

## THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

**Present:** Councillors Kevin Brown, Julie Cook, Peter Stanhope, Michael Sullivan, Stuart Mills, Wendy Matthews

**Apologies:** Councillor Ciaran Beary

**In attendance:** Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk) and Cllr Luisa Sullivan (Unitary Cllr – Bucks)

#### **131/21        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Matthews declared an interest in item 11 (Community Board Funding Opportunities) as Chairman of the local Community Board.

#### **132/21        PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Luisa Sullivan made some comments in her capacity of Chair of the Community Board Working Group for Open Spaces and the Environment.

#### **133/21        CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Health and Safety assessment has commenced at the Churchyard and Burial Grounds and will be completed over the next three where upon we will receive a report with the condition of all memorials and a recommended remedial plan
- We have made sure our team has been safe and well during the recent very hot weather ensuring we are meeting our duty of care towards them – flexible working with earlier starts, prioritisation of jobs and regular ‘checking in’ between the team including the Deputy Clerk.
- Covid restriction signs and previously removed play equipment (swings) have been replaced at our three fenced play areas. The signs have been retained should we need them again
- Our Covid-19 risk assessment for staff including the Grounds Maintenance Team has been updated.
- Cllrs Mills is meeting with Carol Gibson to discuss HGV operator licences.

**134/21**

**MINUTES**

RECOMMENDED that

the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chair noting that under minute 123/21 covering noticeboards a suggestion was made to look into the feasibility of electronic noticeboards in the future.

**135/21**

**UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

The Deputy Clerk reported that:

- a) The noticeboard at 45b, High Street has been reclaimed from the Iver Heath Drama Club who had previously been asked to place a display there and is now being used for Parish Council notices
- b) One of the old noticeboards has already been removed and store for repurposing to one of the allotment site. The other will be removed next week
- c) The two poles that carried an old police noticeboard have been removed and are stored for repurposing
- d) The old flagpole has been assessed and cannot be removed by the maintenance team so a quote will be sought for professional removal
- e) The Boundary Gate at Chandlers Hill has been removed by the Maintenance Team and the wood recycled via the Council facilities at the household recycling centre
- f) Attempts made to contact the donors of the memorial bench to discuss the condition of it.
- g) Secure-a-Field have been contacted to progress the fencing at the Churchyard / Burial Ground.

**136/21**

**RoSPA INSPECTION REPORTS**

The committee received the RoSPA reports for all Recreation Grounds and Fenced Play areas and the remedial report prepared by the Deputy Clerk.

RECOMMENDED that

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the Remedial Plan as presented and reports back to the committee on progress.

137/21

**OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS STRATEGIC PLANNING**

The Chair had previously sent round the last document prepared by the last committee where initial thoughts on strategic planning were identified

RECOMMENDED that

The Deputy Clerk set up a strategy working party comprising of Cllrs Kevin Brown, Julie Cook, Michael Sullivan, Wendy Matthews and Peter Stanhope and that other councillors be canvassed to join this group.

138/21

**IVER LODGE / SWAN MEADOW BOUNDARY FENCING**

The Committee received the report made by the Deputy Clerk which included options and a recommendation.

RECOMMENDED that

- a) The signage at both entrance gates be reviewed and refreshed with messages concerning the use of the Nature Reserve
- b) Where there are current breakages in the fence boundary, notices to be placed to identify private property beyond
- c) Existing 'good' fencing to have signage discouraging crossing the boundary at reasonable intervals and where crossing the boundary is possible
- d) Deputy Clerk to discuss further with the Management Committee the cost of fencing seeking assistance and to discuss further the option of the secure gate for residents of Iver Lodge to use to access the Nature Reserve and the Village on foot. This may include the requirement of a purchased licence to access Parish Council land. The Deputy Clerk will address this with the Clerk.

139/21

**WILDFLOWERS**

The committee had previously a verbal update from Cllr Luisa Sullivan earlier in the meeting and discussed this further. Deputy Clerk to contact all councillors to start to pull together suggestions where wildflower sites could be located across all areas of the Parish.

**140/21 COMMUNITY BOARD FUNDING BIDS**

The following ideas were shared by councillors:

- a) Zipwire activity (for children) at Iver Heath Recreation Ground
- b) Allotments – Solar panel driven pump to pump water to the allotment sites and therefore recirculating water
- c) Planting of trees / hedges at high pollutant sites – i.e. Opposite Tesco Express / Fuel Station on A412
- d) Planting of trees / provision of planters in high footfall areas – Air Quality Management Areas

**141/21 WEBSITE / PRESS RELEASES**

As time appropriate, inform residents that a health and safety audit had taken place at the Churchyard / Burial Ground in order to keep users of the area safe.

**142/21 EXCLUSION OF 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.

**143/21 OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS CURRENT STATUS**

The Deputy Clerk received feedback and views from the committee members on the presentation made to them at the last meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.46pm

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....