

ICKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ICKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 9th February 2016, at 7.30pm at Ickford Village Hall Annexe

Present: Councillor Andrew Brunet (AB) - Chairman
 Councillor Barbara Kolbert (BK)
 Councillor Ruth Baker (RB)
 Councillor Louise Arnold (LA)
 Councillor Vina Parmar (VP)
 Parish Clerk Nicola Dawson (ND)
 Resident, Keith Green (KG) Plus 1 local resident

Item	Previous Minute	Subject	Action																																																							
112.		Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Jordain, District Councillor Michael Rand & Margaret Aston, County Councillor.																																																								
113.		Declaration of Interest None declared.																																																								
114.		Requests for Dispensations None received.																																																								
115.		To agree any co-opted members onto the Parish Council AB asked if anyone present wished to apply for the vacancy of Parish Councillor. Local resident, Keith Green expressed his interest. The PC voted unanimously in favour & Keith Green was formally co-opted as a Member of the Ickford PC. Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were then duly signed.																																																								
116.		Confirmation of Previous Minutes The minutes of the last meeting held on 8th December 2015 were agreed a true record & signed off by the Chairman.																																																								
117.		Finance																																																								
a)		Drawn Cheques at meeting (for December & January)																																																								
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ICKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

b)		<p>The accounts for November & December 2015 Income, Expenditure & Reconciliation for November & December 2015, previously circulated to the Parish Council members, was agreed as a correct record & duly signed by the Chairman.</p>	
c)		<p>3rd Quarter Finance Review PC discussed the 3rd quarter review produced & previously circulated. AB explained the projected overspend is due to several projects carried over from the previous PC including the MVAS & AED projects, although money was carried over in reserve to cover this.</p>	
d)		<p>Cost Saving Ideas The previously circulated project list was discussed and updated. It was agreed that each project is to be budgeted for individually with estimated costs allocated. The PC can then prioritise the projects throughout the year depending on funds available. One priority raised by several Councillors was footpaths. It was agreed to add this to the list & decide on how much money would need to be budgeted for the upkeep of those footpaths currently the responsibility of the PC. It was also agreed that the car parking project needs to be investigated further as part of a much larger, village concern. ND to update & circulate project list.</p>	ALL ND
e)		<p>Clerk Role It was discussed & agreed to raise the contracted hours for the Clerk from 20 to 30 per month, (based upon the previously circulated proposal) with effect from the month of February. This would be reviewed in 6 months time. All agreed to budget c£700 contingency for overtime for the next financial year.</p>	AB
118.		<p>Correspondence & Communications Since Last Meeting</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch Scheme It was agreed that the PC felt it would be a good idea to reinstate this scheme & investigate it in conjunction with a general neighbourhood "care" scheme, particularly looking out for any vulnerable residents within the community. RB stated that Robert Hayday used to run the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme & would be a good source of historical knowledge. LA agreed to look into this.</p> <p>Devolution Agreement Covered under Project Updates, Minute No. 125c).</p>	LA
119.		<p>Meetings Attended on behalf of the Parish Council in the period None reported during December & January</p>	
120.		<p>Planning</p> <p>1 application was raised during January:</p> <p>16/00063/APP & 16/00064/ALB: 23 Church Road, Ickford - no objections</p>	
121.		<p>Open Forum for Parishioners (under adjournment)</p> <p>AB welcomed local residents to the meeting & invited them to raise any issues to the Parish Council.</p>	

ICKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

		<p>Neighbourhood Plans</p> <p>1 resident raised a query as to why the PC had not yet implemented a "Neighbourhood Plan" & expressed concern that this may leave us vulnerable to development plans from AVDC. AB explained that the PC have not yet adopted a Neighbourhood Plan as the VALP (previously discussed & minuted) took precedence over this & we are awaiting feedback from the initial consultation with AVDC whereby we are challenging our classification as a large village. Once we have clear direction from AVDC, we will be in a better position to reconsider developing a Neighbourhood Plan. It was stressed that if this were to be adopted it would be done within a public forum whereby all local residents input & support would be encouraged & welcomed. It was also explained that even if we do adopt such a plan, it serves as no protection guarantee for future development & can be overruled by AVDC.</p>	
		<p>Project Updates</p>	
122.		<p>Village Maintenance & Landscaping</p>	
a)	107a)	<p>Dog Fouling: BK advised that a complaint was received at the Open Surgery that this continues to be an issue around the village. It was agreed that this is a very difficult issue to tackle as it relies on the responsibility of the dog owners. BK agreed to continue to appeal to all through the Informer & include the official report procedure & on the website.</p>	<i>BK</i>
b)	107b)	<p>ROSPA: AB advised that the village hall association has cut back the hedge at the entrance.</p>	<i>CLOSE</i>
c)	107c)	<p>Tree Survey: BK advised that although most of the works have been carried out, it appears that some items have not been completed, although an invoice for the full amount has been received. ND to go back to CTS to raise query & confirm any outstanding works before paying the full invoice.</p>	<i>BK</i> <i>ND</i>
d)	107d)	<p>Clean for the Queen & Queens 90th Birthday: It was agreed not to proceed with the "Clean for the Queen" initiative but to incorporate into a general village tidy up in conjunction with the project list.</p> <p>RB requested a donation of up to £300 towards a Queens Birthday "tea & cake" event that the WI are holding on 24th April in the village hall. The PC voted against this donation mainly due to the increasing financial commitments already faced by the PC budget.</p>	<i>C/F</i>
e)		<p>Grass Cutting Contracts & Devolution Agreement: The PC discussed the proposal previously circulated by the clerk & agreed to award Cartwright Landscapes with the contract for this year based upon their quote (in relation to spec A - current PC responsibilities). ND to appoint Cartwright Landscapes in accordance with their recent quote.</p> <p>It was resolved that the PC would not sign up to the Devolution agreement with Bucks County Council at this time (to take over the maintenance of all grass verges) as the grant available falls short by c£1,200 per annum. It was therefore agreed that Bucks CC would continue to take responsibility for this service at no extra cost to the PC. ND to advise Bucks CC of this decision.</p>	<i>ND</i> <i>ND</i>

