

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2009

Present: Councillors P J Crowe (Chairman), M Maxwell, K Goldie, J Carlyle, Cllr G Palmer and T Stephenson.

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

Also present for part of the meeting: Dr M Willoughby

126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

126.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C R Thurstance (holiday), Cllr D Chapallaz (hospital), County Cllr Brook and District Cllr P Gibbs, PC M Jenkins, PCSO N Williams, PCSO E Cuozzo and PCSO S Jeffery.

127 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

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

127.2 Councillors were advised to review their respective Register of Interests and update them if necessary.

128 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2009

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2009 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

129 UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

129.1 Prior to the meeting, PCSO Sarah Jeffery advised that during February there were 2 recorded crimes which included:-

- Public Order Offence
- Theft from Dwelling not crimed as burglary.

130 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS INCLUDING AGREEMENTS FOR NEXT ACTIONS.

130.1 Proposed Burial Ground

Cllr Crowe was pleased to report that NHDC had agreed to remove the condition that a grant of £50,000 towards the proposed burial ground would only be granted providing the burial ground is made available to all residents of the North Hertfordshire District. The grant will be awarded based on the original application that clearly stated that the burial ground would only be available to those with an association with the village.

Cllr Crowe was also pleased to report that the deed had been signed by Mrs Parker and all eight trustees.

IPC is now waiting for the planning decision from NHDC for the amended application and a decision from WREN on another grant application.

130.2 Rural Programme New Travel Plan

Cllr Stephenson reported that the funding has been confirmed for all the proposed work. IPC has not yet seen the results from the survey carried out on Arlesey Road between the triangle and Bowman's Mill but HH has advised that the results indicated there was a speed problem in this area. Unfortunately, HH has been unsuccessful in receiving any funding for proposed safety work along this stretch of road.

Now funding has been approved, HH is working on the draft leaflets detailing all the traffic calming proposals. Once this leaflet has been approved and printed it will be delivered to all households. Cllr Maxwell asked that this is produced soon so that residents have chance to look at the plans before any work is started.

HH are currently looking to see if it is practical to have a gateway feature at the entrances to the village.

Cllr Stephenson advised that work had started to upgrade the footpath between the sports club and the alleyway to Raymond Cottages. This work is due to be completed next week. The contractor has advised that there may be some surplus concrete mix and has asked IPC if there is anywhere close-by where it could be used. It was agreed that the best place would be on the overflow car park at the sports ground.

Although HH are not prepared to fund any safety measures near Cadwell Bridge, Cllr Stephenson has asked HH to advise the cost of a feasibility study.

A meeting has been scheduled with Hertfordshire Highways on 2nd April to discuss all the above plans.

130.3 Garage area and Little Park behind Turnpike Lane.

Garry Gover has arranged a meeting between NHDC, NHH and IPC on Tuesday 31st March.

130.4 Annual Litter Day

Dr Willoughby advised that the proposed date for the annual litter collection day is Saturday 27th June as this is the day before Open Gardens.

130.5 Annual Parish Meeting.

Flyers have been produced and have been delivered with the St Katharine's Wheel. There will be table displays from The Barn Owl project, Ickleford Pre-School, Ickleford Scout Group, Russian Ballet and Music with Mummy. Also in attendance will be representatives from the Police, Ickleford Village Hall, St Katharine's Church, Ickleford School, Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club, Ickle Drama and the Mother and Toddler Group.

130.6 Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2010/11.

Cllr Maxwell reviewed the consultation document on school admissions, and could not find any major changes for primary or secondary admissions. King's Walden and St Paul's Walden are moved into the Priority Area for the Hitchin schools (they were previously in the St Albans/ Harpenden area) which will make it very marginally more difficult for children from Ickleford to get the secondary school of their choice. One other interesting change is in allocation of Key Stage 1 places; if 29 places of the maximum 30 are taken, and the next ranked applicants are a set of twins, both twins would be offered places and the child originally in 29th position would lose his/her place.

131 REPORTED FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

131.1 Hitchin Urban Transport Plan.

Cllr Stephenson attended this meeting and gave his input into local problems areas, buses and through traffic in Ickleford. A plan to improve traffic in Hitchin will be put together.

