

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21st MARCH 2022 AT 7.00PM THE JUBILEE PAVILION, IVER RECREATION GROUND, IVER, BUCKS

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

Present: Councillors Adam Burke, Sam Bhachu, Vishal Gupta, Peter Kinchin, Wendy Matthews, Stuart Mills, Peter Stanhope, Michael Sullivan and Graham Young.

Apologies accepted from: Councillors Mohinder Bhatti and Paul Brooksby and Louise Steele (Locum Clerk)

In attendance: Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

516/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made no declarations of interest in connection with items on the agenda.

517/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

518/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of 21st February 2022 be agreed

519/21 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The preparation of the wildflower patches across the whole of the Parish has commenced. The Deputy Clerk was thanks for his work in getting this project underway.
- Residents of Mansion Lane are concerned with the current activity of lots of land being sold off. There is a lot of movement and noise in the area. There is worry and concern over what is taking place.
- This meeting should continue to respect the code of conduct councillors are signed up to and respect each other which extends to the office team who are working hard at this time.

520/21 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Councillors received the minutes of the Planning Committees of 8th March 2022 and 8th February and those of the Facilities and Events Committee of 2nd March 2022.

521/21

CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Before the meeting commenced two candidates for co-option had made a presentation to Councillors.

Councillors considered the two candidates for co-option and following a confidential ballot Sarah Hutchins was co-opted as a Councillor for the Wood Lane ward of The Iver Parish Council. The Chair and other Councillors welcomed Cllr Sarah Hutchins to the office of Councillor.

522/21

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Sarah Hutchins made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

523/21

BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION

The Deputy Clerk read out a response to consultation prepared by the Locum Clerk. Amendments were agreed, to include further anecdotal evidence of the Wood Lane position as well as that of Shredding Green and that this was the views of residents. It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Locum Clerk submits the Council response to the consultation.

524/21

FINANCE

Cllr Stanhope reported he was due to attend the office to ensure that the bank reconciliations were up to date.

RESOLVED that:

The accounts for payment be approved.

525/21

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Deputy Clerk presented the Health and Safety Policy Document and the Health and Safety Staff Handbook. Councillors requested some changes which the Deputy Clerk agreed to make. Councillors asked that the next stage of agreement should include staff consultation. The Deputy Clerk agreed to carry this out with the council staff and bring these documents back the next council meeting.

The Deputy Clerk further presented his report with an update on progress on the High priorities identified by the recent audit and the plan to deal with the 115 Medium priority in readiness for the December 2022 audit.

The Deputy Clerk commented on the good working relationship now with Worknest and our H&S consultant and that a number of glitches with the portal were being resolved as well his increased knowledge now of the way the Worknest portal works.

526/21 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The proposed schedule of meetings for the Council year 2022/23 was reviewed and accepted. The Deputy Clerk stated these would be added to councillors' Outlook calendars.

The Chair raised the issue of their being an HR Committee that covered issues including HR matters and Health and Safety. It was suggested a different name of the committee be considered to ensure it was covered all aspects needed and the Deputy Clerk suggested this could be a People Engagement Committee with a broad remit including the items above. There was a discussion about the frequency of meetings, where to be on a needs basis or to have regular meeting. It was decided that a frequency of 3 meetings per year should be set with the ability to call other meetings as required.

RESOLVED that:

A Committee be set up and the officers asked to do further scoping to develop the terms of reference and name and scope of the committee and to bring that back to the next meeting.

527/21 LETTER FROM THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE (ICO)

A recent letter from the ICO and its contents were noted. It was also noted as good that the outstanding matter was now resolved.

528/21 AIR QUALITY MONITORING ACTION PLAN

Cllr Julie Cook reports that an Air Quality Monitoring Action Plan (AQMAP) was commenced and issued by Buckinghamshire in July 2021. There is little action within it. It's understood the life of this plan is 5 years. The Parish Council feels generally ignored and that there are few actions to fall back on. The Council believes the data collection in its area is insufficient. It was noted that the area's poor air quality is attributed to the motorway and the persistent and back up of lorries moving through the Parish. Cllr Beary spoke of the Marlow Air Quality model / plan and encouraged councillors to review it.

