

POLICY, FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

25th NOVEMBER 2020

OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE AND FORTH BRIDGE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the sad event of the death of a senior royal there are protocols that our council will be required to follow. Nationally the 'State Mourning and Funeral Plans' have been prepared by the Earl Marshall and the local protocols tie in to that national approach.

2.0 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

Operation London Bridge is the codename for the plan for what will happen in the days after the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Some of the key actions have been set by the Queen herself, although some can only be made by her successor after her death.

Operation Forth Bridge relates to the death of Prince Philip.

3.0 THE OFFICIAL PLAN

The Queen's private secretary will be the official that handles the start of the process. Part of the process will be the publication of a notice on the palace website and the recall of parliament. It is likely that the Parish Council will become aware at this point however it is also likely that the other media channels will be running with the announcements much more quickly; officially the Clerk will be notified by Buckinghamshire Council.

4.0 WHAT THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL IS IMPLEMENTING

Bucks Council are the local co-ordinators for Operation London Bridge. Within those arrangements the following list is The Ivers Parish Council approach:

- 4.1 A book of condolence will be hosted by The Parish Council. The book will be provided by Bucks Council and until it arrives the Parish Council will utilise loose-leaf pages. Loose leaf pages will also be ready for the instances in which the book of condolence becomes full.

The Hub can be made available and other suitable venues can be identified to enable the book of condolence to be as accessible as possible. Resource will be required to host the venues.

The book is required to be available within specific arrangements and the black tablecloth, official condolence photographs, pens, and black armbands for those hosting the venue are available. It will be important to monitor the words used in the book to ensure that offence is not given to others.

- 4.2 The union flag is to be flown at half mast from notification of the death until 0800 the day following the funeral. In the case of the death of the Queen the flag will remain at half mast except for the period from 1100 on Proclamation Day to 1300 the day after Proclamation during which it is to be flown at full height.

- 4.3 The Chairman will issue a statement expressing the sadness of the Council
- 4.4 The Parish Council website home page will be blacked out on the day of death and will publish the proclamation of the successor
- 4.5 The Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chair will wear black ribbons on their badges of office
- 4.6 The Parish Council will observe a 2 minute silence at 1100 on the day of the funeral

5.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The venues to be used for the book of condolence and the hosting arrangements were touched on in 4.1 and Councillors are encouraged to nominate additional venues. The times of access to the book also need to be set within the resources available for hosting and monitoring the content of the book. In the case of offensive content being made the page can be turned and temporarily secured.
- 5.2 It is appropriate, and likely expected within the community, that during the period of national mourning all council meetings will be cancelled.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that the community will wish to lay flowers and leave items expressing grief. It is preferable that the council provide a nominated safe place where the flowers can be monitored for pest encroachment and councillors are encouraged to provide three designated places in the three settlements for a specified time period. The disposal of non perishable items must also be considered

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 6.1 Agree that the main venue for the book of condolence be the Hub with councillors nominating additional venues at Iver Heath and Richings Park. The hours of availability to be 0900 – 1900 until the end of the day after the funeral, with councillors providing hosting outside of working hours;
- 6.2 Resolve that all meetings other than those dealing with critical issues be postponed until after the funeral
- 6.3 Agree that the paved area outside of the Hub be a nominated place for flowers and memorials and that it be appropriately signed. Councillors to liaise with local partner organisations to agree further memorial sites at Iver Heath and Richings Park. Councillors to offer grounds team assistance for monitoring and keeping tidy by the grounds team. (In the case of inclement weather it might be necessary to protect the memorials from the wind).
- 6.4 Agree that memorials area to be monitored and kept tidy for a period of one week following the funeral after which all memorials will be removed and disposed of.

6.5 Nominate any further actions to be taken

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