

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11th JANUARY 2021 AT 6.00PM VIA ZOOM CALL

Present: Councillors Wendy Matthews (Chairman), Ann Mayling (Vice Chair), Chris Jordan, Carol Gibson, Kevin Brown, Peter Stanhope, Ciaran Beary and Julie Cook.

In attendance: Stephanie Bennett (Clerk), Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

C.075/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs Arun Gaur and Geoff Bennett

C.076/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None were received.

C.077/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Cllr Paul Griffin (Buckinghamshire Council) provided information on local flu and covid vaccination programmes

C.078/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED that

that the minutes of 2nd November 2020 be agreed and signed by the Chairman

C.079/20 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcome Jem Day as Deputy Clerk and advised members that he will be out and about.

The Chairman reported that following referrals from schools and agencies a significant number of food parcels (with additional Christmas food items donated by the community) were provided to local families to help them over the festive period. The Chairman was also delighted to report that a considerable quantity of amazing new toys had been donated by The Fence Club, and were wrapped by councillors and a group of mums led by Tina Fricker; a fantastic and generous effort by all involved in providing the parcels.

Light Up The Ivers was also a fantastic success with some amazing windows; thanks to Cllr Julie Cook for organizing that.

The Chairman was pleased to report that the Christmas Lights worked perfectly and felt that they looked the best that they have ever looked.

There is a new round of business grants available in our area and businesses are encouraged to apply. If people need help please contact the Chairman, Cllr Wendy Matthews.

The Chairman reported that she was working hard with the NHS, Bucks Council, and the local doctors to provide a vaccination facility in The Ivers.

C.080/20 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The committee chairmen provided overviews on the agenda items that have been considered at the committees.

RESOLVED that

The minutes of Policy, Finance and General Purposes Committee of 25th November 2020, Amenities Committee of 18th November 2020, Planning Committee of 10th November 2020 and 8th December 2020, and Highways and Infrastructure Committee of 4th November 2020 be agreed and signed.

C.081/20 MEMBER REPORTS EXTERNAL BODIES

Iver Village Hall Management Committee

The Chairman reminded the representatives that grant streams were available for Village Halls impacted by Covid.

Wexham and Ivers Community Board

Cllr Peter Stanhope reported that the Green Space meetings and Community Safety meetings had taken place.

Colne Valley Regional Park

Cllr Carol Gibson reported that the restructuring work was ongoing and that income was very much reduced. People were walking in the park and the Landscape Partnership was introducing Water Ambassadors to raise awareness of the importance of the small tributaries.

Cllr Gibson also confirmed that the Park was responding to the planning applications of concern to it. The Chairman confirmed that all of their papers are available on their website

C.082/20 FINANCE

Council received and debated the 2021 – 2022 Budget report and noted the completion of the bank reconciliations to 30 November 2020. There was considerable concern about financial impacts on the community due to Covid and it was agreed to reduce the precept from 2020 – 2021 by 1%.

RESOLVED that

- a. The precept for 2021 – 2022 be agreed at £608,585; a reduction of 1%
- b. The schedule of fees and charges be agreed
- c. The budgets for each committee be agreed as presented to council except for the removal of budget for 2 events (£4,000)
- d. The council continues to delegate authority to officers to remove any play equipment that reaches end of life
- e. The council continues to provide free Hub accommodation to Citizens Advice Bureau and Housing Association drop in sessions
- f. The council instructs officers to actively seek opportunities for increasing income of the council
- g. Underspends for 2020 – 2021 to be allocated to General Reserves except elections fund to be moved to EMR
- h. £1700 from 2019-2020 outturn be allocated to a renamed Ear Marked reserve of Hub and Office Equipment

C.083/20 GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Council debated the revised committee structure and draft terms of reference. It was recognised that the way that meetings are working is efficient with councillors listening to each other and making crisp decisions. There was an overall preference to work towards appropriately delegating officers and reducing the number of meetings.

RESOLVED that

- a. The new committee structure be adopted with immediate effect
- b. The proposed calendar of meetings be implemented as soon as possible
- c. The terms of reference be agreed
- d. The committee membership be agreed with the inclusion of Cllrs Cook and Stanhope on to Finance and Audit Committee, Cllr Cook on to Open Spaces and Highways Committee and Facilities and Events Committee, Cllr Brown on to Planning Committee
- e. The new structure to be reviewed at the April 2021 council meeting

C.084/20 FINANCE REGULATIONS

Council considered the draft of the review of Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED that

- a. The Financial Regulations December 2020 be agreed
- b. Cllr Peter Stanhope be appointed to undertake bank reconciliations
- c. Cllr Julie Cook be appointed to approve supplier account finance detail changes

- d. Cllr Kevin Brown be appointed an online bank signatory
- e. The Clerk be tasked to investigate improving the financial security of the council with regard to bank accounts

C.085/20 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Chairman reported that the Council had received the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018 – 2019 with no qualifying issues identified. This certificate is now displayed on the website and noticeboards

C.086/20 COMMUNICATIONS

The Council wished to inform the community about:

- Business and organization grants and how to access them
- How the precept has been developed with a net reduction at a time that the tax base has reduced. This can be communicated on the council tax information that is sent out by Bucks Council

The meeting finished at 8.10pm

Signed Chairman

Date