

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12th FEBRUARY 2020 at 7.30PM IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES, THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Present: Councillors Chris Jordan, (Chairman, presiding) Wendy Matthews, Ann Mayling, Carol Gibson, John Gill and Chris Woolley

In attendance: Mike Kennedy (Clerk), Martin Haley [Admin – IPC] Ian Fraser Fox [Bucks CC - Lighting] Jane Brown [Community Speedwatch] and Charlotte Anstey [Iver Residents Association]

Minutes prepared by Martin Haley.

The Chairman welcomed members and the three visitors to this first meeting of the year of the Committee.

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Geoff Bennett. Absent: Cllrs. Nigel Harlow and Sylvia Lidgate.

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

61. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charlotte Anstey raised 2 questions on behalf of the Iver Residents Association

- Question on Air Quality Management – and Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) consultation.
 - Concern was expressed that the designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) encompassing the whole of the parish was too broad and that focus should be concentrated on Iver Village, especially the High Street for the AQAP.
 - Chair outlined the rationale for a parish-wide AQMA, exceedances for nitrogen dioxide levels having been recorded in areas of Richings Park and Iver Heath as well as Iver Village.
 - The Chair also pointed out that Slough Borough Council and the London Borough of Hillingdon have Clear Air Zone policies in place. Without a parish-wide AQMA, there was the danger that non-compliant vehicles would divert via parish roads, adding to levels of pollution.
 - Assurances were given to Ms Anstey that the Council would be vigorous in its efforts to lobby the new Unitary Council for prompt and effective action towards improving air quality across the parish.
- The issue of parking on pavements – Ms Anstey reported that the Iver Residents Association had written to Bucks County Council requesting action to deter parking on footways but they have yet to receive a response.
 - Concern was expressed that HGV vehicles are now parking on the pavement and causing an obstruction and possible damage to services.
 - Members were sympathetic to the concerns raised but it was noted that the Parish Council has no powers with regard enforcement on parking matters. Introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme with associated parking controls seemed to be the best option. This would need to be raised and backed by the majority of residents in the

area. It was suggested the Iver Residents Association should refer to the Parking Toolkit on the Bucks CC website as the way forward. Vehicles causing an obstruction can be reported to the Police.

62. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Representatives from Bucks CC and Transport for Bucks had been invited to the meeting to discuss issues of Highway maintenance across the parish. The Clerk reported that Rob Smith – Director of Transportation was unable to attend. Ian Fraser-Fox – the newly appointed Manager of Street Lighting and Highway Infrastructure was welcomed and invited by the Chairman to speak to the meeting. Issues discussed included:

- Street lighting:
 - Thorney Lane South [IV 17 to IV 27] – units have been out of action since June 2019. The problem has been identified as an issue with power supply but Scottish and Southern Power has yet to attend the matter. IFF resolved to chase the matter but under the existing contract TfB is unable dictate priorities.
 - Cleaning of illuminated bollards and road signs –undertaken by the lighting team – IFF noted that visual inspections and drive through of the area is limited to two occasions per year – so IPC and residents are encouraged to report problems to Transport for Bucks [TfB] – Fix my Street.
 - Replacement of sodium lighting – Bangors Road & Church Road - IFF to check progress.
 - Outages in North Park and Church Road to be attended to as part of night time works by the end of the week [13th February]
 - Swallow Street/Norwood Lane – damaged column [IFF to investigate.
 - Completion of Works – Langley Park Road – new pedestrian refuge. Bollards installed and now illuminated, but street lights on the northbound carriageway have not yet been reconnected. IFF to chase.
- Street Furniture and signage:
 - Clearing of vegetation in and around traffic signs is part of lighting teams remit. Concern was expressed about signage now obscured by overgrown vegetation including that at the junction of Norwood Lane and Bangors Road South.
 - Request made to re-position of 7.5 limit sign – junction of A412 and Bangors Road North – HGV drivers are committed before they have opportunity to see the sign.
 - New Network Rail illuminated height warning sign on the B470 south of Trenches Lane has been placed in front of the warning sign – Asset 0576 - [Traffic Signals 170 Yds] – this sign needs to be re-sited.
- Follow up and reporting issues.
 - Concern raised regarding Fix my Street and the nature of feedback on reported issues often shown as “Case closed” – when infact the matter had been cleared from the reporting system but not yet fixed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fraser Fox for his time and willingness to follow up on concerns raised by Members. IFF let the meeting at this point.

