

## THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM IN IVER VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Julie Cook (Vice Chair)

**Present:** Councillors, Graham Young, Peter Kinchin, Michael Sullivan, Peter Stanhope, Adam Burke, Vishal Gupta, Wendy Matthews

**Apologies accepted from:** Cllr Ciarán Beary (Chair), Kevin Brown, Mohinder Bhatti, Stuart Mills, Sam Bhachu

**Absent:** Councillor Paul Brooksby

**In attendance:** 1 Members of the Public, Stephanie Bennett (Clerk)

#### **320/21            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made

#### **321/21            PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Member of the Public asked the Council what were its top three priorities and for an update regarding the development applications related to Pinewood.

The Vice Chair provided an overview and explained that they were the Neighbourhood Plan, and working toward Net Zero initiative .

Cllr Matthews added further detail in that the Community Board had set up a Working Group to consider the community mitigation requests associated with this application. A response was awaited.

The Member of the Public is concerned that we need to take care of the people who live in the vicinity and who are prevented from leaving their driveways due to parking deficits.

The Vice Chair explained that the council had agreed 2 top priorities to date; Net Zero and The Neighbourhood Plan. The timeline for the Neighbourhood Plan was provided with the \Council anticipating a late November/early December submission of its Plan to Bucks Council to commence the next stages on its way to referendum. and the Vice Chair explained that the current focus of the Council on net zero was its operations

#### **322/21            GRANT APPLICATION**

RESOLVED that

A grant of £500 be made to the Iver Heath Drama Club

**323/21 MINUTES**

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be agreed and signed by the Vice Chair

**324/21 VICE CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Vice Chair reported that a new member of the Grounds Maintenance Team, Dolci Grove, will shortly be commencing. Dolci is very keen to work in an outdoor role looking after open spaces and the Team are looking forward to her arrival.

The Vice Chair also reported on a number of complaints being received regarding untaxed vehicles parked on the Highway; this is mainly in Iver Village with a few in Iver Heath. When this occurs and the vehicles are not moved in preparation for resurfacing works then the works are cancelled. This is a big concern of residents who not only have to navigate these untaxed vehicles but also are not receiving remedial works to nearby roads.

Councillors felt that it was a minefield knowing who to report to but that it was important to galvanise residents to report to the DVLA and to Bucks Council.

The Vice Chair also reported on the meeting of the Ivers Action Group last Friday however the MP was not able to attend...she was represented by members of her team who reported on actions that the MP has taken. A discussion was held regarding the Pinewood Screen Hub UK development application and its adverse impacts on the community. The meeting was advised that the MP reports the minutes of the meeting online via her website.

The Vice Chair was pleased to announce that everything is arranged for the Christmas Lights Event that will commence at 2.30pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November and run until 8.30pm. The lights switch on is at 4.30pm and there will be entertainment and food available. The Vice Chair asked for councillors to assist with the event and to get in touch with Cllr Peter Stanhope.

**325/21 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, and the minutes of the Facilities and Events Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 be received

**326/21 EXTERNAL BODY REPORTS**

Iver Village Hall

Cllr Burke reported that the Village Hall had made an application to the Community Board for funding to cover the provision and fitting of a defibrillator cabinet.

**327/21**

**MEETINGS**

The report of the clerk was considered.

RESOLVED that

- a. All council and committee recommendations for the period 26<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be resolved
- b. Apologies be accepted for councillor absence from physical meetings for the period 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- c. NALC be contacted to confirm that the Council has met on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and 15<sup>th</sup> November and to request confirmation that it has complied with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972
- d. Website to be amended to 'Informal online meeting' to date heading of agendas and documents

**328/21**

**DISPOSAL OF ASSETS**

The Council considered the disposal of 2 strimmers and a table

RESOLVED that

The Council disposes of the assets (numbered 124, 128 and 141 on the asset register) with the strimmers first offered to voluntary groups for recycling

**329/21**

**FINANCE**

The Council considered the finance papers and Cllr Stanhope reported that he had completed the bank reconciliations. Cllr Sullivan queried the expenditure on Chromebooks and it was confirmed that they were part of the training hub that was externally funded

RESOLVED that

- a. The Accounts for Payments be received
- b. The debtor (£75) be written off

**330/21**

**INTERNAL AUDIT**

RESOLVED that

The Internal Audit report and response of the Clerk be received with the Clerk proposals actioned

**331/21**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Clerk thanked Cllrs Sullivan, Burke and Gupta for their due diligence work and reported that Worknest had been appointed as Health and Safety, and HR advisors to the Council. The account was being set up and it was anticipated that dates for audit would soon be agreed.

**332/21**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The request from Bucks Council for a written response from the Parish Council regarding the provision of a relief road was discussed. It was emphasised that Bucks Council are prepared to consider the withdrawal of their objections to the Neighbourhood Plan if the Parish Council confirms that it no longer wishes to pursue a relief road.

Councillors discussed the difficult position that it places them in as the community has increasing concerns regarding congestion, HGVs through the centres and the very poor air quality however this must be assessed against the backdrop of a relief road for the whole of the Ivers being unachievable due to the cost that was quoted by Bucks as circa £140 million and that was before the pandemic and recent rises in costs. For this reason the Neighbourhood Planning Group wrote the Neighbourhood Plan with the aim of encouraging non HGV uses of the land and encouraging traffic mitigation measures.

Councillors felt that it was important to make it clear to Bucks that the only option that would be supported by The Parish Council is a relief road for all of The Ivers. As this option is unachievable due to cost then the Parish Council does not support any form of relief road of certain sections of the community.

RESOLVED that

The Clerk be delegated to draft a suitable response in consultation with the Vice Chair to be submitted to Bucks Council

**333/21**

**BUDGET 2022 – 2023**

The Clerk introduced the budget report and took the Council through the sections. This was the first document that pulled together the committee recommendations. The Clerk explained to councillors that the pay award agreement was still pending for 2021 – 2022, and that a figure of 1.75% had been used for the 2022 – 2023 calculations.

The taxbase figure for 2022 – 2023 had not been made available by Bucks Council and if substantially different from 2021 – 2022 this will make a considerable difference to the individual household costs.

Councillors expressed a wish to look at using reserves but also noted that the budget needed to be sustainable to enable the council to continue to achieve benefits for the local community. At the same time it would now be possible, following the reinvigoration of Iver Heath Recreation Ground Charity, to apply for funding for improvements to the Recreation Ground and Assets

RESOLVED that

The decision on the budget be deferred until the December meeting

**334/21            IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS**

None were identified.

The meeting ended at 8:40PM

Signed ..... Chair

Date .....