

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26th APRIL 2021 AT 6.00PM VIA ZOOM CALL

Present: Councillors Wendy Matthews (Chairman), Ann Mayling (Vice Chair), Chris Jordan, Carol Gibson, Kevin Brown, Peter Stanhope, Ciarán Beary and Julie Cook. Cllr Gaur joined the meeting at 18.54

In attendance: Stephanie Bennett (Clerk), and Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk)

Before the meeting commenced a one-minute silence was observed for His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The Chairman paid thanks to councillors for their hard work over the term of the council with particular thanks to Councillors Carol Gibson, Chris Woolley, Sylvia Lidgate and the recently departed Reg Gould who were elected 6 years ago.

C.121/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Geoff Bennett

C.122/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Julie Cook notified Council that she had an interest in a local communication company

C.123/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public were in attendance

C.124/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of 15th March 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chairman

C.125/20 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that Bucks Council has now approved the right of a Parish Council to request the call of a planning application based on material matters. It is on condition that a representative of the Parish Council attends the Planning Committee to speak. New guidance is expected shortly.

The Chairman also reported that the vaccine rollout continues apace and requested that anyone who is due a second jab and who has not been called in for their appointment to get in touch with the Chairman who will arrange for an appointment to be sent. In the next couple of weeks the vaccinations of over 40s will commence.

The Chairman has written to the HS2 construction contractor regarding the passage of HGVs through the Ivers and received an assurance that they would get back to her. There has been no further contact so the Chairman is now chasing this

C.126/20 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that

The minutes the Open Spaces and Highways Committee of 24th March 2021, the HR and Training Committee of 19th March 2021, the Facilities and Events Committee of 22nd March 2021, the Planning Committee of 9th March 2021, the Finance and Audit Committee of 12th April, 2021 and the Neighbourhood Planning Committee of 30th March 2021 and 12th April 2021 be received.

C.127/20 MEETINGS POST ELECTION

The report of the Clerk was considered and councillors emphasised how a lack of government understanding has led to the difficult position that councils now find themselves in with regard to convening meetings and taking decisions. It was noted that councils are still awaiting the outcome of a legal consideration of the position.

1854 Cllr Arun Gaur joined the meeting

Councillors also felt that government has failed to recognise the value of virtual meetings in both efficiencies and environmental factors. The preference, if the council must meet physically, is for the Annual Parish Meeting to be convened in the Village Hall. If the Village Hall is not available then the meeting will need to be held in the Jubilee Pavilion however space will be an issue and Council must endeavour to provide a live link to the meeting so that the public can attend. If a person wishes to make a representation they will need to attend the meeting.

Councillors felt that the Clerk's report should include an additional option of convening a small Committee physically to receive the recommendations from virtual meetings.

RESOLVED that

- a. The report be adjusted and be included in the Annual Parish Council meeting of 17 May 2021 for the new Council to choose its decision making structure.
- b. If a physical meeting is required on the 17th May that this be in the Village Hall if available. If this is not possible the meeting to be held in

the Jubilee Pavilion with a live link arranged for members of the public to view the meeting

C.128/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE RETURN

Council received the report of the Clerk and reviewed the Annual Governance Statement. The Council stated that it has commissioned legal opinion on the status of Iver Heath Recreation Ground the Council and that whilst it awaits legal opinion it has operated its finances in accordance with the JPAG requirements.

RESOLVED that

- a. The Annual Governance Statement be approved and be signed by the Chairman and Clerk
- b. The Accounting Statements for 2020/21 be approved and be signed by the Chairman
- c. The additional documents of explanation of variances, bank reconciliation and reconciliation between boxes 7 and 8 be approved

C.129/20 HEALTH AND SAFETY

No issues or incidents to report

C.130/20 FINANCE

Cllr Stanhope reported that the bank reconciliation checks for March 2021 had been completed.

RESOLVED that

- a. The accounts for payment March 2021 be received
- b. The Annual Report on the Accounts 2020-2021 be received
- c. The outturn report be received and the outturn figure of £58,455.32 be held in general funds for the new Council to consider allocation to projects

C.131/20 CHURCHYARD

The report of the Deputy Clerk was considered with Council recognising the need to ensure a safe environment for those visiting the churchyard and burial ground, and graves within. Council also discussed the ground at the New Churchyard and the challenges that the Council was facing in both its management role as well as its endeavours to seek assistance from the Diocese that remains the landowner. It was reported to Council that it has taken 12 months to secure a process to gain permission to replace the fence at the edge of the Churchyard that prevents visitors from falling over the edge.

Councillors emphasised that, at all times, the action of the Council must be respectful.

RESOLVED that

- a. The contractor to be commissioned to undertake, by hand, push pull testing of the memorials in the churchyards and burial ground and interim works to make safe identified unsafe memorials. This might require the laying down of larger memorials however it is expected that most works to make safe will involve using a wooden post and banding. The cost of this work to be no more than £4,177.50
- b. Signage to be placed on each identified unsafe grave to advise people visiting what is happening
- c. A communications plan to be put in place to advise the general community what is happening and why.

C.132/20 LICENCE

Council considered the draft licence and in mind of the need to introduce the need for a licence to access Council land directly from a residential property requested that an initial 2 year licence be offered at no cost followed by a 5 year licence.

RESOLVED that

- a. A two year licence be drawn up and offered to all residential properties that directly access the Council land. Licence to be non transferable and free of charge
- b. A five year licence to be drawn up at a cost of £50, to be available at the end of the two year licence. Licence to be non transferable

At the end of the meeting the Vice Chair Councillor Ann Mayling offered all councillors' thanks to the Chairman Councillor Wendy Matthews for her work over the last 6 years.

The meeting ended at 8.04pm

Signed Chairman

Date