

**THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00PM  
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

**Present:** Councillors Ciarán Beary, Julie Cook, Peter Stanhope, Michael Sullivan and Wendy Matthews

**Apologies:** Councillors Sam Bacchu & Peter Kinchin

**Absent:** Cllr Stuart Mills

**In attendance:** Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk)

**447/21 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF COMMITTEE**

**RECOMMENDED** that

Cllr Julie Cook be elected Chair.

**448/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interests were declared.

**449/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were three members of the public attended the meeting. Members of the public only declared the items on the Agenda they were interested in.

**450/21 MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDED** that

the Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be agreed and subsequently signed by the Chair.

**451/21 DEPUTY CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Deputy Clerk made reference to the Project / Activity Update Spreadsheet available to Councillors and particularly highlighted the following:

#### 'Access to All' at Recreation Ground

Progress was being made following a conversation with Rangers at Langley Park and subsequent visit to view the Kissing Gates arrangements that uses the RADAR key scheme. Enquiries have been made to various disability charities / support organisations but they are being slow to respond to requests for help / guidance. Deputy Clerk to continue to persue.

#### Streetlight Replacement Programme

The Deputy Clerk reported that the contractor had now completed 50% of the replacements and they were expecting to complete the project in three weeks as opposed to the original quoted four weeks.

#### Wildflower Verges Community Board Bid

The Deputy Clerk and Cllr Luisa Sullivan had worked together to pull together the bid for Wildflower verges within the Parish which will be completed and submitted by the end of Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January. They are also working on the application for the licence to work on the highway in conjunction with the streetworks team at Bucks Council.

#### MVAS & Speedwatch Community Board Bid

The Deputy Clerk reported that he had received an update from the Community Board Co-ordinator that the bid was progressing well and that matched funding for both activities would be an advantage. Cllr Julie Cook had assisted by producing some figures of resources / time to potentially submit for 'matched funding' purposes. The Deputy Clerk will share these with the Committee ahead of submitting to support the bid.

**452/21**

#### **IVER HEATH COPSE FENCING**

The quote for repair of the stolen fencing and further security remedial work on the whole fencing line from the Deputy Clerk was received. This quote was gained from a contractor that has completed many fencing jobs for the Parish Council and knows this particular area well as they have completed projects very recently here as well as other Parish Council locations in the Parish. The Officers consider this contractor to be a 'trusted' local supplier.

It was requested that where possible three quotes are obtained for work. Cllr Ciaran Beary referred to the Financial Regulations (adopted September 2021) Section 4.1 which sets out the authority controls / limits delegated to the Clerk.

The Deputy Clerk stated that in this instance, due to the reasons explained, he obtained one quote but in most circumstances a number of quotes were obtained for comparison purposes / value for money.

**RECOMMENDED** that

the quote from Secure-a-Field of £783.05 ex VAT to replace the stolen wooden rails with galvanised wire and set the posts in concrete and the replacement of existing screws along the entire fencing line for security screws be accepted.

**453/21**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY – SAFE STREET AND PATHS**

Cllr Ciaran Beary spoke about current concerns for our community not feeling safe in areas in the Parish, e.g. unlight / poorly lit pathways in light of national coverage of crimes / attacks in areas such as these. The Committee agreed that some research was required and asked Cllr Beary to produce and share a draft electronic questionnaire to be distributed to the community to identify areas where they do not feel safe and reasons why with members of the committee for comment. The survey will potentially be shared to the wider community via social media channels, the Parish Council website and via residents' associations / community groups.

**454/21**

**CLISBY'S NORTH MUD WHARF**

Cllr Wendy Matthews explained the history of Mud Wharfs in the area and their historic purpose. She explained we have 5 Mud Wharf's within the Boundary of the Parish, 1 owned by the Ivers Parish Council, 1 owned by Bucks Council, 1 designated as Common Land and 2 where the ownership was unknown. The ownership of Clisby's is unknown but the Parish Council attempted to get ownership previously but failed. It was noted that a team of local residents had offered to help clearance of the area.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- a) The Parish Council asks Bucks Council for clarification on the ownership asking for a 21-day response
- b) The Parish Council considers applying for reverse possession of Clisby's North Mud Wharf and therefore The Deputy Clerk seeks the guidance of the Clerk in terms of our position to take legal guidance on the matter.

- c) The local team be asked to carry out some clearance and for the Grounds Team to provide some trailer / removal assistance in conjunction with the team
- d) The Parish Council install signage at the area to indicate that the Parish Council maintains the area
- e) The Parish Council consider approaching historic organisations e.g. Historic England and Colne Valley Country Park involvement in establishing the historic value of the Mud Wharf

**455/21**

**STREETLIGHT CONTRACT**

The Deputy Clerk highlighted that the Streetlight Contract is due for renewal in April 2022. The previous tender document was shared. Elements that were no longer required were identified including removing the need for scouting but including the annual reporting of maintenance. It was noted that a professional contractor assisted in the production of the last tendering document.

**RECOMMENDED** that

The Deputy Clerk revert back to 2019 Amenities minutes to see who was involved and consider using them again to assist. Deputy Clerk to search back through Contract Finder to see details from the former tendering process and progress the tender process.

**456/21**

**IVER RECREATION GROUND**

a) Perimeter Path

The estimated cost for completion based on the specification was provided by the Deputy Clerk. Following discussion it was agreed that to complete the project, even in phases was not feasible. It was suggested that we look to take remedial action on the flooded area on the current path at the bottom of the Recreation Ground. The Deputy Clerk agreed to talk further with the civil engineer consultants to progress this idea and also to contact / look at path projects at Gerrards Cross and Stoke Poges (running track). It was pointed out that some redial work on the path has been carried out in the past. Deputy Clerk to discuss options of contacting neighbouring landowners to clear the ditches with the Clerk.

b)

c) Hedging at the edge of the inner car park

The report of the Clerk was received. After discussion it was agreed that the cost of amending the fee to amend the planning application should be confirmed - thought to be £254. In terms of installing trees pointed out that attention was needed concerning underground cables around the pavilion. We should also be mindful of the requirement to water newly planted trees. It was suggested we consult with the Tree Officer / Ecology Officer at Bucks. In terms of the suggestion to create a Covid Memorial area with benches it was suggested we seek the views of the public via the website / social media.

**RECOMMENDED that**

- a) The Parish Council progress the compliance issue by commencing hedge planting including exploring what is possible / feasible
- b) Consult with the community as to the appetite for Covid Memorial areas

**457/21**

**GRASSED AREA OUTSIDE 45B**

The report of the Deputy Clerk was received. After discussion it was suggested that a risk assessment be carried out in conjunction with our health and safety advisors

**RECOMMENDED that**

a full Risk Assessment be carried out and presented to the next Open Spaces & Highways committee.

**458/21**

**FINANCIAL COMPARISON REPORT**

The comparison report covering the year to 31 December 2021 presented by the Deputy Clerk was received. Deputy Clerk to ensure the 'Commitment' column appears on future reports.

**459/21**

**WEBSITE / PRESS RELEASES**

- a) Completion of the Streetlight Replacement Programme
- b) Community Safety Survey x2 – introduction & subsequence roll-out
- c) Covid Memorial Garden – seek views on appetite for this from residents

**460/21**

**IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS**

Nothing identified from this meeting

The meeting finished at 8.42pm

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....