

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 11th MARCH 2008

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

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

Also present for part of the meeting: County Cllr Brook, Dr Michael Willoughby (Vice Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group).

Two residents present for all of the meeting: Ms Sarah Taylor and Mrs Barbara Young .

119 ELECT A CHAIRMAN.

119.1 Cllr Chapallaz 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.

120 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

120.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P J Crowe (holiday), M Maxwell (hospital), District Cllr P Gibbs (another meeting), PC Matt Jenkins (not on duty) and PCSO Nikki Williams (not on duty)

121 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

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

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

122 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2008.

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2008 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

123 OPEN DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm for an open discussion with residents of Ickleford and re-opened at 8.20 pm. During the closed meeting items 123.1 to 123.4 were discussed.

123.1 Mrs Young asked why there hadn't been a public meeting about the proposed burial site. Cllr Thurstance advised her that this would take place once IPC know if they have permission to change the use of the area to a burial ground and are able to draw up plans to show residents.

123.2 Ms Taylor asked why the water level tests were carried out during a drought period. Cllr Thurstance explained that these tests were carried out by the Environment Agency so IPC had no control over the timescale.

123.3 Mrs Young expressed concern about the safety of children riding scooters and bicycles to school along Chambers Lane as there is no footpath along the road and

suggested that Mrs Salmon, School Headteacher, should make the children and car drivers aware of these dangers.

- 123.4 Mrs Young asked when the next neighbourhoodwatch meeting would be. As a fellow neighbourhood watch co-ordinator, Cllr Goldie offered to make some enquires about the next meeting and also find out why some of the coordinators are receiving information from the OWL messaging system and others are not.

124 UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

124.1 Crimes in Ickleford.

In her absence, PCSO Williams sent a report advising that there had been ten recorded crimes since 8th January 2008. These crimes included:-

- 3 domestic related incidents.
- 1 theft of vehicle.
- 1 robbery - taxi driver was robbed on a drop-off in the village (4 arrested, offenders not from Ickleford).
- 1 theft from vehicle.
- 2 other dispute related incidents.
- 1 disqualified driver stopped in the village (again not an Ickleford resident)
- 1 incident of suspicious callers - possibly attempted distraction burglars

PCSO Williams has emailed her contact with regard to 'no cold calling zones', as there has been no report of progress for some time. She is hoping that information regarding this will be forthcoming by the next PC meeting.

The new PCSO (shared with Kimpton) is due to start on 1st April. She is Elaine Cuozzo, and was previously employed on the Mobile Police Station, so is already familiar with the PCSO role. PCSO Williams has given her dates for Parish Council meetings, and will be bringing her along for introductions at the April meeting.

125 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS.

125.1 Proposed Burial Ground.

Cllr Thurstance advised all Councillors that IPC had received a copy of the letter from Mr A Burton, Ms S Taylor and Mrs B Young to NHDC objecting to the application to change the use of the agricultural land to a burial ground. Enclosed with the letter was a petition with forty four signatures against the application. Cllr Thurstance read the letter to all Councillors. The main points against the application were:-

- Vehicular access adjacent to Chambers Lane.
- Need, quality of life, dignity and respect.
- Vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- Local environment and wildlife.

Cllr Thurstance also read out Reverend Margaret Holford's letter that she sent to Tom Rea, NHDC. The letter confirmed that there is no room for any further burials in the churchyard of St Katharine's Church other than in a small number of existing family plots. She also advised that there was very limited space in the Garden of Remembrance for the burial of ashes which is rapidly filling up too. Reverend Holford finished the letter by saying that she felt sure that the piece of land that was being donated for the purpose of the burial of all Ickleford residents, of all denominations, would be greatly welcomed by the large majority of the village for the last resting place of their loved ones.

125.2 Parish Plan.

125.2.1 Update on the crime and disorder action plan.

In his absence, Cllr Maxwell sent a report advising everyone that he was still waiting for the meeting with Inspector Julie Wheatley about the new PCSO and he is putting together a list of Ickleford's priorities for policing (as determined by the PP questionnaire).

125.2.2 Update on the traffic and transport action plan.

Cllr Stephenson reported that HH would complete the work outside the school by the end of March 2008. HH has sent IPC the results from the traffic monitoring tests that were carried out in December 2007. IPC are still waiting for all the raw data though so they can analyse it. Subject to funding being confirmed, HH has agreed to carry out feasibility studies during financial year 2008/09 for

- Bedford Road.
- Turnpike Lane.
- Chambers Lane.
- The pedestrian crossing outside the school.

