

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 18th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

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

Present: Councillors Kevin Brown, Graham Young, Peter Kinchin, Michael Sullivan, Peter Stanhope, Adam Burke, Mohinder Bhatti, Paul Brooksby (joined at 1914), and Sam Bhachu (joined at 1910). Councillor Gupta joined from minute 276/21

Apologies: Councillor Wendy Matthews

Absent: Councillor Stuart Mills

In attendance: Cllr Luisa Sullivan (Bucks Councillor joined at 1909), 3 Members of the Public, Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk) and Stephanie Bennett (Clerk)

273/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No declarations were made

274/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
There was no public participation.

275/21 CO-OPTION IVER VILLAGE AND RICHINGS PARK
Vishal Gupta was co-opted to the casual vacancy and signed the Acceptance of Office. Councillor Gupta joined the Council meeting

The Chair welcomed Cllr Gupta to the Council.

276/21 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED that

The minutes of the meeting of 20th September be agreed and signed by the Chair

277/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair was delighted to announce that the Council has been notified that its funding application for the Hub has been approved by the Community Board and that work is now ongoing to get the training venue up and running as soon as possible. The Chair felt that this was important good news to share with the community.

The Chair reported that the office is now working with the full complement of staff and staff are only home working on occasions. The chair has spoken with Pia who is delighted to be working on the burial records that are coming together very well.

All office staff remain able to work from home if the pandemic situation changes. The office is safe for councillors to visit and work in if councillors wish to do so.

The chair also reported that staff training plans are in progress.

The Chair asked councillors to consider what they wished the council to deliver for its communities in order to provide direction for the officers. He explained that we would be considering key themes later on and offered that as a council we could work on this at a committee and a council level.

The Chair reminded councillors of the code of conduct training coming up and explained that this would assist everyone in working together and nurturing each others skills and contributions.

The chair asked councillors for their thoughts regarding the Christmas Party grant application from Richings Park Residents Association. Cllr Young explained that the project is constrained by the room size and that there is no reason the other residents associations cannot also run similar events. Councillors were very supportive of the project and asked if the organisers could offer tickets that are available to all.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The organisers be informed that the council would prefer it if the project could be opened up to others in different areas of the Parish
- b. The grant of £250 be agreed
- c. The grant application policy have a new condition added; that all projects to be accessible to all appropriate residents of the Parish

278/21 COMMITTEE MINUTES

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The minutes of the Planning Committee of 14th September 2021, the minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee of 23rd September 2021, and the minutes of the Open Spaces and Highways Committee of 22nd September 2021 be received
- b. The Chair provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan process. The Committee will be meeting shortly to agree a final draft for submission to the Parish Council for agreement.

279/21 EXTERNAL BODY REPORTS

Iver Village Hall

Cllr Burke reported that the Village Hall was up and running at near capacity. There have been some problems in the car park and the committee are seeking funding for the installation of a defibrillator.

Iver Heath Village Hall

Cllr Stanhope reported that the Iver Heath Village Hall is up and running and that the AGM is tomorrow night.

Community Board

Cllr Stanhope reported that the growing project is looking for space on the allotments now as the Evreham Centre is not suitable. The Highways Group are looking at the development of a cycle path from Pinewood to Iver Village and alternative routes are being considered that would not cost £1.1M which is the cost for undertaking the work at the Stag and Hounds roundabout.

BMKALC

Cllr Cook reported that HS2 marshals have been appointed and that efforts are being made to find out how The Ivers could be considered as a site for a Marshal. Cllr Cook also reported that Bucks Council has raised concerns about the impact of the changes in social care funding. Bucks devolution pilots are to be started with a new team appointed.

Heathrow Community Noise Forum

The airport airspace modernisation programme is looking at 2 runways rather than 3; no third runway negates the need to overfly The Ivers

280/21

MEETINGS

The Chair introduced the question of how the council should make its decisions and run its business. He felt that the committee meetings work well in an online format and that people engage however he felt that it was time to return to face to face meetings.

Councillors were in agreement with the approach of the chair provided that:

- The venues were safe
- The council 'roams' around the Parish with venues pre booked
- The venues have microphone and loop availability
- We respectfully request people to undertake lateral flow test and only attend following a negative result
- PPE be provided for councillors in the form of face shields
- If no venue is available the council to return to an online meeting

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The delegation to the Clerk to action recommendations and decision making on behalf of the council be rescinded on the 14th November.
- b. The delegation to remain in place for the committees
- c. The council to meet face to face and to 'roam' around the parish and be located in suitable venues
- d. PPE be provided for councillors

281/21

ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Council considered the consultation document

RECOMMENDED that

The Council responds and states that it cannot comment for areas outside of The Ivers but that it recommends keeping its current 6 members that are working to deliver results against a large number of very complex issues.

282/21

FINANCE

The Council considered the finance papers and Cllr Stanhope reported that he had been unable to complete the bank reconciliation this month. The Chair thanked Cllr Sullivan for his examination of the accounts for payment.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The Accounts for Payments be received
- b. The Council receive the Quarter 2 variance report
- c. The direct debit payments list be approved

283/21

LONDON GREEN BELT COUNCIL

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The Council join LGBC at a cost of £25 per annum
- b. Cllrs Beary and Cook be appointed representatives

284/21

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Consideration discussion was had regarding Health and Safety. Councillors received the advice on councillor liability from BMKALC.

The Clerk informed Council that the H+S contract with Avensure had been terminated and that 90 days notice had been given for the HR contract. A preferred supplier had been sourced and the quote per month for a contract period of 3 years is £350 per month. Councillors were supportive of changing provider on condition that due diligence is undertaken and that a presentation is given to council in closed session once the contract is in place.

Councillors were not happy with the reworked Health and Safety Policy that had been prepared by Avensure however it was recognised that although not fit for purpose it would act as a reviewed Health and Safety Policy until the new policy could be introduced following the audit.

Councillors felt that by actively deciding to endorse this policy whilst recognising that it is not considered entirely appropriate showed a willingness to address the deficit.

RECOMMENDED that

- a. The interim Health and Safety Policy be adopted (Cllr Sullivan and Cook were against this proposal)
- b. Due diligence be undertaken on Citation by Cllrs Gupta, Sullivan and Burke
- c. Financial regulation 11.1(h) be suspended for item d below for the reason that the consideration is that of a very specialist service and that the quote from Citation is considered good value
- d. If there are no concerns from due diligence that the contract be award to Citation with immediate effect
- e. A presentation be given by Citation once the contract is awarded

285/21 STRATEGIC THEMES

This item was deferred

286/21 IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS

No further items were highlighted

The meeting ended at 9:14PM

Signed Chair

Date