132 NEW MATTER TO CONSIDER/AGREE ACTIONS**132.1 Plan for future occasions when it snows.**

The clerk has made some enquires as to what IPC can do during future occasions when it snows and has found out the following:-

- HH are looking into what they did well and how they can improve on the areas they didn't do well.
- No one else in Hertfordshire does anything extra to what HH offers.
- HAPTC would advise against IPC doing anything extra due to liability.
- If IPC did agree to do extra services, IPC would need to carryout a risk assessment first and would need to put together the proposal to their insurance company. It is highly likely that the insurance company would not insure IPC carrying out extra services unless it was carried out by people with the appropriate skills/training and using the correct equipment and then if they did there would be an extra cost.
- It would be difficult to employ someone on an ad hoc basis who would have the necessary skills/training and has the correct equipment.

It was agreed that it would not be practical for IPC to clear snow around Ickleford. However, IPC should encourage people to work together as a community and help the elderly and vulnerable at all times, particularly when it snows.

132.2 Village Green.

It was agreed to remove the fence now. No further action was agreed as the grass needs another season to grow. The area will be reviewed again in 2010. The clerk to ask William Crosse to remove the fence.

Clk**132.3 Community Engagement Strategy.**

A Community Engagement Strategy should include:-

- Aims and objectives.
- Defining the community (everyone who works and plays in Ickleford).
- Provision of information to the community.
- Opportunity for community involvement.
- Formal representation to the Council.
- Involvement into partnership.
- Role of Council members and officers.
- Specific areas for community involvement.

It was agreed that IPC should consider having one. The clerk to investigate.

Clk**132.4 Major Incident Emergency Plan.**

Prior to the meeting all Councillors were circulated with a copy of the draft Major Incident Emergency Plan. This was discussed and following a proposal from Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was

RESOLVED

To adopt the Major Incident Emergency Plan dated March 2009.

REASON

To ensure that IPC would be prepared if a major incident occurs in the Parish of Ickleford.

132.5 Standing Orders

Following a proposal from Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was

RESOLVED

To adopt the revised standing orders dated 5th March 2009 to include the Major Incident Emergency Plan that was agreed in 132.4 above as item 58 on page 10.

REASON

To ensure that the Standing Order include all relevant information.

- 132.6 June meeting.
The Village Hall is being used for European elections on 4th June 2009 so IPC are unable to hold their June meeting on the first Thursday of the month. The Village Hall committee offered Wednesday 3rd June, Wednesday 10th June and Thursday 11th June as alternative dates. As many of the Councillors are not available on the Wednesdays it was agreed that the meeting will be held on Thursday 11th June. The clerk to advise the Village Hall committee.

Clk

133 CORRESPONDENCE.

- 133.1 Mid Beds District Council.
Submission of the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies.
All documents can be
a) viewed at the Council Offices in Chicksands
b) downloaded from www.midbeds.gov.uk
Alternatively paper copies and CDS are available from the LDF Team.
- 133.2 Hertfordshire Police Authority.
Safer Neighbourhood Awards. Closing date for nominations is 20th March 2009.
- 133.3 Town and Parish Standard.
Issue 4 – February 2009.
- 133.4 CPRE – The Hertfordshire Society
February 2009 newsletter.
- 133.5 Chiltern News
Issue 191 March 2009.
- 133.6 Hertfordshire County Council
Minerals development plan document. Responses required by 6 April 2009.

134 FINANCE.

- 134.1 To approve payments for the month of March 2009.
Following a proposal from Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Goldie and agreed unanimously payments of £3,312.88 were approved and the cheques were signed.

135 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 135.1 Prior to the meeting, Cllr Brook advised that the County Council will be raising their Council Tax 3.5%. The District Council will be raise theirs by 3.9% and the Police will raise theirs by 4.5%. Cllr Brook also advised that out of the 24 children from Ickleford who applied for secondary school places in Hertfordshire, 21 got their 1st choice, 2 got their 2nd choice and 1 got their 3rd choice.

136 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

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

- 136.1 Cllr Goldie reported that there was some graffiti on the wall of the Cadwell Bridge. The clerk agreed to ask Network Rail to remove this.
- 136.2 Cllr Palmer asked Cllr Maxwell (as a school governor) if he knew why the pre-school was in the Village Hall and not attached to the school. Cllr Maxwell advised that Mrs Salmon had looked into this before and he believed it had been agreed there wasn't space for the building and outdoor play area that would be required. Cllr Maxwell agreed to confirm these facts.
- 136.3 Cllr Stephenson reported that a pair of boots was still hanging from a telephone wire in Walnut Way. The clerk agreed to ask North Hertfordshire Homes who they had asked to remove these.

137 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.

- 137.1 The Annual Parish meeting will be on Thursday 26th March between 7:00 pm and 9:15 pm
- 137.2 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd April 2009 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm