

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM AT THE JUBILEE PAVILION, IVER RECREATION GROUND, IVER.

Present: Cllrs Peter Kinchin, Adam Burke, Julie Cook, Sarah Hutchins, Wendy Matthews, Vishal Gupta.

Apologies: Cllrs Peter Stanhope, Michael Sullivan, Paul Brooksby, Sam Bhachu, Mohinder Bhatti, Ciaran Beary.

Also present, Jeremy Day, Deputy Clerk.

302/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

303/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present

304/22 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on the 19th October 2022 were confirmed as a true record of that meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chair and put in the minute book.

305/22 RoSPA INSPECTION & ACTION PLAN

The Report and Action Plan of the Deputy Clerk was received and accepted and the progress made noted with all actions on track for completion.

The Deputy Clerk reported that although it was difficult to fine specialist contractors who were willing to do a survey of the netting, he was approaching two companies to seek their advice and would report back to the next meeting. From a health and safety perspective, measures had been taken to barrier off where poor condition existed at the base of the structure.

306/22 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) AT RECREATION GROUNDS

The Deputy Clerk and Cllr Matthews provided an oral update. Cllr Matthews reported that she had discussed the Street Wardens initiative with Chris Geen, an officer at Bucks for community safety. She reported that the initiative was led by Thames Valley Police (TVP) in urban areas such as Aylesbury and Wycombe. The Wardens are not employed by the Police Service but

employed by other organisations and not funded by Bucks. In the case of Wycombe the employer is Wycombe Community Council. The Aylesbury activity was active for 1 year having been funded by the Community Board. The Wardens have very limited powers mainly concerned with dog fouling.

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would make contact with Chris Geen at Bucks highlighting our situation / issues with ASB at our open spaces and asking his opinion on his top 3 suggestions as to what we do.

Cllr Matthews further reported that she had spoken to Sgt Dan Ryder about wider issues and also concerning the possibility of the Parish council funding. She is due to meet with the Area Commander Emma Burrows in the next few weeks to further discuss the options of using TVP resources that the Parish Council fund.

The Deputy Clerk also reported that he had entered into a dialogue with the Headteacher at Iver Village Junior School and that he was putting her and Sgt Ryder in touch with each other concerning anti social behaviour.

307/22

ST LEONARDS MOUND

The Deputy Clerk and Cllr Matthews provided an oral update. Cllr Matthews reported that the area had previously been subject to a management plan through Groundwork South around 10 years ago and the area was used as an open space / nature / conservation area. It was used by the local community and the local Nursery used it for their activities. There is evidence of Ash Dieback (Ash dieback is a highly destructive disease of ash trees especially the United Kingdom's native ash species, common ash. It is caused by a fungus which is of eastern Asian origin.) It was noted it was important to consider what

Resolved that:

The Deputy Clerk is actioned to arrange a detailed tree survey of the area and bring this information back to the Committee in January for further discussion regarding the future use of the area. Also to place some appropriate signage within the area concerning the condition of the trees as warnings to those who still access the area.

308/22

GROUNDWORK SOUTH UPDATE

The Conservation Work update (Appendix 8a) report of the Deputy Clerk was received and noted. It was noted that the management plans currently in place cover a period up to 2025. It was further noted that the Deputy Clerk

would continue to liaise with the Managing Agent at Groundwork South and keep the progress report updated.

Resolved that:

The Deputy Clerk works with Groundwork South to install an information board featuring the biodiversity aspects at Swan Meadow and it's place in the Colne Valley Regional Park whilst mentioning the circular walk which runs beside it.

The Deputy Clerk works with Groundwork South and the Community Board Manager to produce a bid for conservation work at the Iver Allotments conservation area.

309/22

STREETLIGHTS

The report of the Deputy Clerk concerning the next phase of the Streetlight Replacement Programme was received.

Resolved that:

The Deputy clerk proceeds with the four identified phases as the per the report at a cost of £22,272. Priority should be given to the work at Richings Park and Iver Heath Recreation Ground subject to the availability of the required parts and materials.

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would make recommendations for the Committee to consider how the residual 2022/23 budget of circa £17,000 could be used to improve lighting across the Parish.

310/22

RECREATION GROUND USAGE SURVEY

Cllr Cook gave an update on the current position of the survey and following a discussion it was suggested some demographic details could be included such as age bracket to aid the interpretation of the results. The Deputy Clerk suggested that the Locum Clerk should be consulted regarding the use of such data and the privacy position regarding the collection of the data. It was noted that the office was ready to distribute this once finalised via the Parish Council website and to provide paper copies for completion by non-website users.

311/22

SAFE STREETS & PATHS SURVEY

In the absence of Cllr Beary; who had apologised for non-attendance; it was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

312/22 FINANCIAL COMPARISON REPORT

The Financial Comparison Report to 15th November 2022 was received.

313/22 OPEN SPACES & HIGHWAYS BUDGET 2023/24

The draft budget was received, reviewed and the following suggestions to the budget made ahead of presentation to Full Council in December for agreement as a whole Council budget for 2023/24:

- Reduce the Iver Rec Area General Maintenance line by a suggested amount of £3,000
- Reduce the Churchyards and Burial Ground General Maintenance line by a suggested £2,000
- Reduce the Highways Lighting Projects line by a suggested £10,000

It was noted that the Rural Payments Agency payment for 2023 within the Iver Heath Copse & Fields income line may not either be paid in 2023 or, if paid, at the level of the 2022 payment.

314/22 DEPUTY CLERK UPDATES

The following report was received and noted from the Deputy Clerk:

- Committee Action Tracker – Deputy Clerk to continue to progress this as an on-going action

315/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair gave an update on the completion of the Iver Recreation Ground Footpath.

316/22 IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFECTIVENESS

None

317/22 WEBSITE/PRESS RELEASES

- An article, to be updated as progress is made, concerning the next phase of the streetlight replacement programme.

The meeting finished at 8.46pm

Signed Chairman

Date