

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2007

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

Also present: Cllr N Brook (HCC), Cllr Mrs T Gibbs (NHDC), Cllr S Jarvis (NHDC)

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

Before the meeting started Cllr Crowe informed all Councillors of the recent death of a former Parish Councillor, Jim Chappelle, who served on IPC between 1982 and 1996 and had also led the Village Appraisal in 1981.

On a happy note, Cllr Crowe also advised all Councillors that Cllr Carlyle had just become a father to a little girl called Emily Anne.

99. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chapallaz (holiday) and Cllr Carlyle (paternity leave).

100. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

100.1 Any financial or other interests. All Councillors details remain unchanged.

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

101. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2006

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2006 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

102 DISCUSSION WITH CLLR STEVE JARVIS

Cllr Jarvis informed IPC of the Scrutiny Review that was currently being carried out by NHDC with the aim to improve working relations with parish and town councils. He would be interested to hear of any services that NHDC do in Ickleford that would be more efficiently run by IPC and anything that NHDC could do to help IPC. Any suggestions should be made to the committee via Cllr Thurstance who represents Ickleford on the committee.

Cllr Jarvis also informed IPC that NHDC were looking at improving the training offered to parish councils particularly on planning. Cllr Thurstance informed Cllr Jarvis that IPC had invited Mary Caldwell and Andy Beavan to their March meeting.

Cllr Maxwell asked if this was a cost saving exercise or was the aim to give parish council's more power. Cllr Jarvis that he would think the latter but was realistic enough to know that nothing would happen if there was extra cost involved to parish councils.

103 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS

103.1 Proposed new Burial Ground.

Cllr Crowe advised that he now had a very useful contact at NHDC, Carole Casey, who provided him with estimated costs of burials that he required for completing the WREN grant form. The geophysical survey report has been sent to Mr Instone, HCC Planning Archaeologist and we await his comments.

103.2 Parish Plan.

Cllr Maxwell reported that there was a meeting next week to review the first draft of the parish plan booklet. The action plans of each section would be sent to all Councillors for their comments and it is hoped that the parish council will adopt the parish plan at the February meeting so that the booklet can be printed and distributed to all households in March.

The environment sub-group are planning a tidying up day of the village and had suggested before Open Gardens. Cllr Mrs Goldie felt that it would be more beneficial if this was done before the Village of the Year judges visited in April, which all Councillors agreed with. Cllr Mrs Goldie also suggested asking BIFFA if they would supply a skip free of charge as a lot of the litter being cleared up comes from the landfill site in Holwell. Cllr Maxwell agreed to pass these comments onto the environment sub-group.

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

Villages sending representatives are Holwell, Kimpton, Kings Walden, Knebworth, Langley, Lilley, Offley, Pirton, St Ippolyts/Gosmore, St Paul's Walden and Wymondley. We have not heard from Codicote, Gravely, Hexton or Preston yet. Garry Gover, NHDC will also be attending this meeting.

The agenda was agreed as follows:-

- 1) Welcome – Cllr Philip Crowe.
- 2) Working with NHDC – Cllr Colin Thurstance.
- 3) Parish Plans – Cllr Miles Maxwell.
- 4) Co-Funding a PCSO – Cllr Philip Crowe & Cllr Miles Maxwell.
- 5) Village of the Year – Cllr Philip Crowe.
- 6) Arrangements for future meetings. (Frequency, venue etc). Kimpton have offered to host the next meeting as they are the next village alphabetically.
- 7) Any other Business.

It was agreed to put on a small buffet. The clerk to ask Sue and Brian Judd at the George if they are able to do this.

Clk

103.4 Entrance to FP12

Letters have been sent to residents of Chambers Lane asking them not to park in this entrance.

104 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

104.1 Blackboard on Lower Green.

As this blackboard appears to be concreted in it was agreed to ask William Crosse to remove it.

Clk

104.2 Damaged play area fence.

William Crosse will repair it.

104.3 Willow Tree on Lower Green.

William Crosse will remove the damage branch.

104.4 Speed sensitive sign.
The clerk has reported to HH that this sign is not working.

104.5 Information board at Gerry's Hole.
Mrs Parker is replacing this board.

105 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

105.1 06/02570/1LB Waltham Cottage, Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.
Insertion of two roof lights into rear roof elevation.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

IPC see no problem at all with this application as the buildings have to be used.

