

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2006

Present: Cllrs P J Crowe (Chairman), M Maxwell, C R Thurstance, D Chapallaz, Mrs B Crosse, Mrs K Goldie, J Carlyle, Mrs G Palmer.

Also present: (*Between 7.45 pm and 8.15 pm*): Inspector Julie Wheatley and PC Matt Jenkins.

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

88. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Brook and District Cllr Mrs Gibbs.

89. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

89.1 Any financial or other interests. All Cllrs details remain unchanged.

89.2 Interests in matters arising at this meeting. None were declared.

90. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2006

Following a proposal from Cllr Mrs Goldie seconded by Cllr Carlyle and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 14th November 2006 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

91 DISCUSSION WITH INSPECTOR JULIE WHEATLEY AND PC MATT JENKINS

Inspector Julie Wheatley and PC Matt Jenkins both introduced themselves to the Parish Councillors. Inspector Wheatley advised that she had been with the Police for 16 years and PC Jenkins advised he had in the force for 4 years. Both were looking forward to their new roles.

PC Matt Jenkins gave a brief update on crimes in Ickleford since 1st October 2006. Although there had been 29 recorded offences, 10 of these were classed as domestic. The main offence was theft from motor vehicles which seemed to be a problem around the country. A seasonal reminder from PCSO Nikki Williams regarding these crimes appears in the December edition of the St Katharine Wheel and on the village website.

Inspector Wheatley gave a short report regarding co-funding a PCSO. She explained that although the PCSO's line manager would be a Police Officer, the way they spent their time would be accountable to whoever was co-funding the PCSO. The Police would only be able to take the PCSO away from the village if there was a major incident locally.

The total cost for a PCSO for 2007/8 would be £28,500. The Police would pay £14,250 and one or more Parishes would need to pay the remaining £14,250. The contract would be for a minimum of two years. Cllr Crowe explained that IPC would like to co-fund a PCSO but could not justify having a full time PCSO just for Ickleford. Cllr Crowe asked if the Police would consider co-funding a part time PCSO and Inspector Wheatley said she would investigate this suggestion. Alternatively Ickleford Parish Council would need to find someone else to share a PCSO.

92 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS

92.1 Proposed new Burial Ground.

Cllr Thurstance explained that the geophysical survey report from Heritage Network had indicated very little evidence of any archaeological activity and that the ground had obviously been used for agricultural purposes over recent years. It was suggested to use a mitigation strategy when applying for planning permission i.e. landscaping any designated doubtful areas to prevent any burials in this area. A copy of this report is to be sent to Mr Instone, HCC Planning Archaeologist and a meeting will be arranged between him, Cllr Crowe and Cllr Thurstance after he has studied it.

Cllr Crowe is waiting for Cemetery Development Services to advise if any further tests would be required by the Environment Agency if a smaller area was used.

Following an initial favourable response from WREN regarding apply for a grant for this project, Cllr Crowe is now completing the very detailed application form.

Cllr Crowe has also asked an engineer from Highways for advice regarding the entrance / exit to the proposed burial ground.

Cllr Crowe and Cllr Thurstance have updated Mrs Parker on all recent developments.

92.2 Village of the Year.

The entry has been submitted.

92.2 Parish Plan.

Cllr Maxwell reported that there was a meeting next week where each sub-committee would present a draft of their section for the Parish Plan. Each section would include an introduction and an Action Plan. It has been agreed to complete, print and distribute the plan before March 2006.

92.3 Cadwell Bridge.

Cllr Crowe, Cllr Maxwell, Katrina Henshaw and Tim Stephenson met with Jacque Grant, Projects Development Officer for CDA and Kevin Green, Two Wheels Co-ordinator for CDA. Jacque looked at the problem and agreed to ask an Engineer to visit the site and advise what would be feasible solutions.

92.4 Area behind Turnpike Lane.

Cllr Crowe, Katrina Henshaw, Michael Willoughby, Derrick Squires and Cllr Mrs Gibbs met with Debbie Grimes, Neighbourhood Officer for NHH and Stephen Sears, Parks and Open Spaces Officer for NHDC. NHH own the garage area and NHDC own the play area, the allotments and the area between the garages and Bedford Road.

Debbie Grimes agreed to contact the owners of the garages and establish proper rental agreements. She also said that she would send a questionnaire to all households in the area to establish what they want so she can apply for a grant from the Neighbourhood Improvement Budget (NIB).

Stephen Sears would look into tidying up the area between the garages and Bedford Road and would see what demand there was for allotments in the area.

92.5 Meeting with other Parish Councils on 17th January 2007.

All villages in the Southern Rural area have been invited. It was suggested that the agenda would include

- 1) Liaison with NHDC.
- 2) Co-Funding a PCSO.
- 3) Parish Plans.
- 4) Village of the Year.
- 5) Arrangements for future meetings. Kimpton have offered to host the next meeting.

