

## INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

**The Minutes of the Meeting** of the Parish Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 at 7 .30 pm at Inkpen Sports Club

**Those present were:** Dr D Thomas (Chairman), Mrs C Jones, Mr R May, Mrs V Tomlinson, and Mrs. G Keene (Clerk). Also attending the meeting were: Councillor Stansfeld and Mr J Bryant.

**1. Apologies were received from:** Mr K Evans, Mrs L Wild, Mr D Wilson and PCSO Joanna King, who were unable to attend the meeting.

**2. Hungerford Neighbourhood Police Report:** the October report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

2.1 A brief update was read out by the Clerk confirming that rural crime was increasing at this time of the year. There had been an increase in hare-coursing; an attempted break in to a farm building at Combe; an outbuilding which contained garden equipment - two males were disturbed and left the scene.

**3. Planning Sub Committee** – see separate minutes.

**4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. The Draft minutes had been displayed on the Inkpen website as required. No comments had been received or recorded.

**5. Matters Arising:**

5.1 The Chairman gave an update on the progress of Superfast Broadband in Inkpen and reported that Cabinet 1 had been upgraded by the end of September (fibre to cabinet) and residents had received notification from BT. Cabinet 1 is sited at the top of Folly Rd/Post Office Rd. Superfast Berkshire Phase 2 will be covered by Gigaclear, who is principally focused on rural communities (fibre to premises). A Superfast update has been placed on the Inkpen website.

**6. Declarations of Interest:** Councillors are the sole Trustees of the Memorial Playing Field Trust and registered with the Charity Commission as the Corporate and Custodian Trustees.

**7. District Parish Conference**

7.1 The district conference was held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in the Council Chamber.

7.2 Handouts from the conference had been circulated by email to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting:

a) WBC budget 2016/2017- spreadsheet showed the savings over the last six years and projected savings over the next four years totaling £20.3m.

b) Superfast Berkshire project update – showing the details of project phase 1 & 2.

c) Who is Gigaclear- a power point presentation.

These can be downloaded from the WBC website.

**8. Winter Service Plan 2015/2016**

8.1 Consultations on Winter Maintenance for 2016/2017 commence on Tuesday 3 November for 6 weeks. It is proposed that the cost of refilling salt bins is funded by the Parish. It was agreed, as Inkpen has only two salt bins, this would not be a major consideration as provision could be made in the 2016/17 budget to cover expenditure if required.

8.2 Salting and snow clearance plans for the current financial year are unchanged.

No further action.

**9. Devolution – Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill**

9.1 The Clerk reported that the Bill involved plans to devolve powers from Whitehall into the hands of local people and businesses. Local Authorities had been invited to submit bids by the end of September to run a wide range of spending areas including education, transport, healthcare, housing and business support. Some 38 bids were received from across the country but the Berkshire unitary authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership (TVLEP) were isolated in not submitting a bid, which could leave funding for local services vulnerable. It was feared that cuts in spending by WBC could impact on areas like the Inkpen rural bus service, concessionary fares, rubbish collection etc. which are important locally.

**11. Financial update:**

11.1 a) The clerk gave a financial report to the end of September 2015 in line with the bank statement. It was noted that the invoice for the Election held in May had not yet been received (circa £1400). A list of items of expenditure was tabled at the meeting and agreed by those present. New items of expenditure were agreed and cheques had been raised: Accounting Services - £36; Grass maintenance - £294; Grass maintenance at The Green - £75; WBC lease - £75; Stationery - £20.94; HMRC tax for the quarter - £191.20.

b) Following discussion it was agreed to use Grant funding to purchase a new swing in preference to replacing worn parts on the old equipment.

c) It was agreed to invite Inkpen Groups to submit bids for consideration at the December meeting.

**Pot Holes** – a list of Inkpen pot holes would be forwarded to WBC for attention.

*Afternote:* these need to be checked again before sending, as road maintenance is being undertaken during w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015.

**12. Next Parish Council Meeting** is arranged for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 7.30pm at Inkpen Sports Club, subject to availability of Councillors and issues for discussion.

**Councillors are asked to note that all items for discussion and decision** should be recorded on the Agenda to allow due consideration to be given prior to the meeting and to inform residents. Meeting closed at 20.45hrs

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Signed:.....Date: .....

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