

INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 30th September 2019 at 7.30pm at the Inkpen Sports Pavilion.

Those attending the meeting were: Dr D Thomas (Chairman), Mr M Bates, Mrs J Edwards, Mr S Hanna, Mrs C Jones, Mrs Moira Marriott, Mr Robert May and Mrs. G Keene (Parish Clerk).

Also attending was Ward Member, Councillor James Cole and Sgt Dan Howard. Residents were: Messrs, A Zollo, R Baker, S Waters and R Weeks.

1. **Apologies were received from:** None

2. Planning Sub Committee – see separate minutes

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a) Simon Waters to address the meeting about the SID training (Speed Indicator Device) he attended, held at WBC and b) Sgt. Dan Howard to report on local crime.

- a) There are a number of roads in Inkpen where speeding occurs and the initiative to raise awareness will be taken forward by Simon Waters with additional help as required.
- b) Sgt. Howard reported on a further burglary in Inkpen and confirmed that added surveillance is currently being devoted to Inkpen as a rural village.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – the draft minutes of the meeting held on 30th July were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman without amendment. The Chairman confirmed that issues raised during question time as a result of public involvement were not recorded in the minutes of 30th July as they were not part of the Parish Council agenda. Question time gives residents an opportunity to raise issues with the Chair if time allows. The Parish Council is a formal meeting held in public NOT a public meeting.

4. 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.

5. Matters Arising

a) Beech Tree removal at Lower Green: – following discussion it was agreed that Councillor May would attend to the tree, working under the Parish Council volunteer insurance, which covers the use of hand tools only. It was also reported that the hedge at the Lower Green Triangle was overgrown and presented a hazard to drivers turning into Craven Rd. It was agreed that Mr. Harris, who maintains the area, would be informed. If Mr Harris cannot maintain the area the Parish Council will need to reconsider the management of the site.

Action: Councillor May.

b) Gigaclear Community Engagement Manager – the Chairman and Secretary had met with the new personnel from Gigaclear, who would be covering the area of installation for broadband. A list of faults had been compiled by Gigaclear and would move forward as soon as permission was granted by WBC.

An update on Gigaclear has been placed on the official Parish Council website www.inkpenvillage.co.uk

c) Grass cutting at the Playing Field – residents to note- the cutting is funded by the Parish Council as an amenity for all residents (not just as a sports field).

Following discussion it was agreed unanimously to request the contractor to extend the fixed term appointment to cover the three year tender proposed in June 2019 - pending agreement by both parties. The contractor would be requested to leave grass cuttings at the back of the playing field.

Action: Clerk

d) Changes to the village since 1950 –Councillor May requested assistance with the recording of the changes that had taken place in the village since 1950 –the school would be contacted to see if a project could be agreed.

Action: Councillor May and Mrs Edwards.

e) Parish Council representation on the Village Hall Committee – to nominate at AGM
The appointment of a representative on the village hall committee was deferred.

f) Speeding in Kintbury – this was not the same problem as experienced in Inkpen.

g) Meeting with the Village Hall Trustees and Committee – 4th September

It was reported that the meeting took place in the Church Parish Room and represented ‘work in progress’ – further meetings will take place as future dates are to be arranged.

f) The Chairman confirmed that the new official Parish Council website had been set up following a brief discussion with Councillor Hanna on setting up a website for local government. The Parish Council meeting had been advertised on the village Facebook page as well as the mandatory notice boards and website that are required in line with Government regulations. All enquiries from social media should be directed to the Agenda displayed on the Inkpen notice boards and on the Inkpen website as the official locations. The Clerk is the enquiry point.

6. West Berkshire Climate Change Conference – Monday 28th October at Newbury College

6.1 The Clerk and Councillor James Cole confirmed