

## THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021 AT 6.30PM AT THE IVER VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Councillors Ciarán Beary, Christine Ball, Mohinder Bhatti, Kevin Brown, Adam Burke, Julie Cook, Peter Kinchin, Wendy Matthews, Stuart Mills, Peter Stanhope, Michael Sullivan, Graham Young

In attendance: Stephanie Bennett (Clerk), Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk), Nicole McCaig (Business Administrator), Margaret Wilson (Assistant Clerk) and 4 Members of the Public

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the previous Council, Cllr Wendy Matthews.

**001/21            ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr Ciarán Beary was elected and completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.

Cllr Beary thanked Cllr Matthews for her commitment to the community and her very hard work as Chairman of the Council

**002/21            ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr Julie Cook was elected

**003/21            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Paul Brooksby tendered his apologies.

RESOLVED that

Cllr Brooksby be permitted to complete his Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**004/21            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received

**005/21            PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Carol Gibson expressed her thanks to Wendy Matthews for her support and knowledge in Planning matters and for her work in the community over the last few years.

The Chair welcomed the new councillors

**006/21            STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL**

The Clerk introduced a report that set out the existing structure of the council, the calendar of meetings and the Terms of Reference of the Committees.

The Chair asked councillors to consider more meaningful ways of engaging with the

community and whether the Council could organise its structure and decision making differently; doing things differently perhaps by using more working groups?  
It was offered that decisions should be made by Council. Cllr Cook offered to facilitate discussion groups with councillors to drill down into what work is required and what councillors want to do.

The chair encouraged councillors to sign up to the Bucks Council updates and explained the Call In System for planning applications and the new opportunities for Parish Councils to make representations to the Bucks Planning Committee. The office is to circulate the weekly planning lists that are generated by Bucks Council.

RESOLVED that

- a. Planning Committee to meet with a membership of all councillors on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- b. All other committees to be suspended until after the next Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 when the Council structure will be debated
- c. Planning Committee to meet virtually on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and to provide recommendations to the Clerk who be delegated authority to make decisions based on the recommendations

**007/21 MINUTES**

RESOLVED that

the minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chair

**008/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair was delighted to have been elected and thanked councillors for their support He reaffirmed his commitment to creating ways to listen to the voices of The Ivers and to facilitating a good, harmonious team of councillors who work within a Council that is open, expansive and caring.

The Chair also confirmed his commitment to increasing both gender equality and cultural diversity within the representative voice of the Council. He asked to be referred to as Chair rather than Chairman. He also asked that we consider how, in future, we can increase the numbers of those who participate in local elections.

**009/21 WORKING GROUPS**

The Christmas Lights and Event Working Group was discussed.

RESOLVED that

The following councillors be appointed Cllrs Bhatti, Brown, Stanhope,

Burke, Mills, Cook and Ball.

**010/21 EXTERNAL BODY APPOINTMENTS**

Councillors felt that they needed more detail regarding the work of the external bodies before they would be able to commit to being representatives. The Clerk was requested to write to all the listed bodies and request the Terms of Reference before returning to Council with the detail.

It was felt to be essential that appointments be made to the Community Board though councillors expressed concern about the governance arrangements. The Clerk was asked to clarify with Bucks Council whether the two representatives who attend could rotate.

RESOLVED that

Cllrs Brown and Stanhope be appointed as Council representatives to the Community Board

**011/21 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

The Clerks report was consider and Council meets the criteria for invoking the General Power of Competence.

RESOLVED that

The General Power of Competence be invoked.

**012/21 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Cllr Cook raised omissions from the minutes of the HR and Training Committee. Cllr Arun Gaur had attended. Cllr Cook had raised corrections and additions required to the report that was presented to the meeting at minute HR.055/20 and the Chair agreed to make these amendments. That the report to include that as per Council policy there is no right to appeal; and that the term remuneration be removed and replaced with the term pay.

It was also requested that the removal of Councillors Gaur, Brown and Stanhope, who are not on the committee, be minuted at HR.054/20.

RESOLVED that

- a. The minutes the HR and Training Committee of 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021 be received subject to the amendments above
- b. The minutes of the Planning Committee of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be received.

**013/21**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Considerable discussion took place regarding the process of the Neighbourhood Plan and the draft plan that was presented to Council; it is an incredibly complex document that is an intense read.

Councillors recognised the vast amount of work that had been undertaken to prepare the draft document and although they didn't feel well enough informed, they felt that it was important for the process to proceed unhindered in light of the incredible pressures being made on the Parish by proposed developments. Councillors also recognised that the Plan can still be amended and is likely to be amended, even in a small way, following the Regulation 14 consultation

RESOLVED that

- a. The draft Neighbourhood Plan be agreed to proceed to Regulation 14 consultation
- b. A briefing session be arranged for the Neighbourhood Planning Consultant to brief the councillors

**014/21**

**SHORT TERM CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE**

The report of the deputy clerk was considered and councillors recognised the under resource of the grounds team at this time.

RESOLVED that

Blue Sky Development be appointed to provide a seasonal temporary Grounds Team Maintenance resource for 20 weeks, 30 hours a week from 1 June 2021 to 30 November 2021 at a cost of £9,000 to be funded from salary budget underspends

**015/21**

**BRANDING**

Councillors requested an agenda item for the June Council meeting to consider a process for rebranding the Council and to develop a clear steer on how councillors wish the Council to be seen, and what we want our brand to say. The Council vans to remain unbranded at this time.

**016/21**

**FINANCE**

RESOLVED that

- a. Cllrs Matthews and Brown be appointed to complete the electronic and other banking and payments
- b. Cllrs Beary and Cook be appointed as additional account and check signatories
- c. Cllr Peter Stanhope to continue to undertake the bank reconciliation

- inspections
- d. Cllr Young be appointed to approve the change of bank details for suppliers
  - e. The accounts payable for April 2021 be received
  - f. The Annual Report on the Accounts 2020-2021 be received
  - g. The outturn report be received and the outturn figure of £58,455.32 be held in general funds

**017/21 COLNE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK**

Councillors expressed their support for the Regional Park and recognised that it was vital to protect such an important space

RESOLVED that

The Council agrees to become a signatory on the joint statement to Buckinghamshire Council about the impact of multiple development proposals on the central part of the Colne Valley Regional Park in Iver Heath and the surrounding areas.

**018/21 COUNCILLOR TRAINING AND ADVICE**

The Deputy Clerk explained the arrangements for the bus tour to take place next Monday from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. The Clerk explained that once all the forms had been received and feedback obtained from councillors on what training they felt they required this would be put in place. The Clerk reminded councillors that staff are available to answer councillors queries and that if a councillor would welcome some help via a 1 to 1 to make contact with the Clerk.

**019/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that

THE Public and Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters which will be discussed are confidential.

**020/21 INSURANCE**

The report of the Clerk was received and the insurance quotes considered.

RESOLVED that

- a. The quote from BHIB insurance be accepted at a cost of £8,585.23 for a period of 12 months
- b. That the council's insurance cover be reviewed over the next twelve months to be followed by a further quote process for a longer period

**021/21**

**IVER RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk reported to the Council on the recent traveller incursion that was removed within 20 hours. Councillors expressed a wish to improve the security at the Rec to protect the sports pitches against further incursion if the height barrier is not a deterrent.

RESOLVED that

- a. The Deputy Clerk to investigate further height barrier provision, width restriction and other 'inner defences' against incursion by caravans, vans, cars, and motor homes and report back to Council on the options;
- b. The Clerk to liaise with the Management Company of Saxon Court and seek assistance with the cost of additional security measures and/or recompense for the costs of dealing with the recent incursion;
- c. Clerk to seek a review of the licence for access with a view to including responsibility for maintaining the security of the area and for the cover of all costs related to incursions due to insecurity of the initial height barrier

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....