

INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th June 2019 at 8pm in Inkpen Sports Pavilion.

Those present were: Dr D Thomas (Chairman), Mrs C Jones (Vice Chairman), Mr M Bates, Mrs J Edwards, Mr S Hanna, Mrs M Marriott, Mr R May and Mrs. Keene (Parish Clerk).

Also attending was Ward Member, Councillor James Cole and

Residents: Ms T Masters, Mrs V Tomlinson & Messrs: M Smith, D Lester, J Donohoe, A Zollo, R Baker, Mr & Mrs P Reid and J Fisher plus a resident from Post Office Rd.

1. Apologies: None recorded

2. Planning Sub Committee – see separate minutes.

Standing Orders were suspended for questions from residents, which had been submitted prior to the meeting as requested on the Agenda posted on display prior to the meeting. Response to questions are listed as an annex to the Parish Council meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting – the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19th June were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

4. Matters Arising

a) Report on the Lower Green Grass – Councillor May

Residents at Lower Green had complained that the grass was overgrown and unkempt and looking untidy giving the impression of being abandoned. The grass edges and hedge also need to be cleared and the pathway leading to the bench so that residents could gain access. Councillor May confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Harris, who had agreed to maintain the area and the grass would be cut the following day. The Beech tree on the Lower Green triangle was in a poor condition and a quote for removal would be obtained. If Mr Harris cannot maintain the area the Parish Council will need to reconsider the management of the site at the next meeting.

Action: Councillor May. Councillor Jones to obtain the quote.

b) Contact with the Gigaclear Community Engagement Manager – Chair

Dr Thomas and the Clerk had met with the newly appointed ‘Community Engagement Manager’ covering the area and established that Inkpen is a priority for fibre connection. Following the meeting residents had been advised to report their problems again to Gigaclear, who would resume working in the area shortly. A note had been inserted in the Inkpen & Combe bulletin to advise residents of the need to repeat their concerns to Gigaclear.

c) Grass cutting agreement – agreed for a fixed term of three months.

The fixed term agreement had been agreed to cover the months of July, August and September with a view to extending the agreement following evaluation by both parties. The Chairman reported that the grass was looking much better in both the playground and playing field.

Action: To review the arrangement in September.

d) Changes to the village since 1950 – Councillor May to report

It was agreed that Councillor May would document the environmental changes that had taken place in the village since 1950 – this could involve the school as a project and other residents as required.

Action: Councillor May.

e) Parish Council representation on the Village Hall Committee – to nominate at AGM

The Parish Council wished to nominate two representatives on the village hall committee at the next Village Hall AGM. Councillor Bates was asked to advise of the rescheduled date for the AGM.

Action: Councillor Bates

5. Declaration of Interest

5.1 No declarations of interest were recorded.

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

Inkpen Parish Council is the Corporate Trustee of the Memorial Playing Field Trust and registered with the Charity Commission as the Corporate and Custodian Trustees. 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.

6. To review the concerns raised in the village

a) *Rural Crime* – the Chairman reported that incidents of rural crime had fallen but there had been a couple of local robberies which had been reported to the Police for investigation.

b) *Speeding at Heads Lane* – a distressing report of speeding had been reported in the Heads Lane area, and residents had been advised to report incidents to WBC – the on-line reporting tool is on the WBC website under the roads, transport, parking section – there is an on line reporting form to fill in.

Councillor Bates agreed to arrange a meeting with Alex Drysdale in Kintbury about the speeding issue in Heads Lane – Councillor Cole indicated he would like to be included at the meeting.

There are a number of roads in Inkpen where speeding is possible and training is available from WBC if residents wished to take part.

Action: Clerk to arrange training.

c) *Smell and possible spillage from the pig farm* - affect on Inkpen Common SSSI

Councillor James Cole had visited the farm with Councillor Claire Rowles and is waiting for a report which provides details on flooding potential and will share that with the Council when received. He considered the farm was well managed and the smell was a country issue and cannot be avoided.

