

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.15PM ON TUESDAY 13TH MARCH 2007

Present: Cllrs P J Crowe (Chairman), M Maxwell, C R Thurstance D Chapallaz, B Crosse, K Goldie, J Carlyle, G Palmer.

Also present: Cllr N Brook, (HCC), Mary Caldwell (NHDC), Andy Beavan (NHDC), PC Matt Jenkins.

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

126. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Gibbs (Meeting).

127. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

127.1 Any financial or other interests. All Councillors' details remain unchanged.

127.2 Interests in matters arising at this meeting. None were declared.

128. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2007

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

129 PRESENTATION ON PLANNING BY MARY CALDWELL AND ANDY BEAVAN

Andy Beavan gave a brief explanation about North Hertfordshire's Local Development Framework and how this fitted in with the East of England Plan. He provided all Councillors with a 'Document Hierarchy' which clearly showed how the Local Development Framework is made up of a series of documents including the Local Development Documents (Statement of Community Involvement, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents).

Mary Caldwell gave an overview of Planning Control in NHDC where she advised that the Officers always have to work with the policies when making planning decisions. They valued the comments from Parish Councils and would encourage them to supply as much information as possible, however they are not always able to take all comments on board if they are not actual planning issues.

Once NHDC has validated an application there is a statutory period of 8 weeks to deal with it. Parish Councils are then given 21 days to respond. If Planning Control disagrees with the Parish Council's comments the application is sent to committee. In the next civic year it is expected that there will be a Central Planning Committee which will meet 12 times a year. The creation of this committee should result in more consistent decisions, more regular meetings and members with specific interests in planning.

NHDC was looking into better training on planning for Parish Councillors and is considering asking Parish Councils to nominate someone as their Planning Champion who can get a better understanding of NHDC's policies. Mary Caldwell then supplied each Councillor with a handout that detailed some of NHDC's main policies.

NHDC only have 1 Planning Compliance Officer so they do ask Parish Councils to advise them of any unauthorised developments.

After the presentation there were discussion regarding the proposed new community build in Ickleford. As the proposed site is on Greenbelt, Andy Beavan and Mary Caldwell advised IPC that they would need to submit a good case for using this site and should include details of

- a) Why this is the most suitable site in Ickleford – e.g. the existing road structure.
- b) Why all the other sites in Ickleford would be unsuitable.
- c) How the building would be sited.
- d) Where the proposed new Greenbelt boundary would be and how it would be visibly defined – e.g. with trees, hedges.

Even though HCC own the land, IPC can apply for planning permission on the site providing they serve notice to HCC 21 days before the application (Certificate B on the Application Form).

130 UPDATE FROM PC MATT JENKINS

PC Matt Jenkins advised that the Community Engagement Meeting on Monday 19th March would be an open forum. Other villages invited were Holwell, Hexton and Pirton.

The PCSOs have set up a 'Farm Watch' and are inviting all farmers to join and inform the police of any suspicious activities.

There have been 5 recorded crimes in Ickleford since February. One of which was a distraction burglary where a female distracted an elderly lady while a male stole her purse.

PC Matt Jenkins agreed to look into why neither the Parish Clerk nor road co-ordinators in Ickleford are being informed of crimes in Ickleford.

131 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS

131.1 Proposed new Burial Ground.

Cllr Carlyle showed all Councillors the draft plan of the proposed burial ground and supporting notes that he has put together based upon the information that Cllr Crowe had provided him. This plan is to be sent to Mr Hillelson, Heritage Network, so that he can have further conversations with Mr Instone, HCC Archaeologist.

PJC

131.2 Parish Plan.

Cllr Maxwell showed all Councillors the first draft of the Parish Plan and advised that it should be complete in the next few weeks.

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

RESOLVED

That all Parish Plan sub-groups could write directly to outside bodies. All correspondence would be copied to the Parish clerk.