105.2 06/02668/1TCA St Katharine's Parish Church, Arlesey Road, Ickleford.
Reduce 5 x Irish Yew to 2.1 metres high.

IPC are not required to comment.

105.3 06/02761/1HH 1 Claymore Drive, Ickleford.

Single storey rear extension and hipped roof to converted garage. One front and three linked rear dormer windows to facilitate conversion of roof space. Detached double garage to front garden.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

Similar extensions have been done to other properties in the road.

106 CORRESPONDENCE

106.1 NHDC – Arts, Museum and Heritage Strategy.

Ickleford is not directly affected in this strategy as it does not have any of the facilities mentioned. However, most residents would use the facilities in Hitchin. The Councillors felt that the museum in Hitchin needed modernising and expanding to attract more visitors to see the many interesting articles it has.

107 FINANCE

107.1 Lower Green Contract 2007.

It was agreed that the work that should be carried out would be to cut and trim Lower Green no more than 8 times a year as appropriate between April and October. Strimming would include around the trees and benches and would include the water hydrant opposite the Poplars. Any additional cuts or trims would need to be authorised by IPC. All work is to be invoiced monthly. The clerk to request a quotation from Richard Nicholls. **Clk**

107.2 Money remaining from the BIFFA grant.

Angela Forster, CSM has requested that IPC supply a quote for the two new benches on the Village Green and the cost to install them. If there is any money left CSM would be able to supply oak bench kits for Lower Green. The clerk to obtain quotes. **Clk**

107.3 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting.

£1,137.37 – VAT refund for payments made between April and December 2007.

107.4 New shredder.

The parish council shredder has broken. Following a proposal from Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Mrs Crosse it was

RESOLVED

That IPC should purchase an office quality cross cutting shredder at a cost of £136.98 + VAT.

REASON

To be able to destroy confidential papers in a safe manner that can then be recycled.

107.5 Payments for the months of January 2007.

Payments of £1,215.41 were proposed by Cllr Maxwell and seconded by Cllr Mrs Palmer and agreed unanimously.

108 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

108.1 HCC

Cllr Brook reported that he estimated that the Council Tax would increase by 5%.

108.2 NHDC

Cllr Mrs Gibbs reported that when NHDC started recycling they were given an initial cost of £400,000 to recycle cans and plastic. This had increased to £1,200,000. However, NHDC have negotiated it down to £600,000. There will be 75 bring-to sites for plastic bottles so the aim is to have one in each village. Brown bins will soon be able to take kitchen waste.

Cllr Mrs Gibbs was pleased to advise that Ickleford Village Hall Committee would be awarded a grant of £50,000 from the PACIF 2006/7, ISRC would be awarded a grant of £6,266 from the Parish Challenge 2006/7 and IPC would be awarded £280 for emptying dog bins from the Parish Enhancement and Cleansing Fund 2006/7.

NHDC are looking to reduce Area Committees from 5 to 4 or 3 which would mean that Southern Rural villages would be with Hitchin or Letchworth. There would be a central planning committee that would be better trained and less likely to be influenced by the public resulting in irresponsible decisions that incur the Council expenses in appeals.

109 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

109.1 Ickleford Village Hall.

Cllr Mrs Palmer reported that the committee had organised a quiz night on Saturday 27th January. Also, she received a complaint that the end of Grubbs Lane was very muddy. The clerk agreed to report this to Eoin Bell, HCC Rights of Way Officer as HCC maintained this BOAT. **Clk**

109.2 Ickleford School Governor

Cllr Maxwell reported that at the recent finance meeting concerns were raised that HCC maybe taking back some of the schools money as they appear to have surplus funds despite these funds being allocated to replace the school swimming pool. Cllr Brook agreed to investigate this for Cllr Maxwell. **NB**

110 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

110.1 Cllr Crowe reminded all Councillors that elections were in May this year. He suggested including this in the St Katharine Wheel to encourage new people to stand for election.

110.2 The clerk advised the Councillors that the old Post Office was in a poor condition. This had been reported to the Police and NHDC Environmental Health department. The new owners are expected to exchange contracts in the next few weeks so hopefully the state of the building will improve then.

111 DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

111.1 The next meeting

To be held on Tuesday 13th February 2007 in the small hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed a 10.00 pm