

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 11TH JULY 2006**

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

Also present: 2 Members of the Public.

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

35. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

36. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

36.1 Any financial or other interests

Cllr Maxwell and Cllr Mrs Goldie have advised the clerk of changes to their financial and other interests registered. Copies of the amended forms have been sent to the monitoring Officer at NHDC. All other Cllrs details remain unchanged.

36.2 Interests in matters arising at this meeting

None were declared.

37. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH JUNE 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 June 2006 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

38. TO AGREE WHICH ORGANISATION IPC WILL SUPPORT FOR THEIR PACIF APPLICATION THIS YEAR.

Following presentations from the Village Hall and Sports Club Committees, Cllr Thurstance proposed and Cllr Mrs Palmer seconded that as IPC are only allowed to support one organisation per year, IPC should support the Village Hall Committee's PACIF application this year. There were no other proposals and therefore, with a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would support the Village Hall Committee's PACIF application this year.

39. TO AGREE TO ADOPT THE NEW STANDING ORDERS

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

RESOLVED

That IPC should adopt the new Standing Orders.

Thanks were also expressed to the Clerk for updating these Standing Orders.

40 OPEN DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm for an open discussion with residents of Ickleford and re-opened at 8.30 pm. During the closed meeting residents reported that

- 40.1 The Turnpike Area looked very tidy and the burnt out garage had been removed.
- 40.2 The 4x4 is still parking on the Common Land opposite St Katherine's Cottages. The clerk advised she had asked the NHDC Enforcement Officer to write to the owner.
- 40.3 Greenfield Lane had not been swept for over 2 months. The clerk advised that the NHDC would arrange for it to be swept this week.
- 40.4 Residents at 41 and 47 Walnut Way were still leaving their wheelie bins on the footpath. The clerk said she had asked NHH to write to these residents.

41 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS

41.1 Proposed new Burial Ground

Cllr Crowe reported that Heritage Network advised that the examination of the photographs suggested that there are a number of features of potential archaeological interest in the immediate vicinity. A number of apparent relict field or enclosure boundaries appeared in the field to the east of the area on several photographs and at various dates. Also visible were two sets of parallel linear features, which extended across the landscape for some considerable distance. At least one such feature appeared to cross the proposed burial ground. These may represent the line of a former routeway, such as the Icknield Way.

One set of these parallel linears was also clearly visible in the photographs taken in 1947. They crossed the adjacent fields to the north and east of the proposed burial ground, before apparently terminating in an arc to the north-west of the study area. A number of possible circular features are visible within, and close to, the parallel linears. It is possible that this may represent a prehistoric cursus.

Cllr Crowe and Cllr Thurstance had a meeting with David Hillelson, Heritage Network to discuss this report and future actions. Mr Hillelson recommended a more detailed report that could cost £600/£700 per hectare. (The proposed field is 1.95 hectares). Mr Hillelson will supply a quote for this work and IPC agreed that once the quote had been received Cllr Crowe and Cllr Thurstance would update Mrs Parker on the current situation.

41.2 Proposed new building for Ickleford Pre-School

Cllr Crowe reported that Heritage Network had also advised that the examination of the photographs suggested that there are a number of features of potential archaeological interest in the immediate vicinity. However, relatively little detail of underlying features was visible on the aerial photographs examined, largely because the field was either under cultivation or was scrub land. Darker lines, possibly representing footpaths or relict field boundaries, were noted on photographs taken in 1974 and 1947.

41.3 Village of the Year

Ickleford won the Hertfordshire Village of the Year West and was the overall winner so will be the nominee for the Calor England Village of the year Competition. Ickleford were also given an award for the best Community Project – for the Parish Plan and raising money for the St Katharine's Restoration fund. All Councillors wished to express special thanks to Cllr Maxwell for his excellent leadership for the Parish Plan.

The official presentation will be held on 22nd July at 12.30 on the Village Green followed by a buffet at the school. It was agreed to give clerk a budget of £700 for food, drink and any other expenses for the day. Mr La Roche, NHDC has agreed to raise the crowns on some trees on the Village Green before this day and Gary Whatling, NHDC has agreed to cut the grass in Ickleford the week before 22nd July.

The deadline for entries for the Calor England Village of the year Competition is 30th November. It was agreed to divide the categories as follows:-

Building Community Life	Cllr Maxwell and Cllr Mrs Goldie
Business	Cllr Crowe
Younger People	Cllr Carlyle and Katrina Henshaw
Older People	Cllr Mrs Crosse and Cllr Mrs Palmer
Environment	Cllr Thurstance and Cllr Chapallaz
ICT	Cllr Carlyle and Katrina Henshaw

The first draft of each category is to be supplied to the clerk no later than 30th September 2006. **All**

41.4 Parish Plan

Cllr Maxwell reported that the results had now been analysed and a summary of these results would be distributed to all residents with more detailed information being available by request or via the website. The committee were aiming to have an action plan by November.

41.5 Turnpike Lane Garage Area

Prior to leaving, Marian Simmons, NHH advised that she has been in touch with the garage tenants and had received some opinions. These will be passed to the new Neighbourhood Officer for Ickleford.

41.6 Chairman's Workshop

Cllr Crowe advised that he had recently attending the workshop and felt privileged to be working with such a good group of Councillors. Becoming a Quality Parish Council certainly seems the best way forward.

41.7 Cllrs Training Workshop

Cllr Carlyle and Cllr Mrs Palmer attended the Cllr workshop which outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Chairman, Councillors and clerk and were pleased to report that IPC were doing everything they should be.

