

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21st JUNE 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Cllr Ciarán Beary (Chair)

Cllr Julie Cook (Vice Chair)

Present: Kevin Brown, Adam Burke, Wendy Matthews, Stuart Mills, Peter Stanhope, Michael Sullivan, Graham Young

Apologies: Councillor Christine Ball

Absent: Councillors Mohinder Bhatti, Paul Brooksby, Peter Kinchin

In attendance: Stephanie Bennett (Clerk), Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk), and 7 Members of the Public

049/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Peter Stanhope declared that he was an organiser of the Fun Day that would be discussed at the meeting. Peter Stanhope and Julie Cook declared an interest in the grant application by Iver and District Countryside Association as they are volunteer litter pickers.

The Clerk advised that there is no disclosable pecuniary interest and that they are able to take part in the discussion

050/21 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public raised the issue of motorcycle use at Iver Heath Rec that was endangering the children playing and other users. The Chair advised that there is a similar issue at Iver Rec and that this was both young people and adults riding bikes. He had spoken to them however they had not stopped riding their bikes.

The chair explained that there is a balance between stopping access to bikes and stopping access by those who are impaired and people with pushchairs/prams etc. The member of the public reported that these were youngster two up on a moped and that they had informed the youth worker who had provided a report to police with VRNs. The police have the power to issue a section 51 notice which if there is a reoffence the vehicle can be seized.

It was also noted that it was important to check that the signage for the recreation grounds are correct.

Cllr Cook reported on behalf of a community member who wishes to undertake a community event to promote understanding of different cultures and Cllr Cook asked that we build this into our events.

051/21

MINUTES

The minutes of 25th May 2021 were considered and an amendment was agreed to minute 025/21 “Councillors discussed the current Covid situation, the difficulties experienced with the council’s use of the audio equipment at the Village Hall and the cost of hiring suitable audio visual equipment for broadcast purposes.”

RECOMMENDED that

Subject to the amendment detailed above that the minutes of 17th May and 25th May 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chair

052/21

CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair was delighted with the incredible success of the Neighbourhood Plan presentation from last week. The link is available on the website and we are arranging to provide a download.

The Chair was disappointed that he had been unable to find a suitable time and date for all the councillors to meet and felt that it is important to discuss the priorities of the council and what we want our officers to deliver. The Chair feels that it is important to form into a Council as soon as possible and will try to bring councillors together as soon as possible.

053/21

COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 25th May and 8th June were considered. Councillors expressed thanks to Nicole for the clarity of preparation and the speed of receiving the minutes. Cllr Brown thanked ex-Cllr Carol Gibson for her assistance at the Planning Committee meeting

RECOMMENDED that

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 25th May and 8th June 2021 be received

054/21

COUNCIL DECLARATION, VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The Chair introduced his report and explained that as a Parish we are experiencing an enormous problem with pollution. There was considerable discussion around the benefits and consequences of passing the proposed motion and it was recognised that this will require a lot of work and every decision by the council will need to take the motion into consideration.

It was recognised that being carbon neutral by 2030 is an aspiration but that we could go further and have a greater ambition. There will be a cost in some respects and Cllr Cook explained that there are ways to generate income through waste products and that the sector has made many information resources available for free.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The following motion be agreed (proposed by Cllr Beary, seconded by Cllr Mills)
“That The Ivers Parish Council declares a climate emergency and commits to encourage The Ivers to become carbon neutral. We aim is to make The Ivers Parish Council carbon neutral by 2030 and encourage the local population, organisations and businesses to work with us to reduce pollution and protect and improve the environment.”
- b. A working group be formed to develop the action plan and to advise the officers

055/21

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The report of the Vice Chair was considered and considerable discussion took place over the structure that councillors wished to implement. Councillors wished every meeting to have a standing agenda item ‘Improvements and Effectiveness’ to enable councillors to discuss and agree identified actions to be taken.

Planning was working well with ward councillors leading on the discussions for the applications related to their ward.

It was generally felt that once a structure is implemented that it be reviewed in 12 months.

