

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2008

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

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

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

107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

107.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C R Thurstance (holiday), Cllr D Chapallaz (prior engagement), County Cllr N Brook (prior engagement), District Cllr P Gibbs (holiday), PC Matt Jenkins (not on duty) and PCSO Nikki Williams (not on duty)

108 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

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

108.2 No Councillor needed to update their respective Register of Interests.

109 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2008.

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2008 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

110 UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

110.1 Crimes in Ickleford.

In her absence, PCSO Williams sent a report advising that there had been ten recorded crimes since 1st January 2008. These crimes included:-

- 4 domestic related incidents.
- 1 theft from business premises (charity box stolen from shop).
- 1 criminal damage at business premises (damage to a lock on an exterior container).
- 1 attempted burglary (jimmy marks to door of premises).
- 1 criminal damage (broken window at business premises).
- 1 dispute related incident.
- 1 theft from vehicle (item removed from an open flatbed style truck).

There are no significant crime trends at this time in Ickleford.

PCSO Williams has forwarded photos of the graffiti near to Gerry's Hole and at the railway bridge to be recorded on a database in order that future incidents may be linked, and the offender dealt with if identified.

PC Jenkins has been working some night shifts in their villages as there have been issues such as shed burglaries and thefts from vehicles.

111 **UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS.**

111.1 Proposed Burial Ground.

Cllr Crowe advised that the application was with the planning department at NHDC.

111.2 Parish Plan.

There was a discussion on how best to re-energise the community with the parish plan. It was suggested that the list of volunteers should be contacted and asked if they would like to get involved in any of the projects, giving details of what is involved. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting may be a good opportunity to give out details about some of the projects and encourage people to get involved with them.

111.2.1 Update on the crime and disorder action plan.

Cllr Maxwell reported that he and Cllr Crowe had signed the Service Level Agreement for the matched funded PCSO.

111.2.2 Update on the facilities and amenities action plan.

Cllr Maxwell reported that he was investigating further the possibility of using the IT suite at the school to run some adult learning courses.

Steve Ramsey (parish plan steering group) had sent a plan for the proposed new community build to Cllr Crowe, Cllr Maxwell and Cllr Thurstance. After reading the plan, Cllr Crowe had expressed some concern about who would run the management of the building and also if there was a demand for such a building. There was also concern about taking existing groups (e.g. pre-school, scouts) away from the village hall as they would lose revenue. However, the councillors did acknowledge the difficulties the pre-school experience by not having their own premises. It was agreed that further investigation was required about the future management of the building and also what the demand was for it.

111.3 Garage area and Little Park behind Turnpike Lane.

Dr Willoughby advised that he had received a map of the area and was interested to see that there was a large area owned by NHDC near Bedford Road that was marked as allotment gardens. When speaking to Mr Charlton in the estates department at NHDC, Dr Willoughby had been unable to establish what plans NHDC had for this area and was advised that IPC should send a proposal for the area before any discussions would take place. Before drafting a proposal, Dr Willoughby first wanted to seek further advice about the running of allotments.

Dr Willoughby has had no further contact with NHH but IPC have been advised that NHH have appointed a new Neighbourhood Development Officer who will start work in mid March. Debbie Grimes, NHH has agreed to liaise with the new officer about this area.

111.4 Repairs to Cadwell Bridge in July 08.

John Foo, Scheme Project Manager for Network Rail has asked for further details of Ickleford's proposed road safety project and also some idea of the suggested level of contribution IPC have in mind. Cllr Stephenson agreed to provide some ideas of costs and proposals for safety improvements under Cadwell Bridge. **TS**

111.5 Village Green.

The grass is growing but a muddy footpath has been created by the side of the fenced off area.

111.6 Visibility out of Turnpike Lane onto Bedford Road.

Debbie Grimes, NHH has advised that as the residents of 1 Turnpike Lane have ignored all her letters, NHH have agreed to take legal remedies to get an injunction to remove the fence. The injunction will also stop the residents from being about to repeat these actions.

111.7 Plastic recycling bank.
IPC is waiting to hear from Cllr Gibbs about the proposal to have a plastic recycling bank in the Plume of Feathers car park.

111.8 Annual Parish Meeting.
Cllr Crowe stated that the W.I. had been approached to do the refreshments.
Ickle Drama has offered to do a short act about the village – e.g. the history of the Village Hall. It was agreed that this sounded like an excellent idea.

The clerk supplied a draft poster and flier to advertise the APM and advised that she had been quoted £149.00 to print in colour £850 A5 fliers, 3 A4 posters and 1 A3 poster. The price would include laminating the A3 poster. Following a proposal from Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Palmer and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

To pay to have the posters and 850 fliers printed in colour.

REASON

To ensure all residents are aware of the meeting to encourage as many as possible to attend.

111.9 HCC proposals for nursery admissions.
Following a discussion on HCC's proposal that from September 2009 there will only be one admission a year into nursery and reception, it was agreed that IPC would write to HCC to object to these proposals as this could affect the future of the playgroup at Ickleford and a loss of income to the pre-school. There was also concern that if HCC impose a head count date in October as suggested, Ickleford School would lose money if they did not take all reception children in September. **CIK**

112 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

112.1 Hedge at ISRC – Further to his quote in November of £560 to lay the hedge, Nick Gavin has quoted £80.00 for the stakes. IPC resolved to give the work to Nick Gavin in November (see 75.2).

112.2 Pot holes along road leading to Cadwell Cottages – Cllr Goldie reported that at the entrance to Cadwell Cottages, the road/track has great big holes in it, caused by not only the vehicles belonging to the residents but also dustbin carts and lorries. The residents have asked if these can be repaired. The clerk has reported these to HH who has advised that full repair works were not possible at present but the area is considered safe.

112.3 Pot holes in Walnut Way – These have been reported to HH yet again. HH has advised that this highway fault is considered to be resolved but repeat faults in this location will be monitored. Should a hazardous situation arise again, HH have asked that the new fault is reported to them.

It was agreed that Cllr Crowe should write to the Head of Highways expressing IPC's dissatisfaction with the responses to the faults reported and also to establish what criteria HH use to determine what roads are resurfaced, repaired or just ignored. **PJC**

113 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

113.1 No new applications have been received since the January meeting.

114 **PLANNING DECISIONS.**114.1 07/02719/1HH 34 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.

Two storey front, side and rear extension and single storey rear extension.

NHDC granted conditional permission to this application on 4th January 2008.

REASON FOR DECISION

The proposed extensions are of an acceptable design and would not have any detrimental impact on the amenity of adjoining occupiers or conditions of highway safety in the locality and therefore the development would be in accordance with the following policies of the local plan:-

NHD Local Plan No.2 with Alterations Policy 28: House Extensions Policy 57: Residential Guidelines and Standards

- 1 The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission. **Reason:** To comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out wholly in accordance with the details specified in the application and supporting, approved documents and plans, or with minor modifications of those details which have previously been agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority as being not materially different from those thereby permitted. **Reason:** To ensure the development is carried out in accordance with details which form the basis of this grant of permission.
- 3 Details and/or samples of materials to be used on all external elevations and the roof of the development hereby permitted shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the development is commenced. The approved materials shall be implemented on site. **Reason:** To ensure that the development will have an acceptable appearance which does not detract from the appearance and character of the surrounding area.
- 4 The window to the bathroom shown on the first floor west facing side elevation shall be permanently glazed in obscure glazing. Furthermore, the cill height of the high level window on the first floor west facing side elevation shall be at least 1.6m above the internal finished floor level. **Reason:** In the interests of the privacy of the occupiers of the adjoining property.

114.2 07/02691/1HH 28 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.

Two storey rear extension; two dormer windows in front roof slope and one dormer window in rear roof slope (as amended by drawing number A1/PO1/A received 11th January 2008).

NHDC granted conditional permission to this application on 23rd January 2008.

REASON FOR DECISION

The proposed extensions and alterations are sympathetic to the overall design of the dwelling, do not have any detrimental impact on neighbours or the street scene and are acceptable in terms of parking provision. As such, the proposals are considered to be in accordance with the following development plan policies:

NHD Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations Policy 28: House Extensions Policy 57: Residential Guidelines and Standards

- 1 The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission. **Reason:** To comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
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- 3 Details and/or samples of materials to be used on all external elevations and the roof of the development hereby permitted shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the development is commenced. The approved materials shall be implemented on site. **Reason:** To ensure that the development will have an acceptable appearance which does not detract from the appearance and character of the surrounding area.

115 CORRESPONDENCE.

- 115.1 NHDC – North Hertfordshire Local Development Framework (LDF). Land Allocations Development Plan Documents: Issues and Options Consultation. IPC to respond to NHDC by 19th March 2008. **PJC**
- 115.2 Mid Beds District Council – LDF Newsletter January 2008.
- 115.3 Herts Constabulary – The next locality meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th February at 19.30 in the village hall at Kings Walden. Cllr Stephenson to attend. **TS**
- 115.4 CPRE – Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2008. After a discussion, it was agreed that IPC would not enter this year as there was nothing new to report on.
- 115.5 HAPTC – January 2008 newsletter.
- 115.6 NALC briefing P04-08 – Community contracts and charters.
- 115.7 Mike Wadsworth – The large ash tree outside his house is becoming extremely dangerous and he would like to trim it down by about 25%. He realises it is not his tree so has asked if IPC have any objections to him organising his own contractor to do the work. The work would cost £550. Before IPC could discuss this any further it was agreed that the clerk should establish who owns the piece of land and who has the authority to grant permission for any work to be carried out on the tree. **CIK**

116 FINANCE.

- 116.1 Audit Commission – Advising IPC of the appointment of BDO Stoy Hayward LLP as IPC's external auditor for a five year period starting with the 2007/08 accounts. IPC will be required to have a basic audit and will be charged £285.00 pa
- 116.2 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting.
Receipts received since 9th January 2008.

Vat refund Oct - Dec 2007	£401.77
Grant from NHDC towards cost of new printer & laptop	£213.00
Grant from NHDC towards cost of emptying dog bins & litter pickers	£326.00
Total receipts = £940.77	

- 116.3 To approve payments for the month of February 2008.
Following a proposal from Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed unanimously the payments of £2,133.28 were approved and the cheques were signed.

117 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES.

117.1 Parish Paths Partnership.

Cllr Stephenson advised that O₂ were proposing to erect a gate with thief proof hinges on to block the entrance to the site which would deter people flytipping in this area. O₂ has also agreed to remove all existing rubbish when they install the gate.

117.2 Rand's Educational Foundation Governors

In his absence, Cllr Chapallaz sent a report advising that the Governors for the Rand's Educational Foundation had awarded grants to Ickleford Pre-School (£1,100), the Youth Groups at St Katharine's Church (£400) and Ickleford Cricket Club (£1,000). The Rand's Governors were also very supportive of the Village Hall Refurbishment Project and had agreed in principle to award the committee some money but deferred a decision on the amount until the committee were aware if their WREN application had been successful.

117.3 Ickleford Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Stephenson reported that the committee had applied for grant of £20,000 from WREN and were also looking to apply for a grant from BIFFA. The Village Hall AGM will take place on 3rd March at 7.30 pm.

117.4 Biffa

Cllr Crowe reported that the site will finish for general waste on 9th October 2008.

118 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.

118.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th March 2008 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm