

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON 23th MARCH 2022 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Councillors Ciarán Beary, Julie Cook, Peter Kinchin, Wendy Matthews, Stuart Mills, Peter Stanhope and Michael Sullivan

Apologies: Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk)

Absent: Councillor Sam Bacchu

In attendance: Louise Steele (Locum Clerk)
Five members of the public

535/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were declared.

536/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public asked whether the leak at Iver Heath Allotments had been fixed yet. The Locum Clerk undertook to find out and let the Committee members know.

Another member of the public raised concerns about attendees at the small church in Swan Road parking in that road; the excess of vehicles is particularly a problem on Sundays and one evening a week. The flooding of the road was also identified as a concern. Parish Councillors offered reassurances that Thames Valley Police were aware of the parking problem and that issues of flooding were for the Buckinghamshire Council highways design team to tackle.

537/21 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED that

the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2022 be agreed and subsequently signed by the Chair.

538/21 IVER RECREATION GROUND PATH

Councillors discussed the detail of the project to improve the path at Iver Recreation ground noting that the grant funding body, Grundon, was requesting details about when and how the project would proceed.

It was agreed that the priority was improved drainage though whether this should be new drains or renewal of existing drains was unclear. Officers were asked to search for the drainage diagram believed to be in the office and to take advice on the way forward.

- 539/21 HEDGING AT JUBILEE PAVILION / IVER RECREATION GROUND**
Councillors agreed that hedging should be planted outside the Jubilee pavilion at the Iver Recreation Ground. Officers were asked to obtain whips (ideally from the Woodland Trust), prepare a trench for the whips, plant them and install stock fencing to protect them.
- 540/21 WOODEN STREET PLANTERS – BUCKS ‘WELCOME BACK’ INITIATIVE**
Councillors agreed that the planters should be offered to each of the two village halls and to the four schools in the parish area. Officers to progress the repositioning of the eight wooden planters.
- 541/21 COMMUNITY BOARD FUNDING APPLICATIONS**
Councillors noted that three funding applications to the Community Board had been approved, these being, Wildflower Verges, Buddy Benches and Improvements to disabled access at Hardings Row. The status of a fourth application for Community Speedwatch was unclear and Councillors indicated that if that application were not approved the budget for the project should be identified within the parish council’s resources.
- 542/21 STREETLIGHT CONTRACT TENDERING**
This item was deferred until the Deputy Clerk is able to update Councillors.
- 543/21 AREA OUTSIDE 45B, HIGH STREET**
Councillors received the Risk Assessment of the areas outside the Parish Council office and discussed future action. It was agreed that the area at the top of the walls where there is a drop to the pavement below should be planted to reduce the risk of individuals walking over the edge. Officers to work out and implement a planting plan.
- 544/21 MASONRY WALL ALONG IVER RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK**
The Locum Clerk gave a brief update on the condition of the wall at Iver Recreation Ground car park. Mrs Steele explained that ownership and responsibility for the wall was unclear but that were the wall or part to collapse the greater risk was to members of the public on the council’s side of the wall. Officers were asked to get advice on the historic significance of the wall and its bricks and obtain estimated costs for the

work. The residents the other side of the wall should be asked to contribute to the costs of its repair.

545/21

COMMUNITY SAFETY – SAFE STREETS AND PATHS

Councillors received an update from Cllr Beary on the initiative to develop a survey regarding Community Safety, Safe Streets & Paths. There was some discussion of which sectors of the community were more at risk. It was agreed that Gideon Springer from Buckinghamshire Council be asked for his input and the item be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee

546/21

BUCKS HGV INITIATIVE

Cllr Mills gave an oral report on the HGV initiative and explained that, following the strategies for Ivinghoe and Waddesdon, The Ivers would be looked at in September.

It was agreed that a working party be set up to look at the matter matter; the question of the impact of this on officer time was flagged.

RECOMMENDED that

A working party consisting of Councillors Beary, Cook, Kinchin, Matthews and Mills be established to work on the HGV initiative.

547/21

RECREATION GROUND SURVEY

Councillors received an update from Cllr Cook concerning a survey conducted with residents to understand how they wish to use the recreation grounds.

548/21

FINANCIAL COMPARISON REPORT

Councillors received the financial comparison report to 28th February 2022. There was some discussion about creating earmarked reserves and agreed that the unspent budget for wildflowers be used to create an earmarked reserve for the same purpose.

RECOMMENDED that

Any underspend against the budget for wildflowers be used to create an earmarked reserve.

549/21

DEPUTY CLERK UPDATES

Councillors received the written update from the Deputy Clerk.

550/21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

551/21 IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS

Nothing was discussed at this item.

552/21 WEBSITE/PRESS RELEASES

It was agreed that two items should be publicised – Street Lighting to be drafted by Cllr Cook and Wildflower Planting to be drafted by the Locum Clerk.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed Chairman

Date