The Clerk advised members of the difficulties that would be experienced in resourcing the Facilities and Events Committee. A calendar of holding the Committee meeting directly before Council was felt to be appropriate with a minute taker provided for the Council meeting

RECOMMENDED that

- a. Planning Committee to be formed of up to 12 councillors with the quorate being 4.
- b. Planning Committee to be:
 - Chair and Vice Chair ex officio, and
 - Cllrs Mills, Brown, Stanhope, Burke, Sullivan and Young
- c. Planning Committee to operate as per Standing Orders
- d. Open Spaces and Highways Committee to retained and the following councillors to be members:
 - Chair and Vice Chair ex officio, and
 - Cllrs Matthews, Mills, Sullivan, Brown, Stanhope
- e. Finance and Events Committee to retained and the following

- councillors to be members:
- Chair and Vice Chair ex officio, and
 - Cllrs Matthews, Stanhope, Brown, Young
- f. Neighbourhood Planning Committee be retained and the following councillors to be members:
- Chair and Vice Chair ex officio, and
 - Cllrs Matthews, Stanhope, Mills, Bown.
- g. The Neighbourhood Planning Committee to review its community members and make recommendations for changes to the Terms of Reference
- h. HR Committee to be removed
- i. Finance and Audit Committee to be removed
- j. Facilities and Events Committee to be held before Council meetings ie 6.30 to 7.00pm
- k. A minute taker to be engaged for Council meetings
- l. Revised Sanding Orders to be considered at the next meeting of Council
- m. Improvements and Effectiveness to be a standing item on all agendas

056/21

CASUAL VACANCY

The Chair explained that the community has not called for an election and that this now provides the Council with an opportunity to consider a co-option. The Chair identified two methods for doing this; the first is to offer the position to the prospective candidate who achieved the next highest number of votes in that ward, the other option is to initiate a co-option application, presentation and decision making process as has been undertaken previously.

Councillors discussed the benefits and concerns with each method.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The council implement a co-option application, presentation and decision process with immediate effect.
- b. Applications to be invited to be submitted by 2 July 2021, with presentations made the following week and an extraordinary council to be convened as soon as possible after the presentations in order that a co-option be appointed
- c. All prospective candidates who were not elected to be written o inviting them to apply for co-option

057/21

IVER HEATH RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Peter Stanhope presented on the proposed Fun Day planned for the 29th August 2021. Doug Grant also offered information on how the event was being organised. Councillors were informed that the car park will be closed except for limited disabled

parking for the Bowls and Tennis Clubs and vehicles required for the event. Additional parking will be available at the British Legion, Stag and Hounds and space was being sought from Pinewood.

The aim was to provide an event to draw the community of The Ivers together

The event would require 10 portable toilets that would cost about £1,000 and they would need to seek an electricity supply from the council buildings. Public liability insurance is being arranged and a safety advisory group application had been made. There is of course a risk that Covid regulations might inhibit the event however risk assessments were prepared and the operational aspects were being planned. Councillors advised that toilets are sought from Pinewood as they have access to these resources due to film set provisions.

It was requested that the event liaise with the person wishing to undertake cultural awareness to see if this could be incorporated.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The event be given outline approval to be held on the 29th August at Iver Heath recreation ground subject to the risk assessment being approved by the Open Spaces and Highways Committee
- b. The organisers be mindful of the declaration of a climate emergency by the council and ensure that single use plastics and generators/engines are not utilised

058/21

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The grant applications were considered

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The Ivers Hive be granted £288
- b. Iver and District Countryside association be granted £500
- c. The clerk to set up a meeting with Iver Junior School to investigate if there are alternative ways of delivery the meeting room ie can the Hub/Citizens advice be utilized. Cllr Matthews to make contact to offer suitable assistance from the Community Board
- d. Confidence Through Football to be granted free use of the 5 a side pitch (to be marked) for a period of 6 months on condition that bookings are agreed by the council. Assistance to be provided if required to enable the organisation to seek CIC status.

059/21

EXTERNAL BODY REPRESENTATIVES

RECOMMENDED that

The following representatives be agreed:

- a. Wexham and Ivers Community Board - Cllr Peter Stanhope
- b. Chiltern and South Bucks Food Group – Cllr Stuart Mills
- c. Iver Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Adam Burke
- d. Iver Heath Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Peter Stanhope
- e. Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council – Cllrs Wendy Matthews and Graham Young
- f. George Green Quarry Liaison Committee – Cllr Michael Sullivan
- g. Colne Valley Regional Park – Cllr Julie Cook
- h. Lakeside Energy from Waste Liaison group – Cllr Wendy Matthews
- i. Pinewood Community Liaison group – Cllrs Julie Cook, Peter Stanhope, Kevin Brown and Ciarán Beary
- j. Cemex Liaison group – Cllr Wendy Matthews.
- k. Good Neighbours Scheme – Cllr Ciarán Beary
- l. Thorney Park Community Forum. No appointment – await clarification from Bucks if forum still current
- m. Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils and SBALC Cllr Julie Cook

060/21

COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DECISION MAKING

Councillors discussed the ongoing Covid situation and their wishes to convene as a Council. Until the government considered the next stage of the extended roadmap it was felt that the situation needed to stay as it currently is.

RECOMMENDED that

The Clerk continue to be delegated to action the recommendation of the Council and Committees in consultation with the Chair for the period to 25th July 2021

061/21

BRANDING

The Chair proposed that the Council opens a competition for young designers in the area. To do this we would need to provide a lead and we can do this through developing the Vision, Mission and Values. Cllr Cook offered that the Council first needed to decide what it wished to brand and Cllr Sullivan offered that this was not a priority at this time.

The Chair clarified that he did not want to spend a lot of money on branding and that it was about what to write on the vehicles and on the headed letters.

RECOMMENDED that

The Chair convenes a meeting of Council to discuss the Vision and to start the process of drawing up the specification/lead document for what the council wants to portray

062/21 RE-OPENING OF THE HIGH STREET

The Clerk presented the application that was drawn up by officers during the purdah period. Councillors felt that if entertainment was provided it must be by local artists however this would prove to be very difficult in the four retail areas due to traffic noise. It was also felt that the proposed artists would not fit with the declaration of a climate emergency.

RECOMMENDED that

The proposal for a bubble blower and balloon entertainer in the retail areas is not progressed

063/21 GROUNDS TEAM

The Deputy Clerk presented the report and advised that we are delivering services and that these two posts will enable the council to start to provide Pavilion access as well as improve the grounds maintenance team outputs. Councillors requested that the operations be revisited to remove references to management and that the job descriptions be tightened.

Councillors requested an overview be provided of the work of the grounds team to Open Spaces and Highways Committee.

RECOMMENDED that

The job descriptions are revisited and the item is returned to July Council with the supporting information

Standing Order 3x was suspended

064/21 FINANCE

RECOMMENDED that

The accounts for payment be received and the completion of the bank reconciliations be noted.

065/21 INTERNAL AUDIT

RECOMMENDED that

The Internal Auditor report be received, the Internal Auditor report for the external auditor be received and that the Council letter to the external auditor be agreed

066/21 AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

The Vice Chair reported on an identified piece of land that was owned by Bucks Council that the Council could consider taking over the management of to plant with trees. A pre-application process was discussed and the Council identified the land as more of a community asset.

The Chair explained that he liked the idea of acquiring and planting land as part of the overall Climate Emergency strategy. Cllr Matthews raised a concern that the land in question was concreted and was highly polluted

RECOMMENDED that

- a. Clerk to commence liaison with Bucks Council and background information checks on the state of the land.
- b. An application to register the land as a Community Asset be commenced
- c. Clerk to initiate discussions with Bucks Council on whether they would lease the land to the Parish Council
- d. A working group to be formed to look at this and the matter to be returned to Council as appropriate

067/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RECOMMENDED 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.

068/21 TRAINING

The training request of the Clerk was considered.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. Chair and Vice Chair to develop a training / payment agreement enabling the Clerk to undertake the MA in Public Leadership and Management
- b. Council to consider the proposal at the July meeting

The meeting ended at 10.41pm

Signed Chairman

Date