

## THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Cllr Ciarán Beary (Chair)  
Cllr Julie Cook (Vice Chair)

**Present:** Councillors Sam Bhachu, Kevin Brown, Wendy Matthews, Graham Young, Peter Kinchin, Michael Sullivan, Peter Stanhope, Adam Burke, Paul Brooksby and Mohinder Bhatti

**Apologies:** Councillor Stuart Mills

**In attendance:** Cllr Luisa Sullivan (Bucks Councillor joined at 1936) and Stephanie Bennett (Clerk)

#### 216/21            **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Graham Young declared that he was Chair of the Residents Association that had submitted the grant applications and that he would not take part in the agenda item.

#### 217/21            **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

#### 218/21            **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Councillors asked whether there was an opportunity for residents to undertake some clearance of the footpath between Iver Station and Iver Village and Cllr Young explained the coverage of the work currently undertaken and that the work was dependent on the volunteers being available for the work. Cllr Brooksby offered to attend the path with his personal equipment and cut back the vegetation; Cllr Stanhope offered to assist.

Cllr Graham Young left the meeting

Councillors asked if the Christmas Event could be promoted to the whole of The Ivers with everyone encouraged to attend; this will contribute to building inclusivity.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. A grant of £250 be made to the Richings Park Residents Association for the Village Gardening Project
- b. A grant of £250 be made to the Richings Park Residents Association for the Christmas Party, Richings Park

Cllr Young rejoined the meeting

#### 219/21            **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed two new members of staff; Pia who has initially started part time untangling our records and Ian who started last weekend as our caretaker and

who is completing the important weekend checks and litter clearing at our recreation grounds and play areas.

The Council has made an expression of interest to the Welcome Back Fund that Bucks Council is facilitating for a lengthsperson. This is a role that would focus on cleaning up the footpaths, cutting back the shrubbery and generally doing all the important work that we seem to be missing out on. Our unitary councillors have been pushing very hard on this and I ask that they continue to do so. Cllr Matthews advised that Bucks state that they have cleared all the blocked drains on non main roads aside from those that require the 'super sucker' and asked that if there are remaining issues that these be passed to her.

The Chair reported that the Community Board has welcomed our proposal for a training hub.

The Chair also reported that an election has not been called in relation to the councillor vacancy and suggested that unless councillors thought otherwise that the clerk be instructed to advertise the vacancy as a co-option following the same process as previously.

The Chair thanked Adam for his assistance to the council on risk assessments.

**220/21**

## **MINUTES**

RECOMMENDED that

The minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chair

**221/21**

## **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Planning Committee minutes were considered and councillors discussed the complexities of the major planning applications that they were considering and the identified benefits of access to specialist consultant assistance. Councillors also recognised that considerable care was needed so that funds were not spent for no benefit.

1937 Cllr Luisa Sullivan joined the meeting

Councillors discussed the provision of funds to be used for accessing professional advice and identified a sum of £15,000 to be placed in an ear marked reserve. This reserve would then be available for the council to commission advice services subject to the requirements of Standing Orders. Councillors requested the finance and audit workin group to look at the relevant processes and present options to council

1957 Cllr Bhatti leaves the meeting

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The minutes of the Planning Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the minutes of the Facilities and Events Committee of 9<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, the minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021, the minutes of the Open Spaces and Highways Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 be received
- b. That financial regulation 11.1(h) be suspended for the reason that the consideration is that of a very specialist service and that the quote is considered good value
- c. That the ten year contract for Japanese Knotweed Eradication be accepted at a cost of £7,362.50 to be paid from the EMR agreed in d below
- d. That an Ear Marked Reserve be set up under the control of Open Spaces and Highways Committee for a total of £10,000 for Japanese Knotweed eradication. To be funded from General Reserves
- e. That an Ear Marked reserve of £15,000 be set up under the control of Council for the commissioning of appropriate professional services to advise Planning Committee and Council. To be funded £10,000 from General Reserves and £5,000 from 8510/4
- f. Finance and Audit Working Group to make recommendation to council on a suitable process for the consideration and appointment of professional advice to Planning Committee
- g. That an additional £2,000 from general reserves is allocated to the Christmas Lights budget

**222/21**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

The Clerk briefed the council on the forthcoming work required by the neighbourhood planning consultant and confirmed that funding had been secured that will cover most of the remaining planned consultant activity. If further work was required the clerk would return to council to seek the funds.

**223/21**

**IVER HEATH RECREATION GROUND**

The council received the legal advice from Wellers Hadley and the Clerk introduced the summary report and explained that Iver Heath Recreation Ground Charity owns Iver Heath Recreation Ground and all buildings/infrastructure on the land. The Parish Council is the Managing Trustee, with Fields in Trust acting as Custodian Trustee.

RECOMMENDED that

The Parish Council meets in October or November 2021 as the Managing Trustee to consider a constitution and make resolution regarding the day to day management by the Parish Council

**224/21**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Council considered the new Code of Conduct.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The Code of Conduct be agreed and that it will supercede all previous versions and related documents
- b. That training on the Code of Conduct be provided to councillors at an early opportunity
- c. That a working group be formed and tasked to bring it into our own language

**225/21**

**PARISH CHARTER**

The Council debated the new Town and Parish Charter and noted that the response of The Ivers parish Council was not noted. The Council felt that this was not an appropriate document and that it did not deliver a reciprocal agreement between Bucks and the Parishes. It needs to challenge all parties including Bucks Council to deliver their part. At this time Bucks Council is not delivering the service as per the Charter statements.

RECOMMENDED that

A letter be drafted to be circulated to all councillors

**226/21**

**FINANCE**

The Chair thanked Cllr Sullivan for his examination of the accounts for payment; Cllr Stanhope reported that the bank reconciliations had been completed

RECOMMENDED that

The accounts for payment be received

**227/21**

**GOVERNANCE**

The Clerk introduced the review of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. The Council also considered the Health and Safety Policy and raised concerns with the suitability of the document which they felt was inadequate for the Council.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The Standing orders and Financial Regulations be approved and adopted
- b. That the Clerk request a further review of the Health and Safety policy by Avensure with a request for a responsibility matrix
- c. That the Clerk investigate the options for the Council to undertake an annual health and safety audit and return to October Council with a proposal
- d. That the Clerk seek clarification on health and safety liabilities of council and councillors and that an informal meeting of

councillors is called to discuss those liabilities and the actions to be taken

- e. All policies and agreed documents to contain version control measures

**228/21 NALC AND BMKALC**

RECOMMENDED that

The fees for NALC and BMKALC be paid at a cost of £1,783.80 for 2021 - 2022

**229/21 QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE**

The possibility of adapting the existing beacon was discussed and will be investigated.

RECOMMENDED that

The Facilities and Events Committee consider this and make recommendation to Council

**230/21 CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

The action plan produced by the officers was considered and councillors wished to convene shortly to consider the longer term actions for this. The chair reported that a group of Parish Councils has convened in Buckinghamshire and that we have been invited to join.

**231/21 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The laying of the wreaths during the Remembrance Sunday services at the three churches was considered

RECOMMENDED that

Cllr Beary to lay the wreath at St Peters Church, Cllr Brown to lay the wreath at St Margarets and Cllr Stanhope to lay the wreath at St Leonards.

**232/21 IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS**

No further items were highlighted

The meeting ended at 9:14PM

Signed ..... Chair

Date .....

