

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 2008

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

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

6 residents present.

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

22.1 Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Brook (meeting), District Councillor Gibbs (away), PC Jenkins (Police Locality Panel Meeting), PCSO Williams (Police Locality Panel Meeting) and PCSO Cuzzo (annual leave).

23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

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

23.2 Councillors are advised to review their respective Register of Interests and update them if necessary.

24 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 1ST MAY 2008.

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 1st May 2008 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

25 UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

25.1 In her absence, PCSO Nikki Williams send a report that advised there had been a total of 6 crimes since 25th April 2008. These included:-

• **3 damage to vehicles**

There is some concern about the amount of vehicle damages so PC Jenkins, PCSO Williams and PCSO Cuzzo will be patrolling the affected areas accordingly.

• **2 thefts**

- (1) Theft of metal – thefts of metal are still ongoing in rural areas due to high scrap values so there are ongoing operations taking place with regard to scrap dealers.
- (2) Theft of money from within an address - money has gone missing from a handbag and it is thought a visitor may be involved.

• **1 domestic related**

26 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS.

26.1 Proposed Burial Ground.

Cllr Thurstance advised that the deadline for grant applications to PACIF was 30th September and a lot of information would be required with the application. After a discussion, it was agreed an A4 leaflet would be delivered to all residents summarising the project and stating the cases for and against the proposal. Residents would be asked to complete a reply slip stating whether they wished for IPC to proceed with the project. Cllrs Crowe, Maxwell, Thurstance and Palmer to compile the leaflet with Ms Taylor supplying the case against the proposal.

PJC/MM/CRT/GP

- 26.2 Litter Collection Day.
The next litter collection day will take place on Saturday 21st June 2008.
- 26.3 Posts on Village Green.
The location of the posts has been agreed and William Crosse will install them this month.
- 26.4 Plastic bottle recycling bank.
A plastic bottle recycling bank is now located in the Green Man car park. This has been advertised in the Comet and on the website. The clerk has sent a letter of thanks to the managers at the Green Man.
- 26.5 Ways to reduce the use of plastic bags in Ickleford.
Cllr Maxwell advised that Nick and Jean Jones (Ickleford Stores) were very keen to look at reducing plastic bags in Ickleford and planned to discuss this with all the shops in Ickleford once their busy period had finished.
- 26.6 Proposed mobile fish and chip van.
The owners of 'The Village Chippy' have agreed to visit Ickleford on Tuesday evenings from Tuesday 10th June and has suggested that he stops in Greenfield Avenue between 4.30 pm and 5.45 pm and then moves to Arlesey Road at 6.00 pm. Nick & Jean Jones and Sonny Charles have agreed their forecourt can be used from 6.30 pm so between 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm they will stop in the car park opposite or on Arlesey Road.
- 26.7 Annual Report 2007 / 2008
The Annual Report for 2007 / 2008 was approved by all Councillors and would be put on the village website for people to download. As agreed at the May meeting (point 13.8), 20 copies would be printed to have available for residents who request a printed version.
The clerk would also send copies to St Katharine's Church, School, Village Hall, Sports Club and WI.

Clk

27 OPEN DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm for an open discussion with residents of Ickleford and re-opened at 8.20 pm. During the closed meeting

- 27.1 Mrs Young expressed her disappointment about not being able to ask questions publicly at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Crowe acknowledged this point and explained that it would have been difficult to have an open debate due to the nature of the meeting. However, there had been plenty of opportunity for residents to speak to all the Parish Councillors as well as the District Councillor, County Councillor and representatives from the Police.
- 27.2 Mrs Young queried if the burial ground would be available to residents outside the village as this had been indicated by NHDC. Cllr Thurstance explained that the comment that Mrs Young was referring to was only an officer's comment. Cllr Thurstance also advised the residents that the burial ground would only be eligible to residents of Ickleford and people who have had a close association with the village.
- 27.3 Mr Burton raised concerns about the drainage in the field where the proposed new burial ground would be and mentioned that sometimes there is standing water near Snailswell Lane. He was also concerned that the geological survey was done during a very dry period. Cllr Crowe explained that IPC were not experts in this field and had to accept the reports presented by the Environment Agency which had been sufficient for NHDC to make their decision with.

28 NEW MATTERS

28.1 Ickleford Motor Company.

In response to concern about how the tanks are going to be removed, the clerk spoke to a Planning Officer and Health and Safety Officer at NHDC. Both Officers were aware of the site and advised that NHDC were keeping a close eye on this site and health and safety will naturally be a very high priority.

NHDC has only received one planning application and that was from RAK. No decision has been made yet on this application. However, if permission is granted, the environment department has requested multiple conditions being imposed. All of which would need to be satisfied before any work could be started. For each condition the builder would need to send a proposal to NHDC on how the work would be carried out and then evidence on that it has been done. These proposals would be passed to all relevant departments and outside bodies (e.g. Environment Agency).

With regards to decommissioning the site, the builders would need to send in a proposal on how it will be done and the fire service will finally need to issue the certificate to say it has been done properly. After the site has been decommissioned, further tests will need to be carried out (including drilling holes, water tests etc) to make sure that there have been no leaks, no contamination etc.

28.2 New nesting boxes for the barn owls.

The Barn Owl Steering Group has advised that the cost for six boxes is £90.00. Therefore this project is not eligible for a landfill grant as the minimum support given is £250.00. The Group is now looking to local commerce for help. However if this proves to be unfruitful, the group will approach the three Parish Councils. In this event, indicative costs are £30 for each of Holwell, Ickleford and Pirton Parish Councils. IPC agreed to contribute £30 if required.

29 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

29.1 Christmas Common.

William Crosse quoted £50 for each cut and normally 3 to 4 cuts are required each year. Following a proposal from Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would give William Crosse a contract to cut Christmas Common 3 – 4 times a year as required but avoiding the bird nesting season between April and June at a cost of £50 per cut.

REASON

To maintain this area of Open Space.

As the grass was rather long and obstructing vision for motorists, it was also agreed to request William Crosse to cut back a small strip near the bend.

29.2 Churchyard maintenance.

An additional strimmer is required by the volunteers who maintain the churchyard and IPC have been offered a second-hand strimmer for £40.00 (£60 new). As the strimmer has only been used once and was in excellent condition, it was agreed this was a very generous offer. Following a proposal from Cllr Chapallaz, seconded by Cllr Goldie and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would purchase this strimmer.

REASON

To provide the volunteers with the necessary equipment to continue to maintain the churchyard to its current high standard.

30 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- 30.1 08/00671/1HH 5 Ryder Way, Ickleford. SG5 3XL.
Single storey front and rear extensions.
The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

Permitted development.

- 30.2 08/00896/1HH 38 Walnut Way, Ickleford. SG5 3XX.
Front entrance porch.
The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

Permitted development.

- 30.3 08/01049/1HH 74 Icknield Close, Ickleford. SG5 3TE.
Single storey front extension.
The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

Permitted development.

31 PLANNING DECISIONS.

- 31.1 08/00827/1TCA, Fontenoy, Greenfield Lane, Ickleford, SG5 3YH.
Fell 1 Robina and 3 Holly trees; formatively prune 3 Silver Birch trees and lift lower canopy of 1 Holm Oak to approximately 4 metres from ground level.

NHDC had no objection to this application.

- 31.2 08/00673/1, Barns at Westmill Lane, Ickleford. SG5 3RP.
Conversion and extension of redundant barn buildings to create residential dwelling comprising a 4 bedroom detached property with 3 car parking spaces; alterations to existing vehicular access and provision of 3 passing bays along Westmill Lane.

NHDC refused permission on 20th May 2008.

Reasons

- 1) The application site is within an area designated in the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan no.2 with Alterations as Green Belt, within which there is a presumption against inappropriate development, such as that proposed, unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. In the view of the Local Planning Authority the proposal is not supported by such circumstances. Moreover, it would harm the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy which seeks to maintain the openness of the area. As such, the proposal would not accord with the provisions of Policy 2 of the District Local Plan no.2 with Alterations 1996.
- 2) The site layout is considered to be a poor form of development, which would result in residential use unnecessarily traversing across and into agricultural land, contrary to the character of the area. The proposal is therefore considered to be contrary to Policy 25 of the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan no.2 with Alterations 1996.
- 3) The application fails to comply with PPS23 - Planning and Pollution Control as the information submitted is insufficient to be able to demonstrate that the risk of pollution to controlled waters is acceptable.

32 CORRESPONDENCE.

- 32.1 SR Inter Parish Meetings – The next proposed meeting is to be held on Wednesday 11th June at Codicote Memorial Hall. Cllr Crowe to attend. **PJC**
- 32.2 The Planning Inspectorate – Regional spatial strategy review: Planning for gypsy and traveller accommodation in the East of England.

33 FINANCE.

- 33.1 Internal Audit Report for Accounts 2007 / 08.
Rod Major has carried out an internal audit on the accounts for 2007 / 08 and is satisfied they have been maintained properly. He has therefore completed Section 4 of the annual report. The annual report can now be sent to the auditors. 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.
- 33.2 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting.
The following receipts have been received since 1st May 2008.

VAT refund 1/1/08-31/3/08	£499.19
Total receipts =	£499.19

- 33.3 To approve payments for the month of June 2008.
Following a proposal from Cllr Carlyle, seconded by Cllr Goldie and agreed unanimously payments of £2,532.80 were approved and the cheques were signed.
- 33.4 Invoice from Nick Gavin for laying the hedge at ISRC
As the work took longer than expected and bird nesting season started, Nick Gavin had only been able to lay half hedge so he submitted an invoice for £600 to cover this work. However, he had initially quoted £560 to lay the whole hedge and £80 for the stakes and it was based on this quote that he was awarded the contract. (Points 75.2 and 112.1 of 2007/08 minutes).
Following a discussion, it was agreed that Nick Gavin should be asked to re-invoice for half the work (£280) + the costs of stakes (£40) and IPC would cancel the remainder of the contract. Nick Gavin would then be invited to quote to lay the 2nd half of the hedge. **Cik**

34 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES.

- 34.1 Parish Paths Partnership
Cllr Goldie reported that the contractors who cut the grass for NHDC had damaged the path by the corner of Snailswell Lane and Arlesey Road. The clerk agreed to advise NHDC. **Cik**

35 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.

- 35.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd July at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.