

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2008**

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

**Officer present:** Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

**Also present for part of the meeting:** District Cllr P Gibbs, PC M Jenkins and PCSO N Williams.

**94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

94.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr K Goldie (illness), County Cllr N Brook (Holiday) and Dr Michael Willoughby (Vice Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group).

**95 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

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

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

**96 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007.**

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

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.**

**97 UPDATE FROM THE POLICE**

97.1 Crimes in Ickleford.

PC Matt Jenkins reported that since November there had been fourteen recorded crimes - four in November, six in December and four already in January. Five of these crimes were domestic and related to one family. The other crimes included

- 5 thefts/burglaries including a charity box being stolen from Ickleford Stores.
- A drink driving offence along Turnpike Lane (not an Ickleford resident though).
- Arson in one of the garages behind Turnpike Lane.
- Damage to one of the windows at The Cricketers Public House.
- Attempted burglary from one of the containers at Ickleford Manor.

**98 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS.**

98.1 Proposed Burial Ground.

Cllr Crowe reported that he and Cllr Thurstance had had a very useful meeting with Tom Rea, NHDC Planning Officer and it was agreed that IPC would apply for permission to change the use of land instead of outline planning permission. They also learnt that the £500 charge for each car park space was part of the S106 agreement specifically for NHDC and was enforced on all new developments. Any money received from this charge would be used for the community who are affected by the development. As S106 agreements are controlled for each area by the District Council it was suggested that IPC request that NHDC considered making burial grounds an exception to this rule. However, in the meantime it was agreed to request only four car parking spaces and to opt out paying the £500 per car park space. Cllr Crowe will submit the application for permission to change the use of this land.

**PJC**

98.2 Parish Plan.

98.2.1 Update on the traffic and transport action plan.

Cllr Stephenson reported that the traffic surveys had been completed and he was waiting for the raw data from HH so that IPC could get it analysed.

Cllr Stephenson also advised that he and Cllr Crowe had made a presentation to the Southern Rural Committee (SRC) about the proposed traffic calming measures in Ickleford and also asked them for their support for a vehicle activated sign (VAS) in Turnpike Lane. The SRC resolved that the proposal for a VAS in Turnpike Lane and other traffic calming measures had the unanimous support of the committee. They would therefore recommend to the North Hertfordshire Highways Joint Member Panel

1. That the NHD Manager be requested to take note of the support of the SRC for this VAS.
2. That the proposals for other traffic calming measures in Ickleford had the unanimous support of the committee.
3. That the HH – NHD Manager be requested to undertake a review of the feasibility and cost estimate of traffic calming measures in Turnpike Lane and Arlesey Road with a priority for a VAS in Turnpike Lane.

98.2.2 Update on the crime and disorder action plan.

Cllr Maxwell reported that he had advised the Police and Kimpton Parish Council that IPC had agreed to share a matched funded PCSO with Kimpton from April 2008. The necessary paperwork is being drawn up.

98.2.3 Update on the facilities and amenities action plan.

In response to IPC's request to HCC agreeing in principle to IPC leasing a suggested piece of land for a new community building, Dick Bowler, HCC Head of Corporate Estate has advised.

1. The formal Local Development Framework (LDF) processes that NHDC take forward that primarily bear on this matter are the Core Strategy and the Land Allocations documents.
2. NHDC consulted on Key Issues and Options regarding the former in November and HCC understand work is in preparation for publication of a similar consultation on Issues and Options for Land Allocations in January.
3. Behind all that is a context from the proposed East of England (EofE) plan that there should be a review of Green Belt boundaries with a longer time horizon, and also the possibility that the final government changes to the EofE plan could have further housing allocation implications.
4. Mr Bowler does understand that Richard Kelly would say that he does not expect NHDC will need to or want to alter the Green Belt boundary here and he has recently attended a meeting with NHDC planning officers on a number of matters and gained an understanding of the thinking that may emerge in the January consultation, including that there appears to be the possibility to accommodate the EofE housing allocations in/around the bigger settlements in NHDC area and so there is no need to look to villages and to Ickleford for Green Belt relaxation.
5. On that basis HCC would be left with the HCC land in the Green Belt and HCC would be able to take a decision on IPC's request against a background of no other significant option for use of the land.
6. The method of decision could be by way of an officer delegated decision in consultation with the executive member and the local member and other appropriate members advised.

7. Assuming HCC do see the NHDC Land Allocations consultation in the timescale and with the content as expected above, HCC could then immediately proceed with the process at 6 and the possible decision would be something like 'That IPC be granted a ground lease of x years of Land behind Wyatt Close, Ickleford, sufficient to accommodate a community building, on terms to be negotiated by Lambert Smith Hampton for HCC and all subject to planning permission being granted for the proposed scheme and capital funding being established by IPC.' The actual detailed area of land would be settled by the planning permission and HCC would want to approve the proposed application.
8. Such decision should give IPC sufficient assurance to be able to fund and instruct planning consultants to prepare and submit the planning application including the 'very special circumstances' justification for building in the Green Belt, which would include the assessment of other site options.
9. With town planning uncertainty removed in that way and with the HCC decision in principle and terms settled IPC would then be clear on the 2 main land availability issues and could make funding bidding accordingly.

Cllr Maxwell to ask Steve Ramsey to update Cllr Crowe and Cllr Thurstance on the work he has done to date on the proposed new community build so that they could look at ways to take this project further. **MM**

98.3 Garage area and Little Park behind Turnpike Lane.

Cllr Crowe reported that Dr Willoughby had now received maps of the area and planned to visit the site to measure the area.

98.4 Repairs to Cadwell Bridge in July 08.

Cllr Thurstance is still 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.

98.5 Village Green.

The new grass is growing well. It was agreed to keep the area fence off until at least March.

