

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006**

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**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:** North Herts District Councillor Mrs T Gibbs  
1 Member of the Public

**Officer present:** Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

**62. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor N Brook.

**63. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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

**64. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

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

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006 be approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record of the meeting.**

**65 UPDATE ON ONGOING MATTERS**

65.1 Proposed new Burial Ground

Cllr Crowe reported that Heritage Network was planning to start the magnetometer survey 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

65.2 Village of the Year

Draft versions for each category have been compiled. Councillors to look at each draft category and make comments by 20<sup>th</sup> October. **ALL**

65.3 Parish Plan

Cllr Maxwell reported that all sub committees are beginning to populate the action table for their section. Although this has taken longer than expected the PP Steering Group thought that the important thing was to get it right. Meetings with external partners are being arranged.

65.4 Annual Rural Conference – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

Cllr Crowe, Cllr Thurstance and Cllr Mrs Crosse attending this conference. Presentations were made by NALC, CDA for Herts and Hertfordshire Constabulary which were then followed by three workshops.

**(i) Community Safety Workshop**

Suggested subjects for discussion.

- Flytipping.
- Agricultural equipment Theft.

There were 27 key points discussed which included

- More Cameras.
- The free phone number to report fly tipping needs to be advertised better.
- Support from farmers i.e. blocking access by tree trunks etc.

**(ii) Planning Workshop**

Suggested subjects for discussion

- Green Belt.
- Traffic Pollution.
- Light pollution.

There were 3 key points discussed which included

- Housing numbers required to be provided in North Herts by 2021.
- Would the present infrastructure roads, rail, water and power be able to cope?
- Some Parishes may wish to look for some enabling development i.e. to retain school numbers or support existing shops.

**(iii) District Council or Shared Services Workshop**

Suggested subjects for discussion

- DC support for parishes.
- Funding and opportunities for shared services etc.

There were 12 key points discussed which included

- Quality Parish Council
- Devolution of power – do Parish Councils want to take on extra responsibilities? Concern here was where the extra money would come from. Parish Councils are not capped by Westminster like the District Council so suggestions were made that Parish Councils would be expected to increase their Precepts resulting in rural areas paying considerably more than urban areas. This was considered unacceptable and unfair.

## **66 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

66.1 Mud Patch outside the school  
NHDC have acknowledged the letter from IPC.

66.2 Map Boards  
Cllr Thurstance reported that the moisture was getting into the map boards as a result of the seal failing. Cllr Thurstance advised that he had obtained advice from several people to try and solve this problem. He presented several options to the councillors. Following a proposal from Cllr Thurstance, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz it was

### **RESOLVED**

**That they would mount the map boards with out protection.**

### **REASON**

**To prevent moisture getting into the map boards on the future.**

## 67 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

- 67.1 One resident raised strong objections to the planning application at 30 Walnut Way to change the use of A1 (Retail) to A5 (Hot food takeaway) as this was not in keeping with the residential area. The resident also presented a petition with already over 140 signatures.

## 68 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 69.1 06/02056/1 Land adjacent to 26 Turnpike Lane  
Two 3 bedroom semi-detached dwellings with single garages.

The planning application was discussed and it was

### RESOLVED

**That IPC would object to this application.**

### REASON

Although it seems perfectly feasible to build on this site, we still feel that we should register strong objections to this plan as they stand from the point of view of the excessive height of the houses – quite out of keeping with anything else in this area.

- 68.2 06/02091/ 30 Walnut Way, Ickleford.  
Change of Use from A1 (Retail) to A5 (Hot food takeaway).

3 written objections from residents had been received and a petition with over 140 signatures on it. These were discussed with the planning application and it was

### RESOLVED

**That IPC would object to this application.**

### REASON

We consider that the proposed change of use from Retail to Hot Food Takeaway is totally inappropriate because the property is located in a densely populated urban area, but also that there are no other businesses within the immediate vicinity.

This would encourage increased traffic into already congested and narrow road structure. Although we appreciate this used to have some traffic when it was a shop, only residents of the village would use it, and most of them would walk to it. However, as a hot food take-away people from some distance may use it, and nearly all its customers would drive so that the food doesn't get cold before getting home.

Access to the location is via narrow roads - Chambers Lane and a busy road junction at Turnpike Lane and with the existing parking / traffic to nearby Sports and Recreation Club already causing hazards and parking difficulties, this would create additional safety problems. Chambers Lane has no footpath and is the main thoroughfare from the west of the village to/from school - which further increases the safety issues.

Whilst parking facilities outside the shop are via a lay-by this would cause congestion at busy times as there are very limited spaces.

We also have Environmental Health concerns around smells arising from the use, excess litter and pollution and noise from cars. Disposal of old cooking oil would also be an issue.

In the recent Parish Plan questionnaire that was responded to by 86% of the village there was no request for a takeaway facility in the village.

- 68.3 06/02073/1 32 Turnpike Lane, Ickleford.  
Conversion of existing dwelling into 2 one bedroom dwellings.  
The planning application was discussed and it was

**RESOLVED**

**That IPC would not object to this application.**

**REASON**

There are no external modifications.  
There will be minimal traffic influence accessing onto the main road.

**69 CORRESPONDENCE**

- 69.1 **PCSO Nikki Williams** regarding HCC decision to stop funding PCSO's mobile phones. Cllr Crowe to write to HCC to find out why they have stopped funding mobile phones and to see if they will fund pay as you go phones. **PJC**
- 69.2 **HAPTC.** The Local Government Information Unit is doing a follow up to their Planning Simplified for Councillors. Cllr Crowe to respond to questions submitted by HAPTC. **PJC**
- 69.3 **NHDC.** Scrutiny Review. Partnership working with Parishes and Town Councils. Cllr Thurstance volunteered to become a member of this sub group. **CRT**

**70 FINANCE**

- 71.1 Annual Return – Year ended 31 March 2006.  
Lubbock Fine have returned IPC's annual return form with the signed audit certificate which stated "on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".  
They have carried out "basic audit" procedures only under the Audit Commission's "limited assurance" audit regime application to this Council.  
The clerk has advertised the closure of audit.  
All Councillors thanked the clerk for all her hard work. It was also acknowledged that Rod Major as the Internal Auditor should be thanked. Following a proposal from Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Chapallaz and agreed unanimously it was

**RESOLVED**

**That IPC should buy Rod Major £20 of garden vouchers.**

**REASON**

**To thank him for all his hard work.**

- 70.2 NHDC – Parish Enhancement and Cleansing Fund.  
IPC have applied for grants for  
(i) £280.44 – towards cost of emptying the dog bins in Ickleford.  
(ii) £200.00 – towards the cost of changing the flower bed in the roundabout opposite the Church.

70.3 To agree to pay to host the new website and purchase some new software.

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

**RESOLVED**

**That the clerk was authorised to spend £300 on new software and to host the website.**

**REASON**

**To continue to improve communication.**

70.4 Grants 2006/7

All Councillors had been supplied a current financial summary and copies of letters received from

- (i) St Katharine's PCC
- (ii) Ickleford Village Hall
- (iii) Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club
- (iv) Ickleford Pre-School
- (v) St Katharine's Young People Groups

These requests were all discussed.

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

**RESOLVED**

**That IPC would budget £750 from the Village Improvement Fund for the proposed tree work in the church yard.**

**REASON**

**To keep this major focal point of the village maintained.**

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

**RESOLVED**

**To pay £1,000 from the Village Improvement Fund to the Village Hall Committee so they can arrange for a new non-combustible kitchen ceiling.**

**REASON**

**To maintain this public building.**

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

**RESOLVED**

**To award grants as \$137 payments to**

- 1) Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club - £1,200 to purchase a new glass washer.
- 2) Ickleford Pre-School - £1,063.61 for equipment as requested.

**REASON**

**To continue to support these two village organisations that benefits the community.**

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

**RESOLVED**

**That IPC would budget £200 towards the cost of art equipment to the Young People Groups within the church.**

**REASON**

**To encourage play for the children of the village.**

70.5 Payments for the months of October 2006.

Payments of £5,604.05 were proposed by Cllr Mrs Goldie and seconded by Cllr Carlyle and agreed unanimously.

**71 REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

71.1 Cllr Mrs Gibbs advised that she still had £350 available from her discretionary budget. It was suggested that the clerk may apply for funding for the new website. Cllr Mrs Gibbs also advised that NHDC was starting the budget process.

**72 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

72.1 Ickleford Village Hall

A Race Night has been arranged for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November and the Village Hall Committee is encouraging as many people as possible to attend.

72.2 Parish Paths Partnership

Cllr Mrs Goldie reported that CMS had advised that they had about £5,000 left from the Biffaward project. They have a few small items on their list that they intend to buy and there is also a section of surfacing in Ickleford that may be suitable (the very rough section of Bridleway 4 - which is the path that runs from Bedford Road to Ickleford Common and Lower Green - between the muck heap and Three Arches). They have also asked if IPC have any thoughts for projects that may be suitable. It was suggested that some addition seats on Upper Green and Lower Green may be useful as this was something that was mentioned in the Parish Plan questionnaire.

Cllr Mrs Goldie also advised that the hedge along FP8 – Snailswell Lane to Bedford Road needed cutting back and that Eoin Bell (HCC Rights of Way Officer) was looking into this. Cllr Thurstance reported that there was a general fall away to the stream and the path needs to be made up.

72.3 Ickleford School Governor

Cllr Maxwell advised that the Governing Body were working on the School Development Plan and major efforts would be in Literacy, Maths, Art and Design, Religious Education and Special Educational needs.

The Ofsted Action plan has been reviewed. This had two main actions.

- 1) To improve the Reception outdoor play area. This has been achieved and they are continually working to make it better.
- 2) To improve consistency for marking. The school has adopted a new method of marking.

The school finances are looking healthy so they are considering funding a foreign language teacher. By 2009 this will be a statutory requirement.

The school swimming pool is beyond repair so the school will need to fund a new pool.

Cllr Maxwell advised the building's committee of the concerns about the trees within the school ground that were too close to the school wall.

**73 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 73.1 Cllr Mrs Palmer advised that Tesco have a free bus that collects people from the Westmill Estate and Grove Road to take them to do their shopping. It was suggested that it would be useful if it also collected people from Ickleford. The clerk said she would look into this.

**74 MEETING DATES**

74.1 The next meeting

To be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006 in the small hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm