



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 23rd MARCH 2020 AT JUBILEE PAVILION,
IVER RECREATION GROUND, HIGH STREET, IVER.**

Present: Councillor W. Matthews, Chairman (Presiding)
Councillor A. Mayling, Vice- Chairman
Councillor C. Gibson
Councillor C. Jordan
Councillor K. Bembey [Meeting started at 7.39pm upon arrival of Cllr Bembey]

In Attendance: M. Haley (Administration Officer) – Minutes taken by M Haley.

106. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman first explained the need for the special meeting and would be confined to the items raised below. Public participation tonight would be by Zoom, and residents signed in would be welcome to place questions/comments at this time.

Via Zoom: 10 members of the public logged on to the meeting and the following questions were raised by text message:

- Clarification of Members in attendance – *Administration Officer advised the meeting for the benefit of those on remote access of Members in attendance and those from whom apologies as detailed below had been received.*
- Query regarding Councillor Resignations, vacancies and those debarred and possibility of co-opting members. *Advised this will be discussed under item 110*
- Advertisement of vacancies to serve as Councillor – *Again see item 110*

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors G. Bennett, J. Kaushal, N. Harlow, B. Lidgate, S. Lidgate, R. Gould and C. Woolley

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

109. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 2 March 2020, be received, approved and adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

110. RESIGNATIONS

The Chairman confirmed that the Interim Clerk had received two resignations from Councillors Jacqui Bryson and John Gill, with immediate effect.

The new Council for Buckinghamshire will take over from 1st April as planned and a new Returning Officer [with statutory powers] will be appointed for the Council. The existing Returning Officers and the obligations and provisions of the existing District Councils cease from the end of the month. It will be for the new Officer to confirm the process – given that the postponement of the Local Government Elections until May 2021 together with the need to hold the Annual Meeting of The Council and Audit in public may result in a number of procedural changes.

Therefore, as it is the responsibility of the new Returning Officer to issue instructions, guidance and determine standard procedures to be adopted in respect of filling casual vacancies that may arise between now and May 2021, we are currently unable to advertise or fill the existing vacancies, or any others that may arise as a result of the current exceptional

circumstances. It was noted that in the event that vacancies cannot be filled by election, that the Parish Council has powers to appointment councillors by co-option.

111. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Governance and Covid C19 Bill is currently going before Parliament and dependant on this and any further announcements made by the Prime Minister this evening that the existing provisions had to be followed.

We expect that the Bill will give provisions for Councils through the Department of Health [as the lead Office] to co-ordinate the listing of vulnerable people who will require help. The County Hub for Wexham, Stoke Poges and Iver will form the dissemination of key information. We have already started to collect food and other goods for distribution to both seniors, those with special needs and in self isolation. The website will be the main form of communication, but given that a large number of such residents may not have access to electronic messaging we will look at arranging a leaflet drop.

Through the Communications Officer – we have a new stand-alone email address which can be used by the community to give details of vulnerable people, offer help and assistance and engage people to sign up, use Twitter, Facebook and grow the service and the support we can give.

Subject to the provisions of the Prime Minister's announcement at 8.30pm this evening it is envisaged that the Office will be manned on a skeleton basis, to facilitate collection distribution of food and other goods, with most staff working from home.

112. **THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

The Chairman reported that the first item was to appoint an Emergency Cabinet to act with delegated powers through the period of the declared Pandemic, when normal face to face meetings may not be possible. The proposal is to appoint the Chairs of the 4 main Committees

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| – Policy & Finance, | Cllr Wendy Mathews |
| – Planning, | Cllr Carol Gibson |
| – Amenities and | Cllr Ann Mayling |
| – Highways and Infrastructure. | Cllr Chris Jordan |

It was resolved that the above members would be appointed to serve on the Urgency Sub Committee with delegated powers for the period of Governments restrictions.

Noted - At this stage it is still a requirement to hold Council Meetings in person, but with a reduced size, and therefore to remain quorate it would be only need two Councillors to meet in the designated Meeting Room. Other members could observe and debate [but not vote] the meeting via Zoom. It is hoped that the Government will extend delegated powers to Local Council to undertake meetings electronically.

As soon as it becomes legal – all meetings would be undertaken electronically.

It was envisaged that the Committee would operate through to the next Full Council Meeting, [18th May] or up to a maximum of 12 weeks unless restrictions were lifted beforehand, meeting 3 times weekly at 18.00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday evenings. Meetings could be cancelled if not required - saving the need to publish individual Agendas. Meetings will include items currently slated to be discussed by the Individual Committee Meetings. The Policy and Finance Meeting will take place as scheduled on the 25th March, whilst the next two Planning Meetings of the 31st March and 28th April examination of listing of Applications would be

circulated to Members in advance for recommendations back to the Urgency Committee to coordinate response to new Planning Authority on the nearest date.

Clerk's Note: After the exclusion of the public and the press, the Council continued to discuss items of business that had not been listed on the agenda. The Clerk has since advised the Council that to act on these decisions would be considered ultra vires and accordingly the remaining minutes have been expunged.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

Date of next meeting, The Annual Meeting of the Council is scheduled Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.30 pm – Date and Venue to be confirmed in due course.