

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 12TH JUNE 2007**

Present: Councillors C R Thurstance (Chairman), K Goldie, J Carlyle, G Palmer and T Stephenson

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

14 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THIS MEETING

14.1 Cllr Carlyle proposed and Cllr Goldie seconded that Cllr Thurstance should be elected as Chairman for this meeting as both the Chairman and Vice Chairman were absent. There were no other nominations and therefore, with a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That Cllr Thurstance be appointed the Chairman for this meeting.

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

15.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P J Crowe (holiday), Cllr M Maxwell (away on business), Cllr D Chapallaz (meeting) and NH District Cllr Gibbs.

16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

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

17 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 8TH MAY 2007.

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 8th May 2007 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

18 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS.

18.1 Proposed Burial Ground.

Cllr Thurstance reported that David Hillelson, Heritage Network, had quoted £460 + vat to collate a report that will be acceptable to Andy Instone, HCC. The report will include an assessment of archaeological risk and recommendations for the next stage. As resolved at the May meeting, Cllr Crowe has authorised him to do this report.

18.2 Parish Plan.

In his absence Cllr Maxwell sent a report advising that the Plan has now been printed and will be distributed to all households during the next few weeks. The Steering Group have made a decision to meet every quarter to review progress, but the sub-groups will run self-sufficiently in between, and bring in new volunteers to assist as required.

Cllr Stephenson reported that the police had confirmed traffic monitoring with volunteers from the Traffic and Transport sub-group will take place on 14th and 15th June. 20th and 21st June are still to be confirmed. There will be a flashing speed sign and speed guns will be used so volunteers can record the speed of traffic. It is hoped that a proper traffic survey will follow which will provide information that will help get safety measures for the village in the future.

Cllr Stephenson also reported that he and Katrina Henshaw had walked the village with Jacque Grant, CDA to discuss the traffic problems in Ickleford. Jacque advised that Highways would be making a decision in September as to which villages will be considered for funding for traffic improvements over the following three years. If Ickleford are selected to be one of these villages there may need to be further consultation with residents regarding the proposed plans. However, the parish plan questionnaire will help. Jacque was very impressed with the work that has been done in Ickleford so far although she did have some issues with some of the projects, in particular Cadwell Bridge as this would be very expensive and did not meet the CDA sustainability objectives to receive funding from CDA. This will not stop Ickleford trying to find funding from else where to enable a solution to be implemented.

Cllr Stephenson also advised that if IPC could contribute to the costs of any of the projects it might help getting them done. This would be discussed further once specific costs are known as IPC do have a budget for speed prevention.

There were a few concerns about if the Councillors would be consulted on any proposals. Cllr Stephenson advised that although the Traffic and Transport sub-group were working on the actions in the Parish Plan, IPC would be kept informed and would definitely be consulted on any proposals received from Highways. Cllr Goldie asked if Ickleford could have a speed camera sign at the entrances of the village. Cllr Stephenson advised that this wasn't included in the action plan but that doesn't rule out the possibility.

18.3 Calor Village of the Year in England 2006/2007.

Cllr Thurstance reported that he had taken the judges to see the work on the Church, the new WI flowerbed and had also shown them the garage area behind Turnpike Lane. These site visits were followed by presentations at the Manor from himself, Katrina Henshaw, Reverend Margaret Holford, Fiona Warner and Laurie Kerr. The presentations included an overview of the village, what has happened during the last 12 months and future plans for the village. The awards evening is at County Hall on Thursday 28th June at 6.30 pm. Any Councillor wishing to attend should advise the clerk by 15th June. **All**

18.4 Tony's News.

A meeting is to be arranged between NHDC, IPC and McMullen to discuss what can be done with this building.

18.5 Turnpike Lane garage area.

Cllr Thurstance reported that Cllr Crowe had had a meeting with Debbie Grimes, NHH who had advised him that NHH were looking into demolishing the existing 6 garage and replacing them with a new block of 11 garages and 11 car park spaces. The garages would be leased out with priority being given to NHH tenants from St Katherine's Close and Turnpike Lane who do not currently have garages. It is hoped too that NHDC will agree to landscape the 2 areas of land they own to prevent future flytipping. NHH have estimated that the project could cost up to £130,000 so will need to apply for grants. NHH have written to all tenants in the area and will also be contacting the owners of the garages. NHH will be displaying information about themselves in the village hall on Sunday 17th June as part of Open Gardens.

18.6 Proposed Community Orchard.

Cllr Thurstance reported that he and Laurie Kerr had met with Michael Clark, Tewin Orchard for advice regarding a community orchard. Michael had given them a 'Hertfordshire Orchard Initiative' booklet that had lots of information in it including advice on trees to use. Cllr Thurstance will have a meeting with Richard Nicholls to discuss how much of the field he would be prepared to loose. Cllr Goldie asked who would maintain the orchard. Cllr Thurstance advised that he would expect it to be maintained by an 'Orchard Committee' that would need to be formed. Once costs of leasing the land are known IPC will need to agree to lease the land though.

19 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

19.1 Damage to parts of the Village Green

NHDC have asked Service Team to advise the drivers of the recycling trucks the damage they are causing to the grass verge outside 9 and 10 Upper Green. The grass verge has been repaired.

NHDC will be removing the trees outside the school this financial year and will advise a date shortly.

19.2 Children's play area.

The insurance company has advised that the safety surfaces in the children's play area are not covered by IPC's insurance so IPC will have to pay for the graffiti removal themselves. The clerk to investigate what extra costs would be involved to include the safety surfaces on the insurance policy in the future. **Clk**

Cllr Palmer asked if it would be possible to make the gates so that small children were unable to open them. Cllr Stephenson to find a solution. **TS**

19.3 Graffiti on the old railway embankment near Gerry's Hole.

Bob Gordon quoted £200 + material + vat to remove the graffiti and paint the wall.

CJ Hubbard quoted £105 + vat to paint out graffiti to wall and apply two further coats of masonry paint to accessible / visible all area.

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

RESOLVED

That IPC would request that CJ Hubbard carried out the work.

REASON

To remove the graffiti using the person who offered best value.

20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

20.1 07/0011791HH 26 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.

First floor side extension.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

This improves the appearance.

20.2 07/01184/1HH 29 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.

First floor rear extension (as variation to application number 06/00062/1HH granted 5/5/06).

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

This is only a minor modification.

- 20.3 07/01332/14 Freewaters Close, Ickleford.
Two storey front extension and first floor rear extension.

Cllr Palmer advised all Councillors of a letter of objection that a resident had sent NHDC. The planning application and complaint was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

IPC see no planning reasons to object and had nothing to add to comments made to the similar application made in February 2007(Ref 07/01332/1HH) that was withdrawn in March 2007.

21 PLANNING DECISIONS.

- 21.1 No decisions have been received since the last meeting.

22 CORRESPONDENCE.

- 22.1 The Standards Board for England – Enclosing 9 copies of ‘The Code of Conduct: Guide for members’ and ‘The Code of Conduct: Pocket guide’. Each Councillor to be supplied a copy of both publications.

- 22.2 NHDC – Grant Funding Awards 2007/8 – Copies have been sent to the Village Hall Committee, Ickleford Sports and Recreation Committee and St Katharine’s PCC. The clerk to send all Councillors the criteria for these grants so that ideas can be discussed at the July meeting. **ALL**

- 22.3 NHDC – Town and Parish Council briefing on changes to refuse and recycling collections in North Hertfordshire. The clerk to find out where the 75 plastic bottle banks will be located. **CIk**

- 22.4 HAPTC – May 2007 newsletter including a reminder that the HAPTC AGM will take place on Thursday 28th June 2007.

- 22.5 HCC – Waste development plan – waste core strategy preferred options consultation. All responses required by 30th July 2007.

- 22.6 St Katharine’s PCC – Thanking IPC for their generous support and help towards keeping the churchyard such that it makes a very pleasant amenity for the village.

- 22.7 Osborne Rail – Requesting a meeting with IPC to discuss using Christmas Common for some work to Cadwell Bridge that is scheduled for October. The clerk to arrange this meeting. **CIk**

Cllr Thurstance to contact Network rail to find out more details about this project. **CRT**

23 FINANCE.

- 23.1 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting.
The following receipt has been received since 8TH May 2007.

P3 Grant from HCC	£690.00
Total	£690.00

- 23.2 To approve payments for the month of June 2007.
Following a proposal from Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Carlyle and agreed unanimously the payments of £1,536.66 were approved and the cheques were signed.

24 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 24.1 Cllr Brook reported he had not received any appeals for Secondary transfer this year from Ickleford.

25 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES.

- 25.1 Ickleford Common Holders.
Cllr Carlyle reported that the money from Defra is still outstanding but should arrive soon but they have received a partial payment. As a gesture of goodwill, the Common Holders have reduced the grazing payments by 50% this year.

- 25.2 Parish Paths Partnership.
Cllr Goldie reported that she will arrange a meeting for Cllr Stephenson and Cllr Palmer with Angela Forster, CMS.

- 25.3 Ickleford Primary School Governors.
In his absence Cllr Maxwell sent a report advising there has been no Governors' meeting, but they have had confirmation that Ickleford will not be affected by Hitchin Primary Schools re-organisation.

- 25.4 Ickleford Village Hall Committee.
Cllr Stephenson reported that the refurbishment work would not start until summer 2008. 'No smoking' signs are planned to be put up this month. The committee had asked if IPC had anywhere secure to keep the deeds to the hall. As IPC do not have this facility the deeds would be stored at a bank. The booking secretary has resigned so the committee are looking for a replacement.

- 25.5 Biffa.
In his absence Cllr Crowe sent a report advising that at the recent quarterly meeting at Holwell, Biffa reported operations continue in 3B and between 19th February and 21st May Asbestos was only 5.8% which continues to reduce. Capping & Restoration of Cell 3A is to be completed in Mid June and seeding of areas 1 & 2 has been delayed until September. Monitoring of Dust/Asbestos/Surface Water levels are all ok and only two registered complaints from public in last 3 months.

Following the groundwater breaches that were reported earlier in year when it was feared contaminated water a problem, the Environment Agency have not fully identified the full problem but believe it could come from old site, but in all their monitoring and statistics taken there is no fear to public, but they have requested further information from Biffa to route out problem.

The meeting concluded with a presentation from Sally Hovell advising that Biffaward have changed their criteria/website, however, they will still not touch Burial Grounds.

Cllr Goldie reported that during some recent rain she had noticed some blue water. Cllr Stephenson reported that he regularly sees litter from Biffa. They were both advised to report future incidents to the site manager at Biffa. The clerk to supply them with contact details.

Clk

26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

- 26.1 Following an enquiry from a resident, Cllr Goldie asked if anyone knew the laws regarding residents having bonfires. She was advised to contact NHDC Environmental Health.

27 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.

- 27.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th July 2007 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.