parish Paths Partnership.**

A meeting took place with the Groundwork's team which was very positive. It was agreed that £1000 would be earmarked for Ickleford Parish Council. A quote, which is within budget, has already been obtained from Maydencroft for the work that needs to be completed on FP7 and the kissing gate.

107.2 Ickleford Primary School Governors

Cllr Maxwell reported that the school finances are in good shape and that the new head is settling in well.

107.3 Rand's Educational Foundation Governors

Cllr Thurstance advised that the Trust had allocated 31 university grants of £550 each and 15 sixth form grants of £120 each.

107.4 Ickleford Village Hall Committee

Cllr Barber reported that the Village Hall Committee was extremely grateful for the grant they had been awarded by the Parish Council. They are currently looking at redesigning the kitchen.

107.5 Hertfordshire Highways Representative

Cllr Barber reported on his meeting with Paul Hazely on 22 November 2011. Paul Hazely agreed that Walnut Way would be resurfaced, the vegetation at Cadwell Bridge would be dealt with and that the Arlesey Road Footpath would be replaced, a section at a time. The replacing of the footpath would be done from his budget.

107.6 Report re: NHDC Annual Parish & Community and Town Council Conference

Cllr Maxwell reported that there were three main topics under discussion. The first was a drive to share resources, the second the changes to planning legislation and localism and the final topic was match funded grants. Match funded grants are available for community buildings, playgrounds and environmental improvements.

107.7 Clerk's Training Report

The clerk reported that she had had attended two very useful training courses, one on Agenda Setting and Minute Taking and the other on Finance for Small and Medium sized Councils. Any Councillor wishing to have copies of the literature distributed at these courses should contact the clerk.

108 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NB This is for exchange of information only. No decisions or actions can be agreed at this time.

109 DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

109.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th January 2012 at 7.30 pm in the small hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm