

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the
Parish of the Ivers held at Richings Park Sports & Social Club
On Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.00pm.**

Present:

Cllr. Ciarán Beary (Chair of the Parish Council)

Stuart Pomeroy – Colne Valley Park

Jeremy Day (Deputy Clerk to the Parish Council) – Minute Taker

There were 28 members of the public including 14 Parish and Unitary Councillors.

Cllr Ciarán Beary chaired the meeting.

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No Apologies were received.

2) COLNE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

The chair welcomed Stewart Pomeroy, Colne Valley Management Agent.

Stewart's presentation gave an introduction to the Park and the work done by staff and volunteers. He stated that they were involved in lobbying and commenting on local planning issues and took the approach of not being anti-development but pro-countryside. He talked about the 6 objectives which were:

- Landscape
- Countryside
- Biodiversity
- Recreation
- Rural Economy
- Community

Stewart took questions from the floor.

3) Annual Report

The Chair of the Council, Cllr Beary presented his annual report which included:

- Welcomes and farewells - recognising the new parish council team now in place and thanking the previous Clerk for her work in the time she was in post
- The significant work undertaken to develop the Neighbourhood Plan highlighting the current status and next steps
- The enormous effort made to recover from the Covid pandemic
- The progress of the streetlight replacement programme undertaken over the past few years
- The significant work undertaken at St Peter's Churchyard and Burial Ground which included new perimeter fencing, safety checks of memorials and the management of a badger incursion

- Improved use of our facilities by local community groups including the Slough Foodbank, The Hive local group for young mothers and the senior's coffee morning
- Positive use of our recreation grounds not just for general exercise and enjoyment but by our various football clubs
- General maintenance and improvements to our buildings with a routine schedule of safety checks
- Accessibility to grant funding including those from the Wexham and Ivers Community Board
- The development of The Hub area at the Council office which is a community asset and set up to allow for adult learning and education opportunities.

The Chair then went on to talk about the 'committee' structures within the council highlighting that currently as they are not face to face meetings legally they can make recommendations to the Clerk to enact as decisions of the committee. The current committees / working groups are Planning, Open Spaces & Highways and Facilities. He pointed out that the Full Council are meeting face to face again and making decisions.

Finally, the Chair highlighted the strategic themes the Council are working towards:

- Neighbourhood plan
- Net Zero
- Air Quality
- Community Safety
- Community Wellbeing

4) OTHER REPORTS

The three Unitary Councillors made the following observations:

Cllr Luisa Sullivan commented on the unitary councillors continued passion for getting involved and she actively follows up on issues highlighted on My Fix Street. She encouraged residents to use FMS as a reporting tool for issues. Cllr Paul Griffin continues to be involved in issues affecting the Parish including the motorway service area, data centres, greenbelt policy, enforcement, social housing issues and particularly refurbishment of the pavements at Thorney Lane. He reiterated that there are often little wins but it's worth battling on. Cllr Wendy Matthews highlighted the current boundary commission known as 'Review 2023' stating that this would reduce the number of councillors for wards in Buckinghamshire to 98 (2 in each Ward) from the existing 147 (3 in each Ward). There is currently a consultation period which will end on 4th April 2022.

5) QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Q: In terms of the Parish Council's strategic themes, is the Council setting themselves up to fail? Are they achievable and what will you do to make them happen?

A: Cllr Beary explained that whilst they will be a struggle, Councillors are committed to them and things are already happening. Council Grounds staff are moving to

electric equipment, opportunities to improve safety and wellbeing are supported with Community Board funding bids and the Council will continue to do a lot of advocacy and lobbying particularly around lorry traffic through the Parish.

Q: Pinewood – public transport to and from the studios: Should there be transport links from Iver Station on the Elizabeth line provided to Pinewood once the attraction is developed?

A: Cllr Matthews stated that Slough station will be seen as the gateway to Pinewood with S106 money being used to fund electric buses to and from. It was identified that buses will be used to transport employees and local Iver Heath residents.

Q: What has happened to previous S106 money which was intended to improve the Five Points roundabout and develop cycle lanes?

A: This was still being chased actively particularly with the Pinewood Liaison Group. It was highlighted that the Parish Council continues to source professional advice concerning matters like these. It also works with other organisations (e.g. Colne Valley Regional Park) to ensure it's voice is heard.

Q: What progress has been made on using the Grundon's bid to improve the perimeter path at Iver Recreation Ground?

A: Cllr Beary stated that the consulting civil engineer involved had designed a pathway but on reflection the cost of completing the whole projected exceeded the amount of the bid significantly and other options were being looked at including looking for other funding sources or improvements to the existing path as opposed to complete replacement.

Q: Dog Fouling is still an issue as is the provision / lack of dog waste bins. What can be done about this?

A: Cllr L Sullivan stated that current thinking is that dog waste can be placed bagged in normal refuse bins and that limited dog waste bins will be installed in the future. Dog waste bins can cause upset and grief to local residents. It was also stated that it's a shame that the few dog owners who are irresponsible spoil it for the majority of responsible dog owners.

Q: There is poor illumination at the speed calming measures along North Park in Richings Park. Is this an accident waiting to happen?

A: It was stated that this is very dangerous and encourages irresponsible drivers to act dangerously. The Community Board are looking at this situation including a re-design of the calming measures to make this more visible and safer.

Q: Are residents and the Parish Council aware of small plots of land at the end of Slade Oak Road going to auction?

A: there is awareness of this and it has been happening for sometime. There is very little that can be done about it.

Q: Is there a possibility of shorter access / bus access between the village and the station at Iver other than the roadway?

A: It was stated that the Parish Council couldn't develop bus routes but there is a Bucks bus improvement plan process. It was highlighted that the 583 bus route had been reinstated recently with limited number of buses a day. Bucks Council do not provide bus services as these are contracted out to transport firms who will need services to be commercially viable. It was noted that a lot of lobbying had taken place when the First Bus (route 3) was re-routed away from Iver Heath which impacted on our senior population.

Following questions, Cllr L Sullivan offered thanks to the Deputy Clerk to the Parish Council and team for support in putting together recent Community Board bids.

6) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting on the 4th March 2019 had previously been circulated, and copies were available for members of the public. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Beary thanked everyone for their attendance and input to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.26pm

Jeremy Day
Deputy Clerk to the Parish Council
acting in the capacity of Minute Taker
8th March 2022