

INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

A virtual conference meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 16th November 2020 at 7pm
Those attending the meeting were: Dr D Thomas (Chairman), Mr Bates, Mrs Edwards, Mr Hanna, Mrs Jones, Mrs Marriott, Mr. May (by telephone) and Mrs. G Keene (Parish Clerk).

1. **Apologies:** None – all Councillors were present.

2. Planning Sub Committee – see separate minutes.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting – the draft minutes of the meeting held on 5th February and 2nd July 2020 were approved as a true record and both had been displayed on the Parish website. There were no issues arising.

4. Declaration of Interest: None recorded.

4.1 The following declaration is made on all minutes for clarification for residents.

Inkpen Parish Council is the Corporate & Custodian Trustee of the Memorial Playing Field Trust and registered with the Charity Commission as the Corporate and Custodian Trustee. Trust meetings and funds are held separately as required by the Charity Commission and confirmed annually to the External Auditors.

As confirmed by the Charity Commission: “The Charity is simply managed and administered by the Council and is not a public sector organisation and not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.” All information about the Charity can be viewed on the Charity Commission website.

5. Matters Arising:

a) The state of the Lower Green triangle

The chairman expressed concern that there had been criticism of the state of the Lower Green Triangle on Facebook. The criticism had been viewed by many, describing it as a ‘bit of an eyesore’, and requesting the Parish Council to ‘take note’. Resentment had been expressed that the area at Lower Green, could not be used socially and that the land was owned by the village and not by any individual person.

Following discussion, it was noted that the hedges had been maintained and were tidy but agreed that the area should continue be managed. A balance should be achieved by not allowing the edges of the grass to overhang the paths, and that the grass should not be allowed to grow too high or become untidy. Areas of ‘rewilding’ and the maintenance of wild flowers is a council aspiration, but the paths and seating area must be easily accessible and kept tidy for use by all.

Action: The area must be maintained in a tidy manner from now on.

b) Footpath to the rear of Mount View – to consider the proposed diversion

The Secretary reported that Councillors had been asked, by the local authority, to consider a diversion of the Footpath to the rear of Mount View. Over the years, the footpath had been allowed to creep into the agricultural land and had moved away from the definitive legal line. The Secretary had reported this to the local authority Rights of Way team in March 2020, when the planning application for Mount View had been considered. More recently the footpath had been used for storing construction materials and for plant, which meant that walkers/ramblers had to divert on to the roadside. The Rights of Way team had visited the site last week and had confirmed that the footpath was now clear of rubble and that a diversion order would be sought from the owners of New Mill. The new site manager has taken occupation at Mount View, which is part of the New Mill estate.

Following discussion, Councillors agreed not to object to the proposed diversion of the footpath as it is well established but to make WBC and the owners aware that hedging needed to be clear at the end of the footpath to enable clear and safe passage when crossing to join the footpath into Kintbury Parish.

Action: Clerk to inform the Modification Officer that the Parish Council would not object to the diversion order.

6.Consultation: Additional resource provision for those with SEND.

6.1 The consultation paper, which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, was noted. No further action.

7. History Group – progress to date ref. to the minutes of 5th February 2020

7.1 The Chairman reported on a study being held between Inkpen and Flackwell Heath, a village near High Wycombe, on planning changes that have taken place since 1948, and to consider what issues lead to extensive development in some rural areas. The material and conclusions from the project will be displayed on the new Inkpen history website. Volunteers in the village are participating in research on particular aspects and will report in due course. history.inkpenvillage.co.uk

8.To approve the Expenditure and Financial Statement 2020/2021

8.1 *Financial Statement:* The Clerk had circulated a Financial Statement up to 5th November 2020, prior to the meeting, showing income, payments made since the last meeting and the ringfenced committed expenditure. Projected expenditure, for the larger budgeted items to the end of the financial year, were included on the statement as a guide for Councillors on expenditure of the working capital over the remaining five months of the financial year. No questions were raised for discussion.

8.2 *Expenditure:* as listed since the last meeting is attached for audit and examination – all cheques require two signatures to maintain the propriety and financial control. No extraordinary items of expenditure were included.

8.3 *To consider Grant Applications* from Inkpen based organisations.

Due to time constraints a full discussion was deferred to the next meeting and will be considered by the Trustees of the Playing Field as they represented grant applications submitted from the Inkpen sports clubs. All Section 137 Grant funding for groups and organisations must be for the benefit of local residents within the parish and not for profit or gain. (Notes are available on the Inkpen website.) The S137 budget allocation for the printing of the Inkpen Bulletin had been requested for **£466** as a contribution towards the share of village news collated- the total cost of printing is underwritten by Inkpen Church. The Inkpen & Combe Bulletin is currently distributed to 395 households and 10 living outside of the village.

9.Date of next meeting: – date to be agreed by Councillors’ depending on availability.

Councillors are asked to note that all items for discussion and decision must be recorded on the Agenda to allow due consideration to be given prior to the meeting and to inform residents.

Residents are requested to limit comments or questions for the public question time interval when Standing Orders are suspended. Written questions are requested by 2pm on the day of the meeting and should be forwarded to the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed:.....Date: