

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 10TH JULY 2007

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

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

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

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

28.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Carlyle (holiday) and County Cllr N Brook.

29 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

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

30 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2007.

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2007 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

31 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS.

31.1 Proposed Burial Ground.

Cllr Crowe reported that David Hillelson had presented his report to Andy Instone, HCC and we are waiting for his response. Justin Smith, Cemetery Development Services Limited is compiling a report to send to the Environment Agency. Frank Pratt is looking into the entrance to the site and hopes to come up with a proposal that will meet Hertfordshire Highways' guidelines. Mrs Parker has been updated on these recent developments.

Cllr Stephenson advised that it might be worth considering improving the surface of FP5 if it is not possible to get a footpath along Chambers Lane and asked if this could be considered as part of the burial ground project. Cllr Crowe agreed to look into this if and when the project reaches that stage.

31.2 Parish Plan.

Cllr Maxwell reported that a copy of the plan has been distributed to each household in Ickleford and the response from residents has been very positive. The challenge now is to implement the action plans.

Cllr Maxwell also reported that the budget for compiling the Parish Plan had all now been spent. There was a shortfall of £169.19 but NHDC has awarded IPC a grant to cover this.

31.2.1 Update on the crime and disorder action plan

Cllr Maxwell has contacted the police regarding the parking problems at junctions to main roads in the village and proposed that joint letters from the police and IPC are sent to residents in the problem areas. PC Jenkins is happy to do these letters and has also recommended that they are followed up with visits from NHDC parking attendants as the Police only deal with parking problems if it causes an obstruction.

31.2.2 Update on the traffic and transport action plan.

Cllr Stephenson reported that the traffic monitoring had not been very successful due to faulty equipment and drivers slowing down as the police were visible. The police now have better equipment which will enable them to carry out the tests before they are seen and future dates for traffic monitoring are to be agreed. PC Jenkins did acknowledge that although drivers being able to see him had hindered obtaining the accurate speed of vehicles, it had encouraged drivers to slow down so PC Jenkins has agreed to carry out speed traps in the village on a regular basis and issue tickets if required.

Cllr Stephenson advised that there are specific regulations about having an information sign indicating this is an area in which cameras are used to enforce traffic regulations and he would investigate this further. However, having regular speed checks may help.

Cllr Stephenson also reported that he had meet with Fiona Warner, the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator and they were looking at ways to encourage parents to park at ISRC and walk to school from there.

31.3 Calor Hertfordshire Village of the Year in England 2007.

Ickleford has won 'Village of the Year West' again and will receive a cheque for £250. The judges described Ickleford as 'A village which not only starts projects but follows them through, is going places and knows exactly what it wants. A village where the ideas fizz like champagne'. The formal presentation will be on Saturday 21st July at 12.00 noon on the Village Green followed by a small buffet at the school. Invites to the buffet have been sent out and all Councillors are to let the clerk know as soon as possible if they and their spouse are able to attend the buffet.

All

31.4 Calor England Village of the Year in England 2007.

Ickleford has been awarded a prize for the Older People category in the Eastern Region area and will receive a cheque for £500. The cheque and certificate will be awarded at the Hertfordshire ceremony on 21st July.

31.5 Tony's News.

Cllr Crowe reported that he and Cllr Thurstance had met with Andrew Newbury, McMullen's on 4th July to discuss this building. Mr Newbury advised that McMullen's did not want to spend much money on the building and did not really know what to do with it. Cllr Crowe and Cllr Thurstance advised him of some suggestions which included using it as a post office, internet café, bed and breakfast as part of the Green Man or just landscaping the area. Mr Newbury appreciated that IPC didn't want to leave the building as it was and agreed to discuss these proposals with the McMullen family at their next meeting and would report back to IPC before September.

31.6 Turnpike Lane garage area.

Cllr Crowe reported that a meeting has been scheduled with NHH on 27th July 2007.

31.7 Proposed Community Orchard.

Cllr Thurstance reported that there was no further news as he was waiting to arrange a meeting with Richard Nicholls to discuss the proposals.

