

## THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11th SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES, IVER PARISH COUNCIL.

**Present:** Councillors Ann Mayling, Chris Jordan, Reg Gould, Wendy Matthews

**In Attendance:** Margaret Wilson (Assistant Clerk), Councillors Carol Gibson and Geoff Bennett

**Minutes taken by:** Margaret Wilson

### **33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. C Woolley, N Harlow, B Lidgate and Cllr. J Bryson who is on agreed leave of absence.

### **34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

*Cllr C Jordan entered meeting at 7.35pm.*

### **35. THE MINUTES**

Cllr. C Gibson reported that in Item 29. in the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 the title for the Dutch Elm Disease trees was incorrect and should read Dutch Elm Disease Resistance trees. It was:  
**RESOLVED: to amend the minutes to include the word 'Resistance' and to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes as a correct record of proceedings.**

### **36. CLERK'S REPORT**

a) A & M Fencing - update

The Assistant Clerk reported that all the fencing at the Iver Heath Copse has now been completed and the signs have been put up by the Groundsmen. However, parts of the fence extension that was put up by the contractor in their second stage of works was not to standard. Following a site meeting with the contractor it was agreed that some of the fencing would be replaced. The contractor has now rectified the work. In consideration of the issues with the works, the Assistance Clerk's recommended to the Committee that the Parish Council do not to use this contractor again for fencing work.

b) Outdoor Defibrillator at Iver Recreation Ground - update

The Assistant Clerk reported that the opening of the new defibrillator at the Jubilee Pavilion that took place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, went well. It was attended by the Parish Councillors, Palmac Electrical Services and South

Central Ambulance Services who kindly carried out a defibrillator awareness training session. Cllr. Jilly Jordan from South Bucks District Council officially opened the new defibrillator.

### **37. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a) Iver Scout's Lease – update and works to be undertaken

The Chairman reported that the signed copy of the new lease was returned to the Scouts. The Chairman and the Clerk met with a representative of the 1<sup>st</sup> Iver Scouts on site to discuss the lease and their plans to change the configuration of the compound and adding a gas and pole store. The lease had been returned to the Scouts Head Office in June 2019 and an estimate for return from the Head Office of no sooner than 6 months. An area of works that The Ivers Parish Council did indicate that they would take on is the grounds maintenance within the compound. The Chairman reported that a cost-effective approach will need to be designed and costs will be incurred to get some of the area cleared and cover with membrane and bark to reduce the labour costs moving forward.

- b) Iver Heath Tennis Club – response to request to maintenance and payment schedule

The Chairman reported that the Tennis Club did not want to proceed with the maintenance proposal prepared for them. The Club have offered an initial payment for the sewage pump bill, but no payment schedule has yet been proposed beyond year 1. The Club have enquired about whether the sewage pump work was covered by buildings insurance. The Chairman confirmed that the works is not covered under the building's insurance held by The Ivers Parish Council as in common with most buildings insurance work classed as maintenance are excluded. Following discussions, it was:

**RESOLVED: that the Chairman would write to the Tennis Club on the above issues.**

### **38. REPLACEMENT SIGNS AT ST LEONARD'S WALK, RICHINGS PARK FOR NEW NURSERY**

The Assistant Clerk reported that the owner of a new nursery at St. Leonard's Hall had requested the Parish Council's consent to remove the current worn wooden framed notice boards that sit on the edge of both sides of the St Leonard's Walk, Richings Park, and replace with 2 new solid frames displaying St Leonard's Church details and advertising the new nursery. The signs will be the same dimensions as the existing sign to ensure conformity. The boards will be donated by the nursery owner. It was also reported by Cllr. W Matthews that the nursery had also put up a banner on the Parish Council's fence at St Leonard's Mound which had not been requested. Following discussions, it was:

**RESOLVED: that the owner may replace the boards and the Assistant Clerk write to the owner to have the banner removed from the fence.**