98.6 HCC proposed works around the school.

Work expected to take place before March 2008.

98.7 Visibility out of Turnpike Lane onto Bedford Road.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007, Debbie Grimes, NHH, advised the tenants of 1 Turnpike Lane of HH's decision for the bamboo fence to be removed in the interest of safety. Miss Grimes also reiterated that the laurel bushes that they had planted outside their properties also had to be removed. However, neither the plants nor the fence have been removed so Miss Grimes agreed to consult with her Manager as to what steps (legal or otherwise) NHH would take next. Cllr Gibbs agreed to speak to NHH about this. **PG**

98.8 Plastic recycling bank.

Cllr Gibbs advised that, like many other pubs, the Plume of Feathers had asked for some financial compensation to having a plastic recycling bank in their car park so Cllr Gibbs agreed to speak to Cllr Needham about this. **PG**

98.9 Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting will take place in the main hall on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April between 7.00 and 9.00 pm. There would be presentations from the Chairman of IPC, The County Councillor and District Councillor as stated in IPC's standing orders. In addition to these reports there would be displays from village organisations and businesses. It was agreed that in addition to a notice in the March edition of the St Katharine Wheel, and the usual posters around the village, an A5 flyer would be delivered to all households a week before the meeting.

**99 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

99.1 No new applications have been received since the December meeting.

**100 PLANNING DECISIONS.**

100.1 07/02618/1TCA The Cottage, The Green, Ickleford.

Remove 1 lime tree; reduction of 1 Field Maple by 25%; reduction of 1 Sycamore by 25%.

**NHDC had no objections to this application on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007.**

100.2 06/0276/1HH 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.

**There was an appeal about NHDC refusing permission to this application on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007. The appeal was dismissed on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007.**

**REASON**

The proposed garage, by reason of its siting, scale and built form would have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity and street scene of Claymore Drive and Arlesey Road and as such does not comply with the provisions of Policy 28 of the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No 2 with Alterations.

100.3 07/024931/1HH 74 Icknield Close, Ickleford.

Single storey front extension.

**NHDC refused permission to this application on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007.**

**REASON**

By reason of its size and siting, the proposed single storey front extension would have an undesirable impact upon the visual amenity of these terraces and would be out of keeping with the character of the property. Moreover, it would set an unwelcome precedent which cumulatively, would have an unacceptable impact upon the visual amenity of the locality. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policy 28 of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations.

100.4 07/02714/1TCA St Katharine's Parish Church, Arlesey Road, Ickleford.

Remove 1 Holly Tree

**NHDC had no objections to this application on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007.**

**101 CORRESPONDENCE.**

101.1 Stagecoach East

In response to IPC's letter requesting that drivers of the Mars 2 Bedford to Hitchin service drive through Ickleford with due care and within the speed limits, Denise O'Hora (PA to the Managing Director) has advised that all their drivers are trained to a high standard and they would certainly expect them to stay within speed limits and to drive with consideration to other road uses, pedestrians and passengers. She has passed on IPC's letter to the operations manager at Bedford and asked her to remind the drivers of this service the standards they expect and to take care, particularly when driving through the villages.

101.2 HAPTC – December 2007 newsletter.

**102 FINANCE.****102.1 Village Hall Hire Charges for IPC for the year 2008.**

IPC's new rate for 2008 will be £15.00 per Tuesday evening (small hall) and £31 for occasional hire of main hall. This is a 3% increase.

**102.2 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting.**

Receipts received since 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

Bank interest earned for the period to 30 November 2007	£122.20
<b>Total receipts =</b>	<b>£122.20</b>

**102.3 To approve payments for the month of January 2008.**

Following a proposal from Cllr Maxwell seconded by Cllr Carlyle and agreed unanimously the payments of £2,076.61 were approved and the cheques were signed.

**103 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

- 103.1 Cllr Gibbs reported that NHDC are currently setting their budget for 2008/9 a 4.9% increase is expected as it is capped at 5%. The settlement from the Government had been less than hoped for so NHDC were considering cut the Parish Challenge budget to be in line with previous applications. Cllr Gibbs had unsuccessfully argued against this proposal as her arguments were weak. However, there is a theory that the applications to Parish Challenge have reduced recently as many organisations were applying for grants from PACIF so it was agreed that the Parish Challenge fund would be reviewed in two years when the PACIF runs out.

**104 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES.****104.1 Parish Paths Partnership.**

Cllr Palmer reported that Cllr Goldie had been speaking to O<sub>2</sub> as a car had now been dumped in the area by the sharp bend on Arlesey Road between Cadwell and the junction to Arlesey New Road. O<sub>2</sub> had advised that they would be replacing the gate as soon as possible and would let Cllr Goldie or Cllr Stephenson know when the work would be taking place.

**104.2 Ickleford Village Hall Committee.**

Cllr Stephenson reported that for financial year 2007 the receipts were £17,391 which had increased £1,500 from 2006 and left £20,124 in the current account. The Village Hall committee agreed to contribute £15,000 of this towards the refurbishment project which was expected to cost £87,000. Including the £2,000 grant from IPC, The Village Hall committee now has £67,000 towards this project which leaves a shortfall of £20,000 so have applied to WREN for a grant of £20,000. The committee also plan to apply for grants from BIFFA and Rands.

**105 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- 105.1 Cllr Crowe advised that the clerk had requested that the November 2008 meeting took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November instead of 11<sup>th</sup> November.
- 105.2 Cllr Crowe requested that the Ickleford Information booklet be updated this year.
- 105.3 Cllr Maxwell reported that some rubbish has been dumped on the right hand side of the road as you leave Ickleford through Cadwell Bridge.

**106 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.**

- 106.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.