31.8 Meeting at Kimpton of the Parish Councils in the Southern Rural Area.

Cllr Crowe, Cllr Maxwell, Cllr Stephenson and Katrina Henshaw attended this meeting on 21st June 2007. There were representatives from Codicote PC, Gravely PC, Kimpton PC, Kings Walden PC, Knebworth PC, St Ippolyts PC and St Paul's Warden PC. Also present were District Cllr J Bishop and County/District Cllr R Thake. Issues discussed included Kimpton Youth Initiative Scheme, Codicote's PCSO, Annual Parish Meetings and working partnerships with Hertfordshire Highways.

- 31.9 Osborne Rail's request to use Christmas Common whilst rebuilding Cadwell Bridge in July 08.
Cllr Crowe, Cllr Thurstance and Cllr Stephenson met with Robert Ronchi, Osborne Rail on 4th July when Mr Ronchi explained in detail that he would need to use Christmas Common due to the equipment that they would be using but are prepared to offer a twelve month contract for the repair of damage to the area to the approximate value of £5,000. He explained their need was to use Christmas Common for siting their office and building trestles on which would be assembled the new top for the bridge. They would create an entrance point opposite Snailswell Lane and an exit point east of the bus stop. They would use a ninety bogey vehicle to take off the existing bridge top and then carry the new assembled top to the bridge.

A fifty hour closure over the weekend of 12th July 2008 had already been agreed and they would arrive on site two weeks before that, they would close off one lane at a time during that two week period to do work on each side of the bridge in preparation for the main tasks. A further three to four days after the closure would then be required to complete the job.

Osborne Rail is only one of four contractors quoting for the work. We now await their response to our request of a suggested payment of £10,000 towards the costs of the proposed road safety projects in Ickleford by way of compensation to the village for the disruption caused.

32 UPDATE FROM POLICE

32.1 Crimes in Ickleford.

PC Matt Jenkins reported that within the last month there have been nine recorded crime, three of which were domestic and related to one family. The other crimes were

- Two attempted burglaries where entry was not gained.
- One stereo stolen from a vehicle where the vehicle was not locked.
- One case of arson.
- One vehicle having both of the wing mirrors snapped.
- One pedal cycle stolen. This was on the back of a dispute and the cycle has now been returned to the owner.

33 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

33.1 Children's play area.

- 33.1.1 The replacement value of the safety tiles is £8,000. To add the safety tiles to IPC's insurance policy it would cost an extra £64.48. Following a proposal from Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

To add the safety tiles to IPC's insurance policy.

REASON

To guarantee that IPC would be able to replace the safety tiles in case of vandalism.

The clerk to arrange.

CIK

- 33.1.2 Cllr Stephenson showed a picture of a catch that he could fix to both gates that would prevent small children being able to open the gates so easily. Following a proposal from Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Goldie and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That Cllr Stephenson fixes these catches.

REASON

To maintain safety for small children.

Cllr Stephenson to arrange.

TS

33.2 Village noticeboard.

Colin Hubbard has quoted £70 for labour and materials to sand existing pinboard surface and coat with clear sealant and to wood stain all external faces and posts. Following a proposal from Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That the noticeboard has these repairs.

REASON

To keep the village looking attractive.

The clerk to arrange with Colin Hubbard.

CIk

33.3 Willow tree on Christmas Common.

In response to advice received from Angela Forster, CMS, IPC discussed what to do with this tree. Following a proposal from Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That the tree shoots would be pruned.

REASON

To maintain the beauty of the tree.

Cllr Chapallaz to arrange with William Crosse.

DC

34 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

34.1 07/012891HH 35 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.

Single storey front extension.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

Permitted development.

34.2 07/01470/1HH 2 Raymond House, Upper Green, Ickleford.

Erection of detached single garage and installation of two solar panel on front roof slope.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

Permitted development.

35 PLANNING DECISIONS.

35.1 07/00994/1HH 1 Ryder Way, Ickleford.

Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension (as amended by plan received 4th June 2007).

Conditional permission granted by NHDC 11th June 2007.

35.2 07/00015/1 Land adjacent to 26 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.
Two 3 bedroom semi detached dwellings with detached building to provide two garages (as amended by plans received 25th May 2007).
Conditional permission granted by NHDC 15th June 2007.

35.3 07/01179/HH 26 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.
First floor side extension.
Conditional permission granted by NHDC 28th June 2007.