PREPARED BY: CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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ICKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

123.		Highways & Byways	
a)	108a)	AED: The cabinet has now been delivered & is ready to be installed. ND to arrange with the Sports Pavilion Committee to install as agreed by attaching to the wall of the pavilion & provide the electrics & USB port.	<i>ND</i>
b)	108b)	MVAS: All parts have now been ordered in accordance with previously agreed spend. ND in process of claiming for the grant available to reimburse the majority of the cost.	<i>ND</i>
c)	108c)	Car Parking: The PC have examined various options to increase the number of car parking spaces in the village, and to widen the access road to the recreation ground. Having considered several options it was agreed that they are all either inappropriate or out of budget. The PC will not be proceeding with any option so far considered, at this time.	<i>CLOSE</i>
d)	108c)	Drive leading up to the park: ND advised that Gigaclear have agreed to repair the potholes on the drive & cover with shingle. This is offered free of charge to the village as a gesture of goodwill, following several disruptive issues at the beginning of the fibre optic project installation. ND has arranged for this work to take place during the Easter school holidays.	<i>ND</i>
e)	108d)	Road Gritting: VP confirmed that the insurance policy places liability on the PC for gritting the local problem areas. It was therefore agreed not to proceed with any action. ND to clarify with AVDC under what circumstances the grit provided is to be used & by whom.	<i>ND</i>
f)	108e)	Surface Water Drains: AB advised that all issues need to be logged on to the "track it" system on the Transport for Bucks website. LA to follow this up & put contact details on the website.	<i>LA</i>
124.		Communication & Publicity	
a)	109a)	4 year Plan/ VALP: No updates received from AVDC as yet.	<i>C/F</i>
b)	109c)	Broadband: ND provided an update from Gigaclear & Options (the contractors). A provisional schedule of works has been provided. ND to circulate & add to the website.	<i>ND</i>
c)	103a)	"Play Around the Parishes": C/F to next month.	<i>C/F</i>
125.		Village Organisations & "Institutions"	
a)	110a)	Sports Pavilion & Football Club: Update received by AB & previously circulated. Agreed to C/F to next meeting for further discussion.	<i>C/F</i>
b)	110b)	Bucks Playing Field Association: No progress	<i>C/F</i>
c)	110d)	Devolution & Clustering: AB reminded the PC there is an informal get together of local PC's & clerks taking place in the Fisherman's, Shabbington on 23rd Feb 7.30pm - all members of the PC are welcome.	<i>ALL</i>
d)		Village Shop Association: RB asked if it were possible for a Parish Councillor to take an interest in or attend meetings of this group. KG advised the best person to contact is Paul Farrell. RB to draft correspondence.	<i>RB</i>
e)	110c)	Village Hall Annexe & Meeting Dates: Annexe bookings confirmed for 2nd Tuesday of every month for the PC meetings. All agreed the dates for meetings in 2016. All agreed to go ahead with the next Open Surgery on 26th Feb 10am - 12pm.	

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		Date for the AGM agreed to be 10th May 2016, followed by the normal monthly PC meeting. Annual Parishes Meeting: It was agreed that this would be held on 17th May in the main village hall. ND to draft an invite to all village organisations & circulate to the PC for comment. A format for this meeting needs to be agreed at the next meeting.	ND
		Next Meeting agreed 8th March 2016 7.30pm in the Annexe at Ickford Village Hall	

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

All supporting documentation referred to in the minutes above can be found on the Parish Council section of the website www.ickfordcommunity.wordpress.com and in the files held by the Parish Clerk.

Signed:

Date: