

DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2007

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

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

Also present for part of the meeting: County Cllr N Brook and Dr Michael Willoughby (Vice Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group).

83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

83.1 Apologies were received and accepted from District Cllr P Gibbs (NH meeting).

84 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

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

85 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH NOVEMBER 2007.

85.1 Following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2007 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

86 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS.

86.1 Proposed Burial Ground.

Cllr Crowe reported that he had submitted the application for outline planning permission to NHDC. However, NHDC had responded requesting further information including a design and access statement, an elevation and floor plan of all buildings and fountains and £132.50 fee. NHDC has also suggested that IPC may be required to pay £500 per car space in relation to sustainable transport. As all this extra information would be required by the end of December, Cllr Crowe has asked NHDC to return the application so that he can look into it all in more detail in the New Year. Cllr Crowe agreed to speak to Mary Caldwell, NHDC Planning Control and Conservation Manager. **PJC**

86.2 Parish Plan.

86.2.1 Update on the traffic and transport action plan.

Cllr Stephenson reported that he, Cllr Crowe and Katrina Henshaw had met with HH on 23rd November where HH went through the three year progress. In year 1 (2007/8), HH will find out if they have secured funding, assuming they are successful in year 2 (2008/9) HH will work on feasibility study and design work and finally in year 3 (2009/10) HH will look to implement agreed schemes assuming they have the funding for them.

The different areas were talked about and although HH did not see a problem of speeding traffic in Turnpike Lane, they agreed to carry out a traffic survey. It was also agreed to carry out traffic surveys along Bedford Road and Arlesey Road and the tubes were installed on 6th December. A pedestrian survey outside the school was carried out on 7th December to establish if there is a need for a crossing in this area. HH have agreed to supply IPC with the raw data.

HH have always said that safety measures at Cadwell Bridge would not meet any of their funding targets so they would not be able to do anything in this area. They did agree to quote IPC for the cost of having a feasibility study carried out in this area.

HH expressed concern about the economic and environmental costs of a footpath along Chambers Lane against the benefits. However, they did talk about different options that included resurfacing part of the rights of way that runs parallel to Chambers Lane, using road markings to emphasise a 'shared space' or making part of Chambers Lane one way. HH did agree to carry out a feasibility study in this area.

HH have requested that IPC seek out written support from Councillors at Parish, District and County level for any agreed schemes. Also, IPC would be asked to carry out face to face surveys with residents in the immediate area once proposals have been made.

Cllr Chapallaz and Cllr Goldie both expressed concerns that buses were driving too fast through the village so it was agreed that the clerk would write to the bus companies to request that they remind their drivers to drive within the speed limits. **CIK**

All Councillors to supply the clerk of dates, times and bus numbers of future incidents. **AI**

86.2.2 Update on the crime and disorder action plan.

Cllr Maxwell reported that there was an opportunity for IPC to share a match funded PCSO with Kimpton. The cost of a PCSO is £28,500 so the police would pay £14,250 leaving Ickleford and Kimpton £7,125 to pay each. Kimpton and Ickleford may also need to provide the PCSO with a pay as you go mobile phone. The contract would be for a minimum of 2 years and a pay increase for 2009/10 would need to be factored in. Payment would be quarterly in arrears. The contract would be 20 hours a week in each village with at least 80% visibility. The PCSO will also be able to provide a log of all activities. This was discussed and following a proposal from Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Stephenson and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would share a match funded PCSO with Kimpton and the Service Level Agreement would be signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in accordance with IPC's Standing Orders point 35.

REASON

To increase police presence in Ickleford as requested by residents in the Parish Plan questionnaire.

Cllr Maxwell to advise Kimpton PC and Inspector Wheatley that IPC wish to proceed with this. Cllr Maxwell also to advise Inspector Wheatley of all the key issues in Ickleford and any significant dates in 2008/9 when the PCSO would be required to be in Ickleford. **MM**

86.2.3 Update on the facilities and amenities action plan.

HCC have not responded to IPC's request that they agree in principle to IPC leasing the suggested piece of land so Cllr Brook agreed to chase this up. **NB**

86.3 Tony's News.

Cllr Crowe reported that the McMullens had leased the building to a florist and would now be known as Pixies. The shop opened on 1st December 2007.

86.4 Garage area and Little Park behind Turnpike Lane.

Cllr Crowe reported that Steven Sears, NHDC had replied to his letter enclosing a copy of NHDC's tenancy agreement and advised that land leasing was the responsibility of NHDC Estates Section. Mr Sears also advised that at the moment NHDC allocate 5-pole allotments and there are 3 residents from Ickleford on the waiting lists for nearby allotment sites. It was agreed that it would be useful to have a map of this total area so Dr Willoughby would try to obtain one on behalf of IPC. Mr Sears confirmed that the gate would be replaced as promised once his department had some spare funds. However, as there were still some questions that Mr Sears had not answered, Cllr Crowe agreed to ask Mr Sears them again. **PJC**

86.5 Repairs to Cadwell Bridge in July 08.

Cllr Thurstance is waiting for Network Rail to advise an update on the project, if there has been any progress on IPC's request for a contribution to Ickleford's road safety project under the bridge and a proposed meeting date.

86.6 Village Green.

William Cross has rotorvated the muddy areas, removed the roots and taken away the stump grindings. He then filled the area in with top soil and turfed it. The area is currently fenced off to allow the grass to grow. All Councillors agreed he had made an excellent job.

86.7 HCC proposed works around the school.

HCC have agreed to raise a works order for the yellow lines and postpone a decision on the rest of the work until after further discussions regarding proposed traffic calming in Ickleford.

86.8 Visibility out of Turnpike Lane onto Bedford Road.

Debbie Grimes, NHH has advised that the resident at 1 Turnpike Lane has confirmed that the laurel hedge will be removed. After liaising with the Police Traffic Management Unit, Ken Clowes, HH, has asked Debbie Grimes to arrange for the bamboo fence to be removed in the interest of safety as the fence compromises the sight line [2.4m back from Give Way line].

86.9 Plastic recycling bank.

Cllr Gibbs has agreed to speak to Theresa Thompson at The Plume of Feathers about having a plastic recycling bank in the car park. All Councillors agreed that this would be the best location in Ickleford.

87 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

87.1 07/02714/1TCA St Katharine's Parish Church, Arlesey Road, Ickleford.

Remove 1 Holly Tree

IPC is not required to be consulted on this application so do not need to make any comments.

87.2 07/02269/1HH 28 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.

Two storey rear extension; two dormer windows in front roof slope and one dormer window in rear roof slope.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

However, it was agreed that IPC would make the following comments.

Currently, this building is a bungalow with just one bedroom, but the plans account for a total of three (2 up and 1 down) although there is a significant space upstairs on the plans which is labelled as "dressing room" - this could easily be turned into a fourth bedroom. Whilst the plans show a reasonable development, there are a couple of issues which spring to mind:

- 1 Quantity of parking for a 4 bed house along this busy stretch of road (although we do acknowledge that they are keeping the garage)
- 2 Proximity of 2-storey rear extension along neighbouring property boundary - would be interesting to see what the RHS neighbours think.

REASON

IPC see no planning reasons to object but felt it was appropriate to make the above observations to NHDC.

- 87.3 07/02719/1HH 34 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.
Two storey front, side and rear extension and single storey rear extension.
IPC has not received the plans for this application so it was agreed that the planning advisors would look at them when they arrived and send comments back to NHDC. **JC/DC/KG/GP**

88 PLANNING DECISIONS.

- 88.1 07/024575/1TCA Ickleford Primary School, The Green, Ickleford.
Fell 2 lime trees.
No objections from NHDC 16th November 2007.
- 88.2 07/02424/1PUD 23 Cedar Avenue, Ickleford
Single storey extension to rear of garage.
Proposed development granted by NHDC 28th November 2007.
- 88.3 07/02451/1HH 1 Claymore Drive, Ickleford.
Single storey rear and side extension and hipped roof to converted garage. One front and three linked rear dormer windows to facilitate conversion of roofspace (variation of planning permission reference 07/01711/1HH dated 21.08.07)
Conditional permission granted by NHDC 28th November 2007.

89 CORRESPONDENCE.

- 89.1 St Katharine's Parochial Church Council – Letter of thanks for grant awarded.
- 89.2 Ickleford Pre-School Committee – Letter of thanks for grant awarded.
- 89.3 Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club Committee – Letter of thanks for grant awarded.
- 89.4 Ickleford Village Hall Committee – Letter of thanks for grant awarded.

90 FINANCE.

Following a written notification signed by all eight Councillors, a

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Was made to amend the resolutions made in points 79.1, 79.5 and 79.6 of the November 2007 minutes.

REASON

During 2007/2008, there had not been an opportunity to match fund a PCSO specifically for Ickleford and prior to the November meeting, IPC had been advised that it was very unlikely that a future opportunity would arise. This information influenced the resolutions made regarding the budget for 2007/08 (79.1), the budget for 2008/09 (79.5) and the precept for 2008/09 (79.6)

Since the November meeting, IPC has been advised by the Police that there is now an opportunity to share a match funded PCSO. IPC therefore agreed to make a special resolution to re-open the debate on the budget for 2007/08, the budget for 2008/09 and the precept for 2008/09 and amend the resolutions made at the November meeting.

- 90.1 Matched funding for PCSO
As agreed in point 86.2.2, IPC would share a match funded PCSO with Kimpton so IPC would need to budget £7,125.00 + the cost of a pay as you go mobile phone.

- 90.2 Update on 2007/8 accounts – Prior to the meeting, all Councillors had been supplied with a current summary of 2007/8 accounts. As £3,000 of the money allocated to the PCSO budget had been reallocated and spent on grants at the November meeting all unallocated money for the remaining three months of the financial year were looked at and discussed.

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

RESOLVED

That some of the unallocated money from the 2007/8 budget would be allocated as follows

- a) £7,165 – for a shared matched funded PCSO and pay as you go mobile phone.
- b) £1,500 – to start a fund for the proposed new community building.

REASON

- a) To increase police presence in Ickleford as requested by residents in the Parish Plan questionnaire.
- b) As the lottery grant application for funding towards investigation costs of the proposed new community building was unsuccessful, it was agreed that a fund should be set up to cover any immediate costs.

This still left

- £4,000 allocated to the speed prevention fund.
- £3,190 allocated to the proposed burial ground fund.

- 90.3 Budget 2008/9 – All Councillors supplied with forecast of expected expenditure and income for 2008/9. These were discussed along with existing and new projects and following a proposal from Cllr Carlyle, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That money would be allocated as followed

Wages	£9,000.00
Admin	£4,600.00
Open spaces	£4,500.00
Recreation facilities	£1,500.00
Village improvements / repairs	£4,900.00
Proposed new burial ground project	£1,000.00
Actions arising from the parish plan	£2,000.00
Grants to village organisations	£6,000.00
Speed prevention fund	£2,000.00
Proposed new community building	£3,500.00
	£39,000.00

REASONS

- To continue to maintain the village.
- To continue to try to achieve results requested by residents when completing the Parish Plan questionnaire.

- 90.4 IPC's precept for 2008/9 – Following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance, seconded by Cllr Stephenson and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That the precept would increase to £39,000.

REASON

To meet the proposed expenditure for 2008/9 based on the budget agreed.

- 90.5 HAPTC Computer Fund.
IPC have been awarded a grant of £675 towards the cost of a laptop and colour printer. The clerk has requested the remaining £212.60 from Cllr Gibbs' Discretionary Budget.
- 90.6 HAPTC and NALC subscription.
The annual subscription has increased from £667.24 to £681.26.
- 90.7 To approve payments for the month of December 2007.
Following a proposal from Cllr Maxwell seconded by Cllr Carlyle and agreed unanimously payments of £2,303.21 were approved and the cheques were signed.

91 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 91.1 Cllr Brook reported that HCC have only received an increase of 2% from the Government which does not even match inflation so HCC would have to make lots of sacrifices to enable them to keep their increase to less than the capped rate of 5%

92 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES.

- 92.1 Parish Paths Partnership.
Cllr Stephenson reported that he and Cllr Goldie had been speaking to O₂ and Mid Beds District Council with regards to the flytipping that is taking place by the sharp bend on Arlesey Road between Cadwell and the junction to Arlesey New Road.

Cllr Goldie reported that Eoin Bell, HCC Countryside Access Officer, has managed to organise through their Rural Estates group that the particularly bad stretch of 200 metres of fencing alongside FP7 will be replaced, and the path widened by 1 metre. Mr Nicholls is happy with this and is speaking of replacing a further length of barbed wire with plain wire and electric tape himself, but this is unlikely to happen immediately. The new fencing is planned for next week, but this is dependant upon being able to get into the field with a vehicle loaded with materials without churning up the paddocks.
- 92.2 Ickleford Primary School Governors.
Cllr Maxwell reported that following recent news stories about asbestos in schools, Mrs Salmon has confirmed that all dangerous asbestos which children could be exposed to had been removed from Ickleford School. Ickleford School came 15th out of the 450 schools in Hertfordshire for the amount of progress the children make while at Ickleford School (contextual Value Added). Ickleford School has received great support recently from NHDC Play Leaders and this has been gratefully received by all the children. Ickleford School has just been awarded an Activemark for physical education. The Governors are currently reviewing the Child Protection Policy which is a legal requirement. Cllr Maxwell also advised that he had mentioned to the Buildings Committee that school wall could be damaged in the future by the tree roots of the nearby trees if they weren't removed soon.
- 92.3 Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club Committee.
Cllr Crowe reported that Les Dingley had retired as the Treasurer and the club had appointed a new Treasurer. The accounts were presented to the committee and they showed that the club's future had improved considerably. 50% of loans to members were now paid off. The club continues to rely upon a lot of hard work from volunteers in particular Geoff Robinson.

92.4 Ickleford Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Crowe reported that the Race Night had raised £1,433. The committee were currently looking to apply for grants from Biffa, Wren and Rand's Educational Foundation to raise the remaining money needed. The committee also agreed to put a total of £10,000 of their funds towards this project. The committee advised that the work would definitely start the 3rd week of July 2008.

93 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.

93.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th January 2008 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.