

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

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

Present: Councillors Peter Stanhope, , Graham Young, Kevin Brown, and Stuart Mills

Apologies accepted from: Cllrs Peter Kinchin, Wendy Matthews, Mohinder Bhatti, and Adam Burke

Absent: Councillor Paul Brooksby, Michael Sullivan, Sam Bhachu, and Vishal Gupta

In attendance: Stephanie Bennett (Clerk)

386/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk gave dispensation to all councillors for the purpose of agreeing the budget and setting the precept

387/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

388/21 MINUTES

Under 383/21 councillors requested the minutes provide additional detail and paragraph to be amended to:

‘Councillors held considerable discussion regarding the reserves. The guidance is for the Parish Council to hold 3 to 6 months of reserves and the council currently holds slightly over the 6 months. Most of the councillors present agreed that it was prudent to maintain the reserves at this level due to the uncertainty regarding the increasing costs’

Under 383/21 the hedge was part of the development agreement for the car park at the Jubilee Pavilion.

RECOMMENDED that

Subject to the amendments above that the minutes of 20th December 2021 be agreed

389/21 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair thanked everyone, staff, councillors and volunteers for their hard work during the year and wished everyone a Happy Christmas. He was delighted to report on the success of the advent windows and the Vice Chair confirmed that 40 organisations had participated.

390/21 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT

The Council considered the report of the Clerk and requested the following additional corporate risks be added:

- Assault of councillors (control measures to be considered at the next Council)
- Non compliance with statutory testing requirements (control measures to be considered at the next Facilities and Events Committee)
- Missing records preventing timely issues to be dealt with. The control measure is for a records search to be undertaken and bespoke action plans to be implemented for each issue. This could include statutory declarations.

The risk rating for 32 – Government introduces precept capping for parishes to be increased to 2.

RECOMMENDED that

Subject to the amendment and additions above that the Corporate Risk Management Plan be agreed

391/21

FINANCE

Cllr Stanhope reported that he had been unable to attend the office to undertake the bank reconciliations but would be doing so shortly

RECOMMENDED that

The accounts for payment be received

392/21

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Considerable discussion was undertaken regarding the recent Pinewood Planning application and the forthcoming data centre application. It was raised that minute 347/21 be amended to state that it was Cllr Kinchin who brought to the committee's attention a Government Scheme for electric charging

RECOMMENDED that

The minutes of the Planning Committees of 9th November and 13th December 2021, the Open Spaces and Highways Committee of 24th November 2021, and the Neighbourhood Planning Committee of 7th December 2021 be received

393/21

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING BUDGET

RECOMMENDED that

£5,000 be allocated to the Neighbourhood Planning Ear Marked Reserves from General Reserves

394/21

OFFICE TEAM PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT INTERVIEW

The Clerk reported on the outcome of the ‘team approach’ and councillors expressed their thanks to the Office Team. They recognised the hard work that is undertaken and Cllr Brown reported that he was in the office frequently when he inspected the accounts and that he was always made welcome with his many questions being answered. Councillors thanked the office team and look forward to receiving the outcome of the team interview of the Maintenance Team.

395/21

CLEANING

Councillors considered the guidance from government regarding the cleaning of public outdoor settings and felt that wiping down the gates/fences/equipment once or twice a day would be of negligible benefit.

RECOMMENDED that

Cleaning protocols not be implemented for public outdoor settings

396/21

WORKING GROUPS

The Council has agreed to implement working groups for Climate Emergency and Air Quality and related land.

The working groups to be convened as follows:

Climate Emergency working group to be led by Cllr Beary. Cllrs Brown, Stanhope and Cook agreed to assist

Air Quality and related land working group to be lead by Cllr Cook. Cllrs Stanhope, Brown and Mills agreed to assist.

All councillors to be contacted to be invited to join the working groups

397/21

STRATEGIC THEMES

Councillors discussed the benefits of being clear on priorities. The four draft priorities could be seen as too wide however it was recognised that context would be added when the accompanying action plans were agreed.

RECOMMENDED that

Five strategic priorities to be adopted:

- Net Zero
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Community Safety
- Community Well Being
- Improvement in Air Quality

398/21

IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS

None identified

The meeting ended at 8:43PM

Signed Chair

Date