

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS
COMMITTEE HELD ON 22nd SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

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

Apologies: None
Absent: Cllr Sam Bacchu & Peter Kinchin
In attendance: Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk)

233/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No declarations of interests were declared.

234/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
No members of the public attended the meeting.

235/21 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED that

the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 August 2021 be
agreed and signed by the Chair.

236/21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churchyard / Burial Ground

Perimeter fencing completed and signs ordered concerning deep drop and badger occupation. Maintenance of churchyard / burial ground completed through the summer. H&S Audit completed of all memorials – full report received. 154 fails identified. Some memorial owners have already been in contact concerning condition.

Caretaker

New Caretaker started Thursday 17th September as part of the Maintenance team – will be litter picking and inspecting play areas over the weekend which mitigates the previously highlighted corporate risk as well as managing lets at the pavilions on behalf of the Facilities and Events.

Japanese Knotweed

The management plans for both Swan Meadow and Hardings Row will commence in October 2021 – Mitigates major risk identified. We will communicate this once we get confirmation of start dates in October

Grounds Team

The Seasonal Resource will end on 1st October and has been successful. Recruitment is about to get underway for a fourth permanent Grounds Maintenance Operative. Aim to onboard during October.

Operator Licences

Carol Gibson continuing to be involved and is having successes with enforcement

Pavement Pinch Points

Reports of near miss incidents with pedestrians where lorries are unable to pass at a safe distance in particular points across the Parish notably in the vicinity of the roundabout in the centre of Iver Village. DC to place this on the Agenda for the next meeting.

HGV Meeting

Cllr Julie Cook updated on a recent meeting she had attended concerning HGV's and reported this was an initial meeting and we should continue to heavily support this.

237/21

PUBLIC NOTICEBOARD CONDITION UPDATE

The report of the Deputy Clerk was received and noted. Use of magnetic backing to continue where appropriate. Branding was discussed and it was decided not to take any steps currently to change branding other than having standard information in each noticeboard that includes contact number for the office and the website address.

238/21

IVER VILLAGE PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Cllr Ciaran Beary gave an update on the informal consultation undertaken by the Residents Association. He stated that the shopkeepers were in support of the scheme and that an increase in traffic flow reduces pollution. It was stated that between 55%-60% support is needed in the informal consultation for a formal consultation to be carried out by Bucks. It was stated that the informal consultation was being carried out by the Resident's Association.

RECOMMENDED that

the Parish Council will support the delivery of a formal consultation from Bucks Council should one go ahead.

239/21

STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

The report of the Deputy Clerk was received. It was stated that a further check would be done on the accuracy of the information supplied by our contractor as some 'specials' may not have been included in the data e.g. where lights have been fixed to telegraph poles. The Deputy Clerk will carry out this check. It was stated that since the start of the replacement programme our running costs i.e. power had reduced from around £20,000 per year to around £4,000 per year. The Deputy Clerk will validate this information. The Deputy Clerk reported that he had made contact with the TVP Crime and policing commissioner to seek any funding opportunities for funding to pay for streetlighting in dark pathway areas. It was stated funding had been sought before but was unsuccessful.

RECOMMENDED that

93 lamps be replaced with the Urbis fittings in 21/22 at a cost of £44,724.60. This to be funded by the Streetlight Replacement budget line (£40,178) and the Highways Projects budget line (£5,000).

240/21

UPDATE FROM OPEN SPACES & HIGHWAYS STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

The report of the Deputy Clerk was received.

241/21

PARISH TREE SURVEY

The report of the Deputy Clerk was received. It was pointed out that in this instance requests for quotes were required and following some feedback regarding quality of reports received from previous consultants it was suggested that part of the quote process included a sample report for review. It was also suggested that we should ensure that there is separation between the consultants completing the survey and any specialists carrying out remedial work. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the usual specialist used does not carry out any inspection work and therefore will not be asked for a quote.

RECOMMENDED that

The Deputy Clerk seeks quotes for a complete tree survey in line with the above requirements.

242/21 DISABLED ACCESS TO RECREATION GROUNDS

It was agreed that questions regarding access to all users including wheelchair users and mobility scooters be in the Recreation Ground Usage survey being carried out as an activity of the OS&H Strategy Working Group. It was stated that accessibility to all is a right not a privilege and whilst we should endeavour to keep those we don't want on our Recreation Grounds off (e.g. Motorbikes etc) we should ensure we have accessibility to all other users. This should remain a priority and be addressed via the Strategy Working Group.

243/21 GRASSED AREA OUTSIDE 45B, HIGH STREET

The report of the Deputy Clerk was received.

244/21 WILDFLOWER VERGES

The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update stating he had met with Blue Sky recently and they had out suggested sites for wildflower verges and they are surveying these to give us a cost for preparation & seeding and then strimming and clearance after flowering in preparation for the following year flowering. It was stated that Bucks Council were considering the need for licences to be issued for use of patches of land for wildflowers. It was also stated that in order to work on the highways qualifications, insurance and licences were required. This would be the case if our owns Grounds Team were to be involved in the process. The Deputy Clerk will keep the committee updated on progress.

245/21 RICHINGS PARK BOLLARDS REPLACEMENTS

The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update stating that an express of wish to replace the bollards with 10 carbon sink planters had been lodged with Bucks Transport and a response is being awaited on. Graham Young is arranging for the maintenance and watering to be carried out by Heathrow Rangers but it is understood Bucks Transport require a formal agreement to be in place for this and their current position is that the damaged bollards will ne reinstating. The Deputy Clerk will ensure any further update is shared with the committee.

246/21

Travel Plan – September 2020

The Travel Plan September 2020 was received by the Committee and that now a year on it required some refreshing. Cllr Peter Stanhope gave an update from the Community Board Travel Working Group and agreed to look to refresh the document. The Deputy Clerk will locate the Priority Document produced as a result of the report and share this with the Committee.

247/21

TRAFFIC SPEED MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Cllr Kevin Brown gave a verbal update on the current status of speed monitoring equipment. The Deputy Clerk gave an update of MVAS equipment installed at a local Parish that indicates to drivers that their speed is above the limit and monitors this providing statistics of number of speeding vehicles. It can be bought with sets of clips to remain permanently in place so the equipment can be moved round easily and with a solar panel for ‘power’ supply. The Deputy Clerk will find out more information including an idea of costs for potentially 2 of these signs from Swarco limited.

248/21

WEBSITE / PRESS RELEASES

The Deputy Clerk to prepare draft text for approval by the Chair for
a) Japanese Knotweed Eradication at Hardings Row & Swan Meadow
b) Health and Safety Audit at the Churchyard and Burial Ground

249/21

IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS

The Deputy Clerk reported that as a result of one of the items identified at under this item at the July 2021 Meeting he has now created a spreadsheet with key projects and updates on and he will share this via SharePoint.

The meeting finished at 8.57pm

Signed Chairman

Date