63 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The Chairman invited Jane Brown to report on the progress of the Community Speedwatch programme. Details of the monitoring sessions carried out during November and January were reported, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Locations were chosen with safety in mind and included North Park, Bangors Road South, Church Road and Langley Park Road. Four sessions were undertaken, a further four sessions booked and two sessions to be confirmed,

One session has been postponed due to the poor weather and only 9 of the 10 sessions as agreed in November [item 45] would be undertaken. The Speed watch team now have 10 volunteers trained to operate the equipment. They need at least two volunteers to operate the equipment and sessions are usually over a weekend to include operation on a Friday afternoon, Saturday, Sunday and on Monday. The signage itself, together with the presence of volunteers in hi-viz clothing, had the effect of drivers reducing their speed on approach.

The schemes have been extensively publicized on Facebook and in newsletters. In three of the individual sessions some 817 vehicles had been recorded with 41 motorists being reported to the Police for follow up action. It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted, coupled with the Council's thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers. The Committee requested a further report after the conclusion of the remaining sessions.

64 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 6th NOVEMBER 2019

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Infrastructure Committee held on 6th November 2019, be received, approved and adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

65 PROGRESS REPORT

Members had before them the progress report dated 5th February 2020. The following points were made:

- (i) High Street Pillar Clock
The Clerk reported that the Deposit had been paid – in respect of the renovation programme Work is scheduled to commence in early spring.
- (ii) Community Speedwatch
10 sessions had been booked/paid for the hire of equipment from Burnham Parish Council.
- (iii) Former Police Station Notice Board
Lights now installed and working – New Perspex installed by IPC Groundsmen.
- (iv) Parish Notice Boards Iver Heath
Members had agreed in principle to a request from Iver Heath Residents Association to attach a lockable A3 notice board to the existing community board but understand they are seeking funding from SBDC. Suggested they are advised to make an application to the Chairman's Fund at SBDC.
- (v) CCTV Coverage
The signage is still pending.
- (vi) Lighting upgrade for Iver Recreation Ground and Car Park.
LAF funding of £4,400 had been obtained towards the total cost of £6,273.00. **Agreed** that the balance of £1,829.00 to be funded from the Highways & Infrastructure budget [see item 68]. Clerk to confirm/place the work order with SSE to commence forthwith
- (vii) Wellesley Avenue Street Lighting issues arising from TfL works
Payment has been received in full from the Murphy Group and the replacement column has been installed. – Matter now closed.
- (viii) Holmsdale Close
Column (PC3) and lantern now installed and operational.
- (ix) Old Slade Lane/Hawthorn Mews
A successful claim made through insurance and replacement of the damaged column and lantern will be undertaken by 25th February.
- (x) Parish Gate – Church Road, Iver Heath.
The damaged gate and sign replaced in November was damaged again in January.

- Ongoing claim through Insurance to cover cost of replacement.
- (xi) Parish Benches – see Appendix
An inventory of benches and their condition has been provided by the Grounds Team. **Agreed** to provide up to £1,000.00 to cover cost of refurbishment/repainting and if necessary, replacement of benches.
- (xii) Riching Park Temporary Waiting Restrictions
Details circulated to Members – see Clerks Report below.
- (xiii) New Crossing Thoney Lane South
Installation of new Zebra Crossing had been approved by BCC but was awaiting start of work on the new Station Car Park.
- (xiv) Lighting Ashford Road.
See item 68

It was **RESOLVED** that the progress report be received and noted.