REASON

To be able to work efficiently on achieving results from the Action Plan.

131.3 Calor Village of the Year 2006/2007.

The clerk has contacted all businesses and organisations to see who is available to attend. Timetable to be confirmed once we know who is attending.

It was agreed that the virtual tour should show an overview of the village. Cllr Carlyle to start videoing and taking pictures.

JC

131.4 New benches purchased with money remaining from Biffaward.

Following discussions it was agreed that the benches would be positioned

- 1) Village Green - near the acacia tree facing the bus shelters.
- 2) Arlesey Road - on the piece of Common Land opposite the Green Man facing the triangle.
- 3) Lower Green - either side of the bridleway approximately half way between the Equestrian Centre and the Thatched Cottage.

The clerk to advise William Crosse.

CIk

131.5 New Willow Tree for Ickleford Common.

Cllr Crosse informed the Councillors that a Willow Tree would cost £35.00 plus any additional delivery charge.

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

RESOLVED

That IPC would purchase this tree.

REASON

To make a corner of the Common more attractive.

Cllr Crosse to arrange delivery and planting of the tree.

BC

132 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

132.1 Speed sensitive sign.

Ken Clowes, HH has advised that the sign should be repaired this week.

132.2 Damage to parts of the Village Green.

Building contractors have damaged the grass verge outside 10 Upper Green and also parts of the Village Green in the driveway opposite. The clerk to contact the contractor to ask him to top soil and seed this area.

CIk

To stop vehicles damaging these areas and alongside the path to Fairfield, the clerk to arrange for white concrete posts to be installed.

CIk

132.3 Grass verges and road in Walnut Way near new houses being built

There have been complaints about the damage the builders are doing to the grass verge and road. Other complaints include inconsiderate parking by the contractors resulting in poor visibility when turning out of Walnut way and obstructing the footpath along Turnpike Lane. The clerk to write to NHDC and HH regarding these complaints.

CIk

132.4 Common Land outside 123 Arlesey Road.

The residents would like to put down some form of hard standing for their cars and have asked IPC what would be acceptable. It was agreed that open blocks that allow grass to grow through would be considered suitable. The clerk to inform the residents.

CIk

132.5 Fallen tree on Barbers Lane

William Crosse will remove this tree.

133 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

133.1 07/00406/1HH 3 Icknield Close, Ickleford.

Single storey front extension.

The planning advisors to visit site and supply comments to clerk.

DC/BC/GP

134 PLANNING DECISIONS

- 134.1 06/0276/1HH 1 Claymore Drive, Ickleford.
 Single storey rear extension and hipped roof to converted garage. One front and three linked rear dormer windows to facilitate conversion of roof space. Detached double garage to front garden.
NHDC refused permission to this application on 1st February 2007
- 134.2 07/00278/1HH 14 Freewaters Close, Ickleford.
 Two storey front extension with integral garage, three front dormer windows and external staircase to east elevation. First floor rear extension (west elevation).
Application withdrawn on 6th March 2007

135 CORRESPONDENCE

- 135.1 Hertfordshire Policing Authority – Launch of Hertfordshire’s Policing Plan 2007/08.
 The event takes place at 10.30 am on Monday 26th March at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield.
- 135.2 Hertfordshire Constabulary – Community Engagement Group.
 Meeting will be at 8.00 pm on Monday 19th March at Ickleford Village Hall. Cllr Maxwell to attend with Tim Stephenson, Chairman of Traffic and Transport sub group. **MM**
- 135.3 NHDC – Plastic Bottle Recycling Facilities.
 Whilst IPC supported having a plastic recycling facility in the village, all Councillors agreed to refuse permission to use the car park at ISRC as this was considered an unsuitable location due to the increase in cars that it would create in an already congested area. It was suggested that NHDC contact the owners of Plume of Feathers to request permission to add the facility there as they already have paper and clothing recycling facilities. The clerk to advise NHDC. **CIk**
- 135.4 NALC – Review of the Quality and Parish Council Scheme.
- 135.5 HAPTC Newsletter – February 2007.
- 135.6 Audit Commission – Appointment of Lubbock Fine as External Auditor for 2006/7.
- 135.7 Caldicott Centre – Sports, games and climbing wall event at ISRC.
 They are hoping to run another event during the Easter holidays and asking if IPC wish to make a donation. Following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would contribute £100 towards the cost of this day

REASON

To encourage and support recreational facilities for young people in Ickleford.

- 135.8 Caldicott Centre – Nation Play Day is Wednesday 8th August.
 This year’s theme is re-claiming the streets. They would like to help local residents in the crescent by the park organise a street party if the residents and IPC think it is a good idea. The Councillors were not sure if this would be practical so asked the clerk to find out more details and also suggest the Village Green may be a more suitable location. **CIk**
- 135.9 HCC – Hitchin Primary Review
 There is a meeting on 20th March to discuss the proposals.

136 FINANCE

136.1 Lower Green Contract 2007.

Richard Nicholls has quoted £55 (10% increase from last year's cost of £50) for each cut and £15 (25% increase from last year's cost of £12) for each strim. These are the first increases for 2 years and are due to the higher tractor fuel costs. Richard Nicholls has agreed to hold the price for 2 years.

Richard has also highlighted that it is not always practical to strim under the trees as these areas get quite damp which encourages the wildlife.

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

RESOLVED

That IPC would award the contract to Richard Nicholls at the above prices for 2 years.

REASON

IPC felt that the price was competitive and that Richard would work with IPC to upkeep Lower Green as a Common.

136.2 Notification of receipts received since the last meeting

£447.00 – Grant from NHDC towards a new mower. Cllr Chapallaz to purchase it. **DC**

136.3 Payments for the months of March 2007.

Payments totally £1,381.65 were proposed by Cllr Goldie, seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed unanimously.

137 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

137.1 HCC

Cllr Brook advised that there would be a 5% increase in Council Tax which had been achieved by some cost saving exercises. Another £10 million was being allocated to repairing the roads.

Cllr Brook was also delighted to hear that Ickleford School's Choir was one that would be singing at the Albert Hall on Sunday and Monday.

138 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

138.1 Ickleford Village Hall.

The committee have recently had problems with users altering the thermostat and not resetting it and have asked that if groups need to adjust the temperature of either room they remember to return the setting to the normal mark as indicated on the dial before they leave.

138.2 Biffa.

Cllr Crowe reported that the operations on 3b of site are continuing satisfactorily and there was only 6.6% asbestos in the last quarter which is down on previous levels. 600 trees were planted around the compound in December and further trees will be planted. Section 3c is due to be capped in May. There have been no complaints about the site in the last 3 months. Biffa are monitoring the water pollution levels and believe the leakage probably occurred from the old waste site where suitable precautions were not taken. The pollution is not dangerous and drinking water has not been affected.

138.3 Scrutiny Review Meeting.

Cllr Crowe reported that a full draft that included all recommendations had been completed and NHDC would make a decision on it by 20th March. There would be a review done in 12 months time.

139 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

139.1 Elections

The Chairman reminded everyone that if they wish to stand for the Parish Elections in May they should complete and return the necessary forms to NHDC before noon on 4th April. These will be available from Katrina, the clerk from this Thursday and it is up to everyone to arrange completion.

139.2 Trees in the Churchyard

Cllr Chapallaz advised that the first phase is now complete and when the Faculty removes the tree by the Tower they will arrange for a tree near Church path to be removed.

140 DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS

140.1 The next meeting

To be held on Tuesday 10th April 2007 in the main hall at 7.15 pm.

140.2 The APM

To be held on Tuesday 10th April 2007 in the main hall at 8.00 pm with coffee being served from 7.40 pm.

The meeting closed a 9.55 pm