36 CORRESPONDENCE.

36.1 Royal Mail – replacing the post box in Walnut Way with a smaller one and relocating it to across the road. As there will be no change to the service offered, IPC had no objections to these proposals.

36.2 HCC – No smoking signs for any bus shelters that are owned by IPC and more than 50% of the shelter is enclosed.

36.3 NHS – Delivering quality health care for Hertfordshire. Cllr Crowe to complete the questionnaire. **PJC**

36.4 NHDC – Partnership working with parishes and town councils scrutiny review – final report.

36.5 NHDC – Statement of Licensing Policy.

36.6 Hertfordshire Constabulary – Neighbourhood Watch have worked with EDF Energy Networks Branch to produce a public safety flier highlighting the dangers of vandalised and illegally accessed substations.

36.7 PC Matt Jenkins – Second locality Panel meeting on Thursday 9th August at 8pm in the hall at St Faith's Church, Hexton. Cllr Maxwell to attend. **MM**

36.8 Paul Barker – Icknield Management Company – query relating to the ownership of trees. As this is not part of parish land, the clerk to suggest he contact HCC or the land registry to establish ownership. **Clk**

36.9 HAPTC – June 2007 newsletter including details of the computer grant fund. The clerk to investigate applying for a new colour printer or a lap top. **Clk**

36.10 EEAPTC News – The Regional Report for Parish and Town Councils (June 2007)

37 FINANCE.

37.1 Audit 2006/7 – Rod Major has completed the internal audit for 2006/7 and had no comments to make. Rod Major stated that he did not want any payment for carry out this audit but instead asked for a donation to be made to the St Katharine's Church Restoration fund. It was agreed to donate £20.00. Cllr Crowe to write a letter of thanks to Mr Major. **PJC**

37.2 Personal Expenses – The clerk to compile a proposed procedure for how parish plan sub group member and Councillors should get future expenses authorised before they are incurred. This procedure is to be agreed at the September meeting. **Clk**

37.3 Definitive Maps – First sheet would cost £15 with each additional sheets are £1.50. It was agreed to order 10 maps at a cost of £28.50. The clerk to order. **Clk**

- 37.4 NHDC Southern Rural Grants – It was suggested that IPC should investigate applying for a grant for a new speed sensitive sign for the village. **CIk**
- 37.5 Q1 Budget update – All Councillors have been supplied a summary of how much of the budget has been spent in Q1.
- 37.6 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting.
The following receipt has been received since 12th June 2007.

Bank interest	£90.23
Total	£90.23

- 37.7 To approve payments for the month of July 2007.
Following a proposal from Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Palmer and agreed unanimously payments of £8,733.35 were approved and the cheques were signed.

38 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- 38.1 Cllr Gibbs reported the new recycling scheme was expected to be launched by NHDC in October 2007. Cllr Gibbs also encouraged IPC to send representatives to the Parish and Town Councils Conference at NHDC on 12th July. Cllr Crowe and Cllr Thurstance confirmed they would both be attending.

39 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES.

- 39.1 Ickleford Primary School Governors.
Cllr Maxwell reported that the school computer room had been refurbished with 30 new computers. The repairs to the school swimming pool were finished and the children were enjoying using this facility again. There would be additional funding for children with Special Educational Needs next year. The school continues to develop its links with Knights Templar, The Priory and Hitchin Boys so it can use their expertise in Sports, Business/ICT and Maths/Design & Technology respectively. Ickleford School were delighted to win Rural Sports again this year.
- 39.2 Rand's Educational Foundation Governors.
Cllr Thurstance reported that eight more children from Ickleford had been awarded grants for staying in further education. It was agreed that Cllr Thurstance would put a reminder in the next edition of the St. Katharine's Wheel that funding for people is available and contact details for the Trust. **CRT**
- 39.3 Ickleford Village Hall Committee.
Cllr Stephenson reported the committee had put on 'No smoking' signs in the Village Hall and have updated the booking forms to state this. The deeds to the Village Hall are now stored at the bank. Sue Firm has become the new booking secretary. The committee were looking to create a disabled parking space in the car park.

40 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

- 40.1 Cllr Goldie advised that she had spoken to the Environment Officer at NHDC who had advised that there were no laws to prevent residents having bonfires but would encourage people to be considerate to their neighbours.

41 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.

41.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th September 2007 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.