66 CLERK'S REPORT

Members had before them the report of the Clerk dated 6th February 2020. Arising from the report:

(a) South Bucks District Council – Air Quality Action Plan – Draft for Consultation.

Draft circulated [final response required by 13th February] and discussion raised following issues:

- ANPR and controlled emissions zones would provide opportunities for a charging scheme
- Parking Scheme – High Street, Iver would require support of residents and businesses, Ownership of Swan Road remains unresolved.
- Congestion and parking issues are parish wide and not restricted to High St and Thorney Lane North. Response to cover Richings Park, Iver and Iver Heath hot spots.
- Number of sites licensed in and around The Ivers for operation of HGV vehicles continues to grow and therefore AQMA issues will not diminish.
- Impact of Construction traffic associated with major on-going infrastructure projects.
- Impact of AQMA – Clean Air Zones in Slough and London Borough of Hillingdon – will push traffic through The Ivers.

Agreed – Cllr Chris Jordan and the Clerk to produce a draft response to the consultation and circulate before sending. Final response to SBDC by 13th February 2020.

(b) Temporary Parking Restrictions – Richings Park

The Temporary Parking Restrictions [TRO] scheme became effective on the 30th December and will run for a period of 6 months. The aim is to improve safety at the junctions. Patrols by enforcement officers have now started. Local business have raised concern regarding provision for short term use and access to the Shops. **Noted** – further temporary Parking Suspensions and adjustments to be reviewed by the working group

(c) Community Notice Board

The Clerk reported that the notice board out-side the front Office had been reglazed and lighting fitted. It will be re-felted to ease fixing notice or exhibition material.

Noted and Agreed – that the proposal made in the Clerks Report that the Board [other than at Christmas] should be used as a Buzz Board for Community wide organizations to use for periods up to one month. This would be managed by Communications and Engagement Officer.

(d) **Happy Bench**

Proposal noted [concern raised about using benches donated in memory] Subject to programme of repair and refurbishment of existing benches it was further **Agreed** [out of the sum of £1,000.00 – item 65 (xi)] to install an additional bench on paved area in front of the main office for this purpose.

(e) **Safety Concerns – Slough Road Junction with Swallow Street**

Paper circulated to members and concern of the resident shared and noted. Possible options discussed:

- 20mph zone from the junction to the school crossing.
- Installation of a crossing [near the junction and Church Path.
- Traffic calming measures.

Agreed to refer and recommend the matter to TfB to review and evaluate accordingly.

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PARISH STREETLIGHTS

The Chairman reported on a meeting held with SSE on the 10th February. Following award of the LAF grant work will proceed with the upgrade of lighting at Iver Recreation Ground and Car Park.

(a) **Status of Upgrade Programme**

Proposals for the 3rd phase of the streetlight upgrade programme for the budget year 2020-2021 had been circulated. **Agreed** in principle to proceed with the proposed programme of works as detailed – amounting to approximately £42,000.00. The programme would utilize some of the stocks of Urbis Plzeo lanterns held in reserve. Provision had been included for upgrades to lights that had been vandalized at the north end of Mansion Lane. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should review current balances and projected expenditure for the remaining period of the 2019-2020 budget and should sufficient funds remain, these would be assigned to the Mansion Lane Lights, leaving scope for additional units to be purchased as part of 2020-2021 programme.

(b) **Vandalism and Losses**

It was **Noted** that during the year there had been a significant number of lighting columns damaged through accidents or vandalism. Wherever possible costs were recovered through insurance claims but there remained a significant drain on budgets

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STREET FURNITURE

(a) Damage to the Iver Heath Sign and Gate. Dependent on success of an insurance claim consideration will be given to re-siting a replacement.

(b) Damage to Bollard – junction of Wellesley Avenue and Bathurst Walk. Bollard was recovered by Grounds Team – TfB to be asked for assistance with re-installation.

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HGV NUMBERS/MOVEMENTS/GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR LICENCES

Cllr Gibson presented a report to member and advised that certain O Licenses for Seagrave Farm are to be revoked from 6th April. Anticipated that number of HGVs will nevertheless continue to grow across the parish as the Parish Council is unable to register objections direct to the Traffic Commissioner, having to rely on Planning Applications and enforcement for support.

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STATUS OF HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(a) Erosion of road surface at the junction of Black Horse Bangors Road North/South & Slough Road noted. Affinity and Thames Water have concluded that water leakage from water mains supply or sewers are not the cause of the problem. TfB are to dig to investigate further as Affinity Water and Thames Water say the problem is neither supply nor sewage. TfB will need to call in additional resources as the project is too large for them to handle in house.

- (b) Thorney Lane South Street Lighting – Ongoing but passed to Ian Fraser-Fox – Bucks CC/ TfB to take up with the Network Supplier.[see Minute item 62]
- (c) Langley Park Road new Pedestrian Refuge and Crossing works almost complete and site to be vacated by 14th February. Carriageway Resurfacing – patch repairs only repair as full road surface deferred to 2020/21.

71 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UPDATE

- (a) **HS2** – Now given the go ahead – await details of impact for the Ivers – Construction traffic quarrying of material / disposal of earthworks.
- (b) **WRLtH** – Nothing further to report; consultation further delayed due to DCO being put back until spring 2020.
- (c) **Heathrow** – Another Consultation pending [possible between April and June] will need to chase for documentation. Consultation event in Richings Park to be confirmed. New Bus service [459] operated by Reading Buses subsidiary now running [22 hours daily]. Timetables available in the hub for collection/distribution.
- (d) **Crossrail** –New station will open in 2 weeks time. New timetable from 15 December 2019 with TfL trains operating between Reading and Paddington.
- (e) **Cemex** – No meeting. Concern over their use of contractors as to how they are going to enforce routing of HGVs, need to report inconsiderate Contractors back to Cemex.
- (f) **Link Park** – No reduction/recovery of waste from site, mud still on the road, quarry efforts to use wheel wash and monitor/manage site.
- (g) **Breedon Southern** – Nothing to report.
- (h) **M4 Smart Motorway** – Work on Old Slade Lane bridge scheduled for weekend of 21/22 February and demolition work will need to be completed 06.00 23rd February. Noted excessive vehicle movements on Old Slade Lane over levels predicted.
- (i) **SBDC** – Planning Enforcement to tour the village – now have 10 sites identified with illegal off road Airport parking and vehicle storage.
- (j) **Sutton Lane** – Work required by Slough Borough Council to re-model junctions still to be done.
- (k) **Grundon – Waste Transfer Station relocation** – Further information and analysis required on AQM, Slough B.C., Windsor & Maidenhead B.C., Bracknell and Workingham D.C have filled objections. Need to chase SBDC initiate action.

72 BUDGET MONITORING

Papers showing the current budget status had been circulated and questions invited. The following comments were made:

- (i) The budget set for 2019/20 has been spent – Iver Recreation Ground lighting upgrade will be accounted for in the current year's budget. Scope for funding for upgrading Mansion Lane to be investigated.
- (ii) Street Lighting – The change and upgrade to LED lighting has greatly reduced energy consumption. Also noted the reduction in unscheduled maintenance costs for streetlighting.

73 PRESS RELEASES/WEBSITE

The following items were agreed:

- (i) Reduction in lighting costs and better quality of lighting.
- (ii) Community Speedwatch
- (iii) Langley Park Road Pedestrian Refuge and resurfacing
- (iv) Heathrow Bus – Service 459 now fully operational – timetable available for distribution.

This being the final meeting of the Committee during the term of the present Council the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all Members and Office Staff for their support during the Councils period of Office.

Meeting finished at 9.30pm

Next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday 10th June 2020, 7.30pm, The Ivers Parish Council Offices.

Signed..... Chairman

Date