### **39. HARDINGS ROW FIELD - UPDATE**

The Assistant Clerk reported that the horses have now been removed from Hardings Row field. The Groundsmen have removed the barb wire and have

started to repair some of the fencing on site. Before, the fencing can be installed between the stables and the field the boundary needs to be clarified, which was also reported by Tim Moya in their tree report for Hardings Row to clarify ownership of trees there. Groundwork South will also need clarification of the boundary at Hardings Row field for their Management report. The Assistant Clerk also reported that a site meeting had taken place with Ollie Kelly from Groundwork South with both the Chairman and the Assistant Clerk to obtain some guidance for the use of Hardings Row field to report back for this meeting. The Assistant Clerk circulated to the committee a letter from Ollie Kelly following the above meeting to assist the Parish Council's in its interim consideration of the grazing land at the field. Another site meeting will be also be taking place again with Groundwork South, the Chairman, the Head Groundsman and the Assistant Clerk on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. Following discussions, it was:

**RESOLVED: that following the recommendation by Groundwork South in their letter circulated to the committee the Parish Council will not let the land for grazing, initially for a period of two years and that a further decision to be made on the maintenance of the field once the final management report on the Hardings Row Nature Reserve is completed and submitted to the committee. The Assistant Clerk to investigate establishing the boundary for Hardings Row Field.**

#### **40. GROUNDWORK**

a) Groundwork report

A written report prepared by Matthew Hartgrove was circulated to the committee. Following discussions: it was:

**RESOLVED: that the report be noted.**

#### **41. TREE WORKS**

a) Removal of Chestnut tree at the Iver Recreation Ground

The Assistant Clerk reported the Head Groundsman was concerned about the Chestnut tree at the Iver Recreation Ground as the tree appeared to be dying. The Parish Council's tree contractor came to look and confirmed that the tree had died, and that Ganoderma brackets was present. The cost of the tree works was £960.00, and the works have now been completed.

b) Part of tree fallen at Swan Meadows – damage to the Parish Council's fencing

The Assistant Clerk reported that part of a tree had fallen at Swan Meadow causing damage to the Parish Council's fencing. A letter has been sent to the resident that we believe owns the land, but no response has been received yet. The Parish Council's tree contractor has recommended that the remaining tree is professionally inspected as it is diseased and will need addressing as soon as possible.

In addition to the above, the Assistant Clerk also reported that the quotations for the final tree works at Swan Meadow (Phase 3) and at Hardings Row has been received. The tree contractor has now been able to identify all trees on the tree report. Groundwork South have also reported an oak tree of concern at Hardings Row, which has been confirmed is dead and the cost for this tree has also been included in the tree works quotation for Hardings Row. The

total tree works cost for Swan Meadow is £960.00 and for Hardings Row is £1920.00. Following discussions, it was:

**RESOLVED: that the tree works for Swan Meadow and Hardings Row to go ahead, and the Assistant Clerk write again to the resident for a response to the inspection of the diseased tree and damage to the Parish Council's fence at Swan Meadow.**

#### **42. TREE WARDEN**

a) Tree Warden report

A written report prepared by Cllr. C Gibson was circulated to the committee. Following discussions: it was:

**RESOLVED: that the report be noted.**

#### **43. REPORT FROM GROUNDS TEAM**

a) Grounds Team report

A written report prepared by the Head Groundsman was circulated to the committee. Following discussions: it was:

**RESOLVED: that the report be noted.**

#### **44. FINANCE**

a) Current budget status

Budget papers were circulated. Cllr. C Jordan queried the high gas bill at the Iver Heath Pavilion, as even after deducting the contribution made by the Bowls Club, the bill was still considered high. Following discussions, it was:

**RESOLVED: that the report be noted, and that the Chairman would investigate into the high gas bills at the Iver Heath Pavilion.**

#### **45. PRESS RELEASES/WEBSITE**

It was agreed that the Chairman would give an update report on the tree works across the Ivers Parish and upload the photos of the opening of the new defibrillator on to the website.

**Meeting finished at 8.15pm**

**Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 7.30 pm, Iver Parish Council Offices.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....