42 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

42.1 Hedge on Chambers Lane

As Sam Kothari has now left HH, the clerk has advised Paul Hazley of the history of this hedge and he has asked Gary Whatling at NHDC to write to the owner stating that if he does not cut the hedge NHDC will arrange for it to be cut and will invoice him.

42.2 Wheelie bins (St Katherine's Cottages)

Yvette Roberts, NHDC Legal and Democratic Services has written to the residents reminding them to return their bins to their properties within an appropriate time. As the residents continue to leave the bins out, Ms Roberts has arranged a meeting with Waste Management to see what powers they have and will advise IPC the outcome.

42.3 Mud Patch outside the school

After a lengthy discussion and following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and with a majority vote it was

RESOLVED

That IPC should try to recover the mud patch on the Village Green by removing the Cherry Tree and the Lime Tree outside the school providing there was not a huge disagreement by residents of Ickleford.

IPC to write to residents in Upper Green and the front of Icknield Close with this proposal and display notices on the noticeboard, in the Ickleford column of The Comet's Town and around section and the St Katharine's Wheel. Further discussions and decisions on this will be made at the September meeting. **CIK**

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure the safety of children and parents when going to and from school in the winter as this mud patch becomes very slippery and dangerous and to ensure that the roots do not damage the footpath again making the area unsafe. It would also prevent future risk of the roots damaging the school wall.

Cllr Mrs Crosse expressed strong views that she did not agree with this proposal.

43 CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2006

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

RESOLVED

That IPC would not adopt the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

REASON FOR DECISION

IPC did not employ Enforcement Officers so would continue to use NHDC.

44 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

44.1 06/00796/1HH 14 Bedford Road (Amended plans).

Relocate and replace existing double garage with double garage with room in roof space. Amended plans for the garage which has been reduced in ridge height, incorporates a half-hipped roof design and has a reduced floor space being reduced in depth by 1m. The plan also shows the garage being set down 0.6m lower than the existing house.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would object to this application and send the comments below to NHDC:-

Garage is now 5.5m (instead of 6.25) which is still very high for a garage but as provisional permission has been granted for the rest of the development, there is probably little we can now say on this one. Nevertheless, we are sticking to our original comments and express the opinion that although the height of the proposed garage is reduced it is still a very major structure and very high as a garage in a residential area.

- 44.2 06/00722/1HH Pestol Farm, Ickleford.
Continued use of land for stationing of mobile home.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would object to this application and send the comments below to NHDC:-

Although there is existing similar usage, we feel that this is unnecessary and unacceptable continuation of sprawl within the Green Belt and thus object to the proposal. Presumably all this area was once part of Ickleford Common – and this continues its erosion.

45 PLANNING DECISIONS

- 45.1 06/00619/1 36 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.
Erection of 3 detached four bedroom dwellings with integral garages following the demolition of existing dwelling. 6 parking spaces, closure of existing access and formation of new vehicular accesses onto Walnut way.
NHDC granted conditional permission on 4th July 2006

46 CORRESPONDENCE

- 46.1 Hertfordshire Highways – Sam Kothari has left HH and Paul Hazley is the new Area Engineer.
- 46.2 HCC – Julia Clarke is presently taking maternity leave and Eoin Bell is now managing the paths in Ickleford.
- 46.3 Hertfordshire Highways – Information Bulletin July 2006.
- 46.4 Ickleford School – Thanking IPC for congratulating them on the recent successes in the Rural Sports and gaining the Silver School Travel plaque and Healthy School Accreditation. Also the school were very pleased to hear Ickleford had won the Village of the Year and Best Community Project.
- 46.5 The Bishop of St Albans – Acknowledgment of receipt of letter from IPC requesting that the Diocese considers making a donation to the restoration fund for St Katharine's Church after they sell the houses that are to be built where the rectory is. The Bishop is seeking further advice and will then respond to IPC.
- 46.6 Herts Police Authority – Community Safety Awards. The closing date for nominations is 30th September 2006. IPC agreed no nomination would be sent this year.
- 46.7 North Herts Homes – Marian Simmons is no longer Ickleford's Neighbourhood Officer.

47 CLOSED SESSION

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm and reopened the meeting at 9.35pm.

In the closed session the Councillors discussed the clerk's salary. Cllr Thurstance, having declared an interest left the meeting along with the clerk. Minutes of this session are recorded in 'Part Two' minutes.

48 FINANCE

- 48.1 Receipts received since the last meeting.
£36.58 – Bank interest for the period to 2 June 2006.
£8.00 refund for incorrect charge for stopped cheque.
- 48.2 Payments for the months of July 2006.
Payments OF £1,635.59 were proposed by Cllr Maxwell and seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and agreed unanimously.

49 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- 49.1 Parish Paths Partnership
Cllr Mrs Goldie reported that they would be walking the paths before the school holidays to see if any needed any work doing on them. She asked Councillors to let her know if any path needed any work done.
- 49.2 Ickleford School Governors
Cllr Maxwell reported that the Sats results for year 6 were very good. 93% reached level 4, the required level, in maths and English and 100% reached level 4 in science. Additionally 54% reached level 5 in English, 79% reached level 5 in maths and 82% reached level 5 in science. The school came first at Hitchin Rural Sports, were awarded with a Silver School Travel Plaque and were awarded accreditation as a Healthy School.
- 49.3 Ickleford Village Hall
Cllr Mrs Palmer reported that the Race Night was planned for 18th November 2006.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

The next meeting of Ickleford Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 12th September 2006 in the small hall at 7.30 pm.