92.6 Entrance to FP12

Cllr Mrs Goldie reported that cars are regularly parking here and are obstructing the footpath. As most of these cars belong to the residents of Chambers Lane it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would write to the residents and request that they do not obstruct the footpath by parking their cars here.

REASON

To allow pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs adequate access onto the footpath.

The clerk to write to the residents in Chambers Lane.

CIK

93 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

93.1 Blackboard on Lower Green.

This blackboard is no longer used. Cllr Chapallaz to remove it.

DC

93.2 Damaged play area fence.

The fence has been damaged on the side adjacent to the playing field. The clerk has asked William Crosse to repair it.

94 PLANNING DECISIONS

94.1 06/02073/1 32 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.

Conversion of existing dwelling into 2 one bedroom dwellings.

NHDC granted condition permission 16/11/2006.

94.2 06/02091/1 30 Walnut Way, Ickleford.

Change of use from A1 (retail) to A5 (Hot food takeaway)

NHDC refused permission 16/11/06.

94.3 06/02234/1TCast Katharine's Parish Church, Ickleford.

Remove one yew tree.

NHDC had no objection 24/11/2006.

95 CORRESPONDENCE

95.1 HAPTC November 2006 newsletter.

95.2 DTI – The Post Office Network.

95.3 HCC – Primary Review of Hitchin Town Planning Areas.

IPC have sent a letter requesting that Ickleford is removed from this review as none of the other villages have been included. The clerk to send a copy to Cllr Brook to ask for his help and support in getting Ickleford removed from this report. A copy of the letter is also to be sent to Mrs Salmon, Headteacher at Ickleford Primary School.

CIK

95.4 HCC – Hitchin Primary Review.

95.5 HCC – Statement of Community Involvement.

HCC adopted this on 28th November.

95.6 NHDC – Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document.
NHDC formally adopted this document on 2nd November 2006.

95.7 Hertfordshire Constabulary
Despite the County Council withdrawing the mobile telephones that were issued to the PCSOs there would be no communication problems as changes to their radio technology have enabled members of the public to contact any member of the Police staff via their personal radio. PCSO Nikki Williams has been issued with a Pay-As-You-Go mobile telephone by a local business.

96 FINANCE

96.1 HAPTC.
A detailed letter advising the services offered by HAPTC.

96.2 New hire charges for IPC to hire the Village Hall.
There has been an 3% increase so the new rate will be £14.50.

96.3 Gardening contract 2007/8.
Cllr Mrs Crosse declared an interest and left the meeting.

William Crosse quoted £267.50 per month (1.9% increase) for the Gardening Contract for 2007 / 08. Following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would award William Crosse the gardening contract for 2007 / 08.

REASON

William Crosse offers efficient services and has quoted a competitive price.

Should any additional work be required to be added to the gardening contract as a result of the Parish Plan, William Crosse will be invited to quote for this work.

The clerk to send William Crosse the new contract.

Clk

Cllr Mrs Crosse was then invited to rejoin the meeting.

96.4 Lower Green Contract 2007
Before inviting Richard Nicholls to quote for this contract, it was agreed that Cllr Crowe would meet with him and agree the terms and conditions. In the future any work carried out would be invoiced monthly instead of annually.

PJC

Cllr Thurstance reported that the Willow Tree on Lower Green opposite Abbis Orchard had some extra growth that needed removing.

The clerk to ask William Crosse to remove it.

Clk

96.5 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting

96.5.1 £1,575
Donation from Mrs Parker towards the research costs for the proposed Burial Ground.

96.5.2 £66.48
Bank interest.

- 96.6 Payments for the months of December 2006.
Payments of £3,308.54 were proposed by Cllr Mrs Goldie and seconded by Cllr Mrs Palmer and agreed unanimously.

97 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- 97.1 Ickleford Village Hall.
Cllr Mrs Palmer reported that the committee were planning a Quiz Night on 27th January. Another Race Night would be planned for later in the year.
- 97.2 Biffa
Cllr Crowe reported that the Phase 3B was on the final phase for the next 3 years. Additional litter fencing is to be erected and in 2007 Phase 1 will be reseeded. 800 trees are going to be planted in the area surrounding the compound.

Holwell have been awarded grants of £63,500 and Pirton have been awarded grants of £50,000. However, according to Biffa's records Ickleford have been awarded grants of £58,000 which Cllr Crowe queried and was advised that this included £51,000 granted to Groundwork towards the work done in the Oughtonhead Nature Work. As this is out of the parish of Ickleford, Cllr Crowe has requested that it is not included in grants awarded to Ickleford.
- 97.3 Scrutiny Review meeting
Cllr Thurstance attended the meeting on 28th November. The next meeting was scheduled for 19th December.

98 DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 98.1 The next meeting
To be held on Tuesday 9th January 2007 in the small hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed a 9.35 pm