A report from the RSPCA was read out at the meeting to reassure residents of the conditions:

"The process has RSPCA approval and the vet approves. In fact as far as the RSPCA was concerned their assessor Crispin Sampson described it as "the best system he has seen", and the Head Regional Assessor for the RSPCA, Charlotte Thomas, has also visited and been very impressed by the whole set-up."

Action: Chairman to follow up on behalf of the Parish Council.

d) *Drugs* – a number of incidents & suspicious cars had been reported. The Chairman explained that all incidents should be reported to the Police. Following discussion the Clerk reported that previously the Police will follow up and visit if given the registration number/photo of the cars involved, and take appropriate action.

7. WBC Highway Winter Plan consultation

7.1 No reported comments from Councillors – there are no changes to the Winter Plan, which is the same as the one for last year.

7.2 The salt bin at Lower Green is 2/3rd empty.

8. To approve In-Month Expenditure and Financial Statement 2019/2020

8.1 *Financial statement* up to 5th July 2019 was tabled at the meeting showing Receipts, Payments, corresponding Bank statements; and the committed ringfenced funds of the remaining unspent grants.

Expenditure as listed –HMRC payment - £292.20; Stationery - £34.83; Grass cutting – March and April - £306 x 2; Grass cutting – June £306. All payments were agreed.

Committed Expenditure: as listed, is ringfenced for the purpose of the original grant.

9. Queries raised by Councillor Bates and Councillor Hanna

9.1 The following issues were confirmed:

- a) Parish Council correspondence will be circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Bates to let the Chairman know of any correspondence he is missing since his appointment of councillor.
- b) Contact details of the councillors to be added to the website at the discretion of individual councillors.
- c) Councillor Hanna agreed to put forward a proposal for a Parish Council website, to be compliant with requirements for public bodies, in conjunction with the Chairman and propose a strategy for Parish Council communications.
- d) Advertising on Social Media:

It had been confirmed by the legal department that there is no requirement for Parish Councils to advertise on social media – if the date is advertised, in line with Government guidelines, then all enquiries should be directed to the Agenda displayed on the Inkpen notice boards and on the Inkpen website as the official location. The Clerk is the enquiry point.

9. Date of next meeting: The date of the Parish Council Meeting is 30th September subject to Councillor’s 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 attending the Council meeting are requested to limit comments or questions to the public question time interval when Standing Orders are suspended.

Signed:.....Date:

ANNEX TO INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 30th July 2019

Question Time Points Recorded: It was not possible to respond to all questions submitted due to the length of time taken over the initial queries:

Response to ‘Questions from the Floor’:

1. The Chairman confirmed that action was in place to improve and encourage the sporting activities at the pavilion and a new agreement was in place with a Sunday League football team as a result of the current and future plans for the improved facilities. The new pavilion would encourage sport for all and it was the duty of the IMPF Trustees to provide a ‘fit for purpose pavilion’. Trustees must consider the benefits to the Charity and give the playing field their first consideration. Steps had been taken to offer support to the village hall by nominating a councillor to sit on the committee. Mike Smith, Village Hall Trustee, recorded that a new member would be welcome.
2. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had been trying to agree with the Village Hall that there should be two representatives on the Village Hall Committee - the Parish Council will elect the two representatives to the Committee.
3. Residents in the audience requested feedback on the plans for the Sports Pavilion and Councillor Jones confirmed that building work would not commence without a meeting, but warned that if the extension was not accepted the funding raised would need to be returned to the donors who had contributed to the existing proposed extension. The Chairman re confirmed that the IMPF Trustees have a duty to provide a ‘fit for purpose’ building for the community.
The funding for the pavilion is from donations and money raised via Greenham Common grant applications and not from the Parish Council or a tax on residents. Circa £130k has been raised to date.
4. It was agreed that the Ward Member, Councillor Cole, will chair a meeting in September between the Parish Council and the Village Hall committee to help both charities work together in the interests of the village. Date to be agreed.

Questions to the Parish Council concluded at 8.15pm.