The results also showed that people drive slower in Arlesey Road near where the speed sensitive sign is.

125.2.3 Update on the facilities and amenities action plan.

In his absence, Cllr Maxwell sent a report advising everyone that he was trying to arrange a meeting with Karen Jones, NH College to identify what sort of courses could be run at the school IT suite or if there was a suggested alternative use for the computers.

Cllr Maxwell was also contacting Ickleford Pre-School to establish if there was still a demand for a purpose built building and if anybody was interested in taking the project further.

125.3 Garage area and Little Park behind Turnpike Lane.

All Councillors had been supplied a copy of a draft letter that Dr Willoughby was proposing to send to Mr Charlton, Estates Survey at NHDC which summarised the current status of the area as well as illustrating the outline proposal prepared by IPC, in conjunction with the parish plan steering committee. A few minor alterations were suggested but it was agreed that Dr Willoughby should send the letter.

It has been suggested that initially IPC should investigate putting allotments on the NHDC land between the garage area and Bedford Road whilst continuing to request that NHH clear the garage area owned so that this area can be used for additional parking for residents and people using the proposed allotments.

To establish if there is a demand for allotments from residents of Ickleford, it was agreed to ask the question in the next edition of the St Katharine Wheel, in Ickleford's column of The Comet's 'Town and around' section and on the village noticeboards.

125.4 Repairs to Cadwell Bridge in July 08.

Following an enquiry from Cllr Goldie, Cllr Thurstance reported that Network Rail had confirmed that there would be no work taking place on Sunday 22nd June when Open Gardens would take place. However, Network Rail have indicated that in addition to the bridge being closed during 12th/13th July, the bridge would also be closed during 7th/8th June. It was suggested that a meeting with the contractors would be useful. Cllr Thurstance to arrange.

CRT

Cllr Stephenson advised that the estimate for a pedestrian crossing was £70,000. However, IPC would need to work with HH to establish what would be feasible. Cllr Thurstance to advice Network Rail of this estimated cost.

CRT

125.5 Village Green.

It was agreed to remove the fencing during the Easter holidays.

- 125.6 Visibility out of Turnpike Lane onto Bedford Road.
Part of the bamboo fence and all of the laurel bushes have been removed.
- 125.7 Plastic recycling bank.
IPC is waiting to hear from Cllr Gibbs about the proposal to have a plastic recycling bank in the Plume of Feathers car park.
- 125.8 Annual Parish Meeting.
The WI has agreed to do the refreshments. It was agreed to distribute flyers to advertise the meeting to all residents during April. Ickle Drama would be asked to do their performance at 7.30 pm. Reports from Cllr Crowe, Cllr Brook and Cllr Gibbs would be scheduled for 8.00 pm. However, copies of written reports would also be available for residents. The layout of the hall will be finalised at the April meeting.
- 125.9 Annual Report
All Councillors had been supplied a copy of the proposed format which everyone was happy with. It was agreed that people could download the report from the website with printed copies also being available for residents by request. The annual report would include
- A report from IPC Chairman about 2007/08 which would include details on parish paths projects, environment projects and village organisations that IPC have supported financially.
 - An update on the parish plan.
 - Updates on the action plans for each section of the parish plan.
 - Future plans for 2008/09.
- The annual report will be produced between April and June 2008.
- 125.10 Ickleford Information booklet 2008
The clerk was requested to produce an updated version of the Ickleford Information booklet.
Clk
- 126 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**
- 126.1 Hedge at ISRC – Nick Gavin has completed laying the hedge on the first section. However, he unable to lay the hedge on the second section until next season as the seasons have been earlier this year so is now out of the hedge laying season.
- 126.2 Ash tree near Barbers Lane, Arlesey Road
The clerk established that the tree was on HCC's land which was maintained by NHDC. Therefore, NHDC are responsible for carrying out any work required. Karl Wilkins, NHDC agreed to look at the tree and speak to Mr Wadsworth.

127 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

127.1 08/00208/1HH 1 Claymore Drive, Ickleford.
Detached garage.

The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

It looks like all that they've done is move the position of the garage closer to the house. IPC did not object last time, although NHDC refused the garage. Based on this, IPC has no objection to the application. It is less obtrusive than others which have been passed in Claymore Drive and along Arlesey Road.

127.2 07/02953/1 The Cottage, Bedford Road, Ickleford.

Replacement dwelling with detached triple garage following demolition of existing dwelling. The planning application was discussed and it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

Although IPC is aware that this is a greenbelt development, the consensus of opinion was that it would be an improvement on the existing building.

127.3 08/00161/1 Part of Alleyfield adjacent to Chambers Lane, Ickleford.

Change of use of agricultural land to burial ground (cemetery) and formation of new vehicular access to Chambers Lane.

IPC not required to comment as they are the applicant.

127.4 08/00206/1PUD 7 Witter Avenue, Ickleford.

Rear conservatory.

IPC not required to comment as it is only a lawful development certificate proposed.

127.5 07/03036/1 Ickleford Motor Company, Arlesey Road, Ickleford.

Erection of two 5-bedroom dwellings with detached garages together with creation of vehicular access from River Court and revision to existing access off Arlesey Road, following demolition of existing commercial premises.

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

IPC felt that this was a sympathetic development for the area.

127.6 08/00363/1HH 1 Abbis Orchard, Ickleford.

Single storey side extension.

RESOLVED

That IPC would not object to this application.

REASON

IPC could see no planning issues with the proposal.

128 PLANNING DECISIONS.

128.1 No new decisions have been received since the February meeting.

129 CORRESPONDENCE.

- 129.1 Holwell Parish Council – Proposed travellers site at Pirton. – The NHDC consultation ends on 19th March. All Councillors had been copied on all correspondence from Holwell PC and Pirton PC. It was agreed that IPC would send a letter of objection to this proposed site to NHDC and EERA that would simply state that IPC had read and understood the responses from Holwell PC and Pirton PC and fully support both their objections. Additionally, IPC would also state that the landowner, Mrs Parker, objects to this proposal as the site is so unsuitable both for the people of Pirton and also the travellers.
- 129.2 St Katharine’s Church Open Gardens committee – requesting permission to erect a roadside poster on Arlesey Road between the triangle and the mill to advertise Open Gardens. IPC had no objection to this proposal but would suggest to the committee that they should also ask permission from HH and NHDC.
- 129.3 Network Rail – Hitchin Flyover Grade Separation Scheme. All Councillors were copied on this correspondence.

130 FINANCE.

- 130.1 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting.
Receipts received since 12th February 2008.

Grant from HAPTC towards cost of new printer & laptop	£675.00
Total receipts =	£675.00

- 130.2 To approve payments for the month of March 2008.
Following a proposal from Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Carlyle and agreed unanimously payments of £2,136.41 were approved and the cheques were signed.

131 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Brook reported that council tax would be increasing by 4.5% for financial year 2008/09. This was a difficult decision but the increase they had received from the government had not covered inflation. HCC would still need to go into their reserves though to meet costs.

Cllr Brook also advised that for the 2nd year running he had received no appeals for secondary transfer from children living in Ickleford. In complete contrast there are twenty eight children from outside Ickleford who are on the continued interest list for Ickleford School for academic year 2008/09

132 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES.

- 132.1 Parish Paths Partnership.
Cllr Goldie reported that she and Cllr Stephenson were still trying to get people from O₂ to erect the gate and remove all existing rubbish as promised.
- 132.2 Ickleford Village Hall Committee.
Cllr Stephenson reported that the committee had applied for grant of £20,000 from WREN. The Ickleford Village Hall Committee are organising a quiz night called the Ickleford Challenge, which will be held on Saturday 26th April at 7.30 pm at Ickleford Village Hall. Tickets are £7 each, teams of 6-8 per table. There will be lots of different types of challenge, something for everyone. Fish and chip supper included. Bar available. All proceeds will go towards replacing the Village Hall roof.

132.3 Ickleford Primary School Governors

In his absence, Cllr Maxwell sent a report advising that in an attempt to increase further the performance of children, the school has identified three groups with relative under-performance which will be targeted with more personalised learning. Note that children in these groups still progress faster than would be expected (i.e. added value scores between KS1 and KS2 are greater than 100), it's just that their rate of progress is not as great as the other groups in the school. The three cohorts are: children receiving free school meals, children from ethnic minority backgrounds, and boys who are above average at the end of KS1 (Yr 2). The assessment of the school improvement partner (a head from another school in Herts), which was performed at the end of Feb, is that Ickleford School is outstanding or good in all categories.

133 DATE FOR NEXT MEETINGS.

133.1 The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th April 2008 at 7.30 pm.

133.2 The annual parish meeting will be held on Thursday 24th April 2008 between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm