

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2006

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

Also present: County Councillor N Brook
2 Member of the Public

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

75. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

76. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

76.1 Any financial or other interests: All Cllrs details remain unchanged.

76.2 Interests in matters arising at this meeting: None were declared.

77. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2006

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 10th October 2006 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

78 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS

78.1 Proposed new Burial Ground

Cllr Crowe reported that Heritage Network had completed the magnetometer survey and the results were inconclusive. A complete report would be sent to IPC. Heritage Network have recommended that IPC decide to use only part of the field as it is a very large area (4.8 acres) and have suggested contacting NHDC for advice on what size area they would recommend for a burial ground in Ickleford.

Cllr Crowe to speak to NHDC for advice on size required for a burial ground. **PJC**

Cllr Crowe to establish from the Environment Agency if a Tier 2 assessment will be required. **PJC**

Cllr Crowe to advise NHDC Planning department of all recent developments and the suggested smaller area that is being consider to see if they require any further investigations before IPC re-submit their planning application. **PJC**

Cllr Crowe also advised that he had attended the Annual Funding Fair in Hatfield where he had spoken to WREN who seemed quite interested in this project so Cllr Crowe is investigating the grants available from WREN. **PJC**

Cllr Crowe to update Mrs Parker on all developments. **PJC**

78.2 Village of the Year

The entry form is now complete and thanks were expressed to Cllr Maxwell for the final editing and proof reading. To accompany the entry IPC need to supply

- a) A simple map/directions on how to find Ickleford and meeting places. **JC**
- b) A sketch map of points of interest with the village **CIk**
- c) A list of newspapers that circulate in our area **CIk**
- d) Six photographs. The clerk has some photographs that would be suitable but asked for photographs of Open Gardens or a WI activity. Cllr Chapallaz and Cllr Mrs Goldie agreed to see if they could provide these. **DC / KG / CIk**

Cllr Thurstance suggested that IPC make the village look as attractive as possible for the judges' visit in April. The clerk to ask publicans to have hanging baskets and an article is to be included in the St Katharine Wheel asking residents to plant bulbs and flowers that will bloom in April. **CIk**

Cllr Mrs Goldie suggested that IPC buy some large barrels or tubs to fill with plants and place around the village. Cllr Mrs Goldie and Cllr Mrs Crosse to supply the clerk with quotes so that grants can be applied for. **BC / KG / CIk**

78.3 Parish Plan

Cllr Maxwell reported that there had been meetings with the Police, NHDC and Bowman's to discuss the results of the parish plan questionnaire and the way forward. Meeting were also arranged with CDA regarding traffic and NHH regarding the garage area behind Turnpike Lane.

Having an increased police presence within the village was one of the things residents had strong feelings on so it had been discussed with the police the possibility of IPC co-funding a PCSO who would look after Ickleford and possibly 1 or 2 neighbouring villages (e.g. Pirton and Holwell).

Following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That IPC would investigate further the possibility of IPC co-funding a PCSO.

REASON

To increase Police presence in Ickleford as asked for by residents when completing the Parish Plan questionnaire.

Cllr Thurstance reported on the meeting with Guy Bowman that he had attended with Michael Willoughby (Parish Plan) chairing the meeting. Also in attendance was Cllr Crowe and Derrick Squires (Parish Plan). Topics discussed included

- a) Lorries queuing on Old Hale Way – It was not practical to arrange for the lorries to arrive at specific times. Bowman's would like to make a slip road adjacent to the weighbridge for the lorries to wait in. This would encroach on Green Belt, however, as this may solve a major problem IPC agreed to look at the proposal further. Cllr Crowe to ask Guy Bowman to supply outline drawings with his proposal. **PJC**
- b) Road direct from Bowman's to Bedford Road – This would not be practical as Bowman's did not own the land and the costs would be too high (in 1981 Bowman's were quoted £1,000,000 to build this road). The road would also be on Greenbelt which could open up the possibility of houses being built in this area and Ickleford becoming closer to Hitchin.
- c) Lorries travelling down Turnpike Lane – Bowman's were aware that many lorries are too large to travel along Turnpike Lane so have a policy for Bowman's lorries to travel along Old Hale Way. However, they do not have any control over their suppliers, many of which come from abroad so are not familiar with the area.

- 78.4 Free bus to Tesco, Baldock
The clerk has requested that the bus company stop in Ickleford as well as Grove Road and the Westmill Estate and is waiting for their response.
- 78.5 Tony's News
There are a number of major structural problems with the building in particular the fact that it has no proper foundations so it is not viable to carry out the proposed scheme because the costs exceed the value on completion. As it looks likely that the building will stay empty for sometime McMullens have arranged for the old canopy to be removed and the windows to be boarded up. The clerk to ask McMullens to paint the boards. **Clk**

79 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

- 79.1 Mud Patch outside the school
Waiting for NHDC to advise when the trees will be removed.
- 79.2 Map Boards
Cllr Thurstance reported that both the footpath maps are back and look excellent. Hopefully they will not be affected by cold or hot weather conditions. One map had a very minor tear which Cllr Thurstance had taken photographs off and made the suppliers aware of in case of any future problems.

80 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

- 80.1 Two residents enquired if there were any news on the proposed planning application at 30 Walnut Way to change the use of A1 (Retail) to A5 (Hot food takeaway) as they felt that a hot food takeaway would not be suitable in this location. The clerk advised that NHDC Planning were hoping to make a decision next week which was likely to be a refusal.
- 80.2 PCSO Nikki Williams gave an update on recent crimes in Ickleford which included a nasty burglary in Arlesey Road, thefts from motor vehicles and damage to an empty property in Turnpike Lane. Unfortunately they had not caught anyone in connection with the Arlesey Road burglary yet but had arrested someone in connection with the damage done in Turnpike Lane. She urged everyone to lock up their houses securely especially at night and not to leave valuables or tools on display in motor vehicles.
- PCSO Nikki Williams also advised that the new Inspector – Julie Wheatley would like to attend the next PC meeting where she would be happy to talk to IPC about co-funding a PCSO specific for Ickleford.

81 PLANNING DECISIONS

- 81.1 06/01352/1HH 17 Ryder Avenue, Ickleford.
Two storey side and rear extension. Single storey front and rear extensions.
NHDC granted conditional permission on 6th October 2006.
- 81.2 06/01090/1HH 12 Claymore Drive, Ickleford.
Retention of raised roof to first floor rear extension (as variation to application number 05/01623/1HH granted 23.12.05) (as amplified by drawing number 03 received 20.07.06).
NHDC granted standard conditional permission 11th October 2006.

- 81.3 06/01864/1HH 8 Upper Green, Ickleford.
Single storey front extension.
NHDC granted conditional permission on 24th October 2006.

82 CORRESPONDENCE

- 82.1 NHDC – LGC Town Centre Strategy draft Supplementary Planning Document. All Councillors have been copied. Comments to the clerk by 24th November. **All**
- 82.2 Countryside Alliance – Rural Post Offices. The clerk to write to Jim Fitzpatrick, MP expressing IPC's objections to the current levels of closures that are being instigated throughout the country, particularly in the rural areas. **Clk**
- 82.3 Ickleford Parochial Church Council – Thank you for the contribution towards the St Katharine Wheel printing costs.
- 82.4 Ickleford Pre-School Committee – Thank you for the grant.
- 82.5 Ickleford Village Hall Committee – Thank you for the grant.
- 82.6 Resident's letter – Sewage outflow into the River Hiz. This is out of the Parish of Ickleford so the clerk has sent a copy of this letter to NHDC Environment Health who will advise who is responsible for this. The clerk to send Mrs Parker a copy of this letter. **Clk**
- 82.7 NH Sanctuary – Sleepout at St Albans Cathedral on Friday 1st December.

83 FINANCE

- 83.1 HAPTC and NALC Membership fees 2007/8.
Membership to HAPTC has increased from £577 to £597.20 (3.5%) and membership to NALC has increased from £67.80 to £70.04 (3.3%). It was agreed that IPC would renew this membership but would write to HAPTC to express concerns about the costs. The clerk to monitor the value of membership to HAPTC for IPC. **Clk**
- 83.2 To set and agree budgets for 2007/8.
All Councillors had been supplied a draft budget for 2007/8 and a current summary for 2006/7. Following a lengthy conversation and based upon the results from the Parish Plan questionnaire it was agreed unanimously that as IPC had agreed to investigate co-funding a PCSO money should be allocated for this project.

Following a proposal from Cllr Maxwelll, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and agreed unanimously the budget was agreed and it was

RESOLVED

- That £8,000 be allocated to co-funding a PCSO if possible.**
- That £1,000 be added to the speed calming contingency fund.**
- That £1,000 be added to the burial ground contingency fund.**
- That £2,000 would be available for actions from the Parish Plan.**
- That £2,000 would be available for village improvements.**
- That £3,000 would be available for grants to village organisations.**

REASON

To start achieving results requested by residents when completing the Parish Plan questionnaire.

- 83.3 To agree Precept for 2007/8.
Following a proposal from Cllr Mrs Goldie, seconded by Cllr Mrs Palmer and agreed unanimously it was

RESOLVED

That the Precept would be increased to £35,500.

REASON

To meet the proposed expenditure for 2007/8 based on the budget agreed.

- 83.4 Gardening contract 2007/8.
Cllr Mrs Crosse declared an interest and left the meeting.
It was agreed that IPC would ask William Crosse to quote for the gardening contract for 2007/8. The gardening duties would remain unchanged at this point but there maybe further work added later as a result of the Parish Plan. The clerk to write to William Crosse. **Clk**

Cllr Mrs Crosse was then invited to rejoin the meeting.

- 83.5 Southern Rural Area Grants deadline to NHDC 15th December 2006.
It was suggested that IPC apply for grants for

- a) New mower – Cllr Chapallaz to obtain quotes. **DC**
- b) Barrels / tubs and plants for around the village – Cllr Mrs Crosse and Cllr Mrs Goldie to obtain quotes. **BC / KG**

All quotes to be supplied to the clerk by 7th December.

- 83.6 The clerk's annual pay review.

In a closed session the Councillors discussed the clerk's salary. Cllr Thurstance, having declared an interest left the meeting along with the clerk. Minutes of this session are recorded in 'Part Two' minutes.

Cllr Thurstance and the clerk were then invited to rejoin the meeting.

- 83.7 Payments for the months of November 2006.
Payments of £1,140.05 were proposed by Cllr Mrs Goldie and seconded by Cllr Carlyle and agreed unanimously.

84 REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 84.1 Cllr Brook reported that the sibling rule may change in the future to state that the applicant must have a sibling at school at the time of entry instead of at the time of application.
Cllr Brook also reported that the Master Plan for Luton Airport had been postponed from May but there was indication that they had no intention to put a planning application in next year for the second runway.

85 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- 85.1 Ickleford Common Holders.
Cllr Thurstance reported that the Common Holders had agreed to offer another two year grazing contract to William Crosse and Gerald Wilmott. The Common Holders were looking to divide the Common with a fence so that animals can be moved to ensure all parts of the Common are grazed. The pond project is complete apart from the left hand bank and Mr Hewitt was arranging for this to be tidied up.

85.2 Rand's Governors.

Cllr Thurstance reported that 23 children from Ickleford had been awarded grants. The deadline for organisations to apply for grants is 5th January 2007.

85.3 Ickleford Village Hall.

Cllr Mrs Palmer reminded all Councillors of the Race Night on 18th November 2006 at the Village Hall. The Village Hall committee needs new members and the committee asked if something could be added onto the village website. The clerk to arrange. **Clk**

85.4 Parish Paths Partnership.

Cllr Mrs Goldie reported she had attended a meeting with Angela Forster (CMS) and Eoin Bell (HCC, Rights of Way). Cllr Mrs Goldie had requested for the stile near Cadwell Bridge to be repaired. Cllr Mrs Goldie also reported that Icknield Way and Dark Lane are getting overgrown again.

86 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

86.1 Cllr Thurstance reported that he would be attending the scrutiny review meeting on 28th November. NHDC had received volunteers from Letchworth Garden City, Knebworth and Ickleford.

86.2 Cllr Mrs Goldie asked if the blackboard could be removed from Lower Green. Cllr Chapallaz agreed to look at this.

86.3 Cllr Crowe suggested that IPC invites other Parish Councils to a meeting early next year.

87 MEETING DATES

87.1 The next meeting

To be held on Wednesday 13th December 2006 in the small hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed a 10.15 pm