

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 10th JUNE 2020 at 6.00PM VIA ZOOM CALL

Present: Councillors Chris Jordan (Chairman), Wendy Matthews, Ann Mayling, Carol Gibson, and Chris Woolley (joined at 18:29).

In attendance: Stephanie Bennett (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed members and the visitors to this first meeting of 2020 - 2021.

H. 001/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

H.002/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

H.003/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A question was asked about why recreation ground lights were improved ahead of street lighting improvements. The Chairman explained that the work was undertaken using external funding specifically for addressing the concerns raised to the council about the poor lighting in those locations. This work did not impact on the street lighting budget.

H.004/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Highways and Infrastructure Committee held on 12th February 2020 be agreed and were signed by the Chairman.

H.005/20 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on the good news that the resurfacing of Langley Park Road had been commenced and that work to repair of a number of other roads in the parish had been scheduled.

The weekly roadworks reports had recommenced on the council's website and people were reminded that the enforcement of parking restrictions will be recommencing next week.

The Council has placed an order for the street lighting improvements to be undertaken during 2020 – 2021 and we look forward to that work commencing; the ongoing issue of the malfunction of lights at Thorney Lane South is finally being addressed.

People are also reminded that restrictions are recommencing on the use of the concessionary bus passes.

The M4 smart motorway roadworks related motorway closures continue and are being posted on the council's website and Facebook page. Councillors noted that road markings had appeared at the junction beside the Black Horse pub. These indicate the location of underground services as a preliminary to investigative work to establish the cause of erosion to the road surface. It was hoped that improvement works would commence there soon.

H.006/20 STREET FURNITURE

The committee re-iterated their aim to refurbish the benches around the parish and noted the condition report. The committee requested that a review of benches be undertaken to note the condition and to take photographs particularly recording the information on any memorial plaque.

The committee received the draft Memorials protocol that will be considered by council on 22 June 2020.

RESOLVED that

- a. A report to be prepared for the committee providing up to date condition reports for it to prioritise the work to refurbish the benches
- b. The two benches at Iver Recreation Ground entrance that are in poor condition to be removed

H.007/20 STATUS OF HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Carol Gibson reported that the Rights of Way are generally in good condition. Councillor Matthews informed the committee that local teams of volunteers in Iver Heath and Richings Park had been provided funding to purchase tools to assist in keeping footpaths and rights of way accessible.

Councillor Carol Gibson reported that the number of Operator licences current in June 2020 is more or less the same number as for June 2019 and offered to put together more detailed figures over the next couple of weeks to be circulated to the committee.

H.008/20 LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The following updates were provided:

- a. HS2 There have been no changes and work is progressing much more slowly
- b. WRLtH The DCO (Development Consent Order) application is being submitted in July 2020 without community consultation. Councillors are asked to provide details of any meetings, correspondence or other documents relating to previous consultations with Network Rail/WRLtH to Councillor Matthews.. The local MPs and leaders of the principal councils are discussing the application and the process being followed.

- c. Heathrow An appeal against the High Court judgement relating to the Third Runway project is to be heard in October. All funding streams to local communities have ceased.
- d. Crossrail Construction work on the new station at Iver is nearing completion.
- e. Cemex It is reported that the low demand for aggregates means that materials are being stockpiled on-site.
- f. Link Park Councillors are still seeking answers in regard to planning matters.
- g. Breedon Southern Nothing to report.
- h. M4 Smart Motorway The works are progressing with weekend closures of the M4 occurring as planned. Repeated requests for sound proofing fencing to be provided at the southern border of the Parish have been rejected.

H.009/20

MEMORIAL POLICY

The draft Memorial Policy was received, and councillors felt that by undertaking the review of the existing benches positions would be identified by the committee for any new memorial benches that people wished to place in the community.

H.010/20

COVID-19 RECOVERY

Considerable discussion examined the potential projects that would improve cycling and walking experiences in the parish. It was felt that seeking commitment to improve the links from Pinewood to the station and Iver Village to the station were important and it was recognised that the new Community Boards would be key to securing resource to make local improvements.

Councillor Carol Gibson has researched an appropriate cycling route from Pinewood to the station. A major issue is the lack of cycleway and good footpath on Thorney Lane

It was recognised that social distancing whilst walking in Iver Village is made difficult when navigating the vehicles parked on the pavements.

RESOLVED that

- a. A working group be formed to include Councillors Chris Jordan, Carol Gibson and Chris Woolley, and non-councillors and those who cycle to work to develop proposals.
- b. A consultation be undertaken to find out what people would like
- c. The working group to consider the provision of cycle security in the retail centres.

H.011/20

COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The following items to be included on the draft workplan for 2020 – 2021:

- Provision of a 'catalogue' of benches and plaques and the development of a refurbishment programme
- Implementation of a working group to include members of the community to examine cycling and walking provision in the parish, and cycle security in the retail centres

- Refurbishment of the clock and surrounding planters
- Review of the community speedwatch scheme
- Installation and review of new street lighting for 2020 - 2021

H.012/20 BUDGET MONITORING

It was noted that the PSL repairs figure should be allocated to PSL electricity

H.013/20 PRESS RELEASES/WEBSITE

The committee requested that the following media releases be prepared for approval by the Chairman:

- A thank you to the volunteers who are keeping the rights of way and footpaths clear
- The development of the working group with a request for cycling and walking commuters to assist.

The meeting finished at 7.35pm

Signed Chairman

Date