Cllr Julie Cook proposed the following motion which was highly supported by Cllr Ciaran Beary:

That Parish Council writes to Buckinghamshire Council and advises our view of the AQMA. This work to be undertaken by the Air Quality Working Group of Councillors. The motion was carried.

RESOLVED that:

The Air Quality Working Group writes to Buckinghamshire Council to advise it of the Parish Council's views.

529/21

TRANSPORT TO IVER STATION CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

It was stated that by July 2022 Iver station will be fully operational with the Elizabeth line and the transportation to the station is totally inadequate as is the opportunity for commuter parking. It was noted that travelling by foot to the station from Iver Village is hazardous and transport routes from Iver Heath non-existent. It was further noted that this topic was raised at the recent Parish Meeting of Electors. It was discussed that bus routes were privately operated and these needed to be financially viable for bus companies to operate.

(Cllr Vishal Gupta left the meeting at 8.10pm)

A local resident had expressed some forward thinking ideas including the potential for on-demand taxis to the station.

It was pointed out that there was need for passenger numbers both actual and potential and the Office of the Rail Regulator could provide this information.

Cllr Julie Cook proposed the following motion:

Parish Council could take initial steps to establish the high-level feasibility study of having a local community travel solutions which would service the station. Then based on this feasibility information hold discussions with Bucks Council and / or private providers to encourage them to implement a route.

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED that:

A working group would need to be established to determine scope of the feasibility study and the resource implications of conducting this.

530/21

PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

It is recognised that the community in general wants to support the people of Ukraine. Residents are looking for information on how to help by giving goods and support where people are feeling anxiety about the situation;

refugees might be looking for information to support them. It was stated that the Bucks website has lots of information on it and the Parish Council should signpost people to this.

Cllr Julie Cook proposed a motion:

That Parish Council approve for Council officers to research the initiative of Sponsoring a Ukrainian refugee/s (individual or family) as recently announced by the national Government and to furnish a report to the April Council meeting.

That officers conduct a review of our supply chain to ensure we are not dealing with UK Government sanctioned people or their business interests.

The Parish Council website contain links to information for refugees, how to support and those who are experiencing heightened anxiety. Including noting that National government advice and international aid agencies are now requesting only funding not goods. Also, to note that cultural organisations are available for and supportive of members from impacting communities.

The Motion was carried with the caveat that the office staff assess what support they can give to this within current constraints and workload.

RESOLVED that:

The Locum Clerk assesses, with the other officers, the potential actions that can be completed subject to current constraints and workload.

It was noted that the Locum Clerk had exercised her delegated power, in consultation with the Chair, to place a Ukrainian flag on the flag pole outside the Council office at 45b, High Street.

531/21

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that:

The press and public be excluded from the reminder if the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters which will be discussed are considered to be confidential

Note that while the matters listed below were considered in confidential session and the detailed discussion remains confidential the resulting minutes (below) need not be considered confidential.

532/21

LEGAL ADVICE RE NORTH MUD WHARF CLISBY’S BRIDGE

Council considered a confidential report from the Locum Clerk which included estimated costs from the solicitors approached for legal advice.

RESOLVED to

Seek legal advice from Surrey Hill Solicitors with a limit of cost to £1,000 excluding VAT

533/21

RECRUITMENT OF A NEW CLERK

Councillors considered an update from the Chair. This included an update on the number of applications received and their suitability. Given this update it was agreed the that:

A further recruitment campaign be entered into with the following recommendation made to the consultant at LGRC:

- 1) Widen the geographic range for the advert
- 2) Focus more on the hybrid / flexible working / part time potential of the role
- 3) Focus on the possibility of a split role / job share – maybe Clerk & RFO separate

534/21

IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS

There was no discussion under this item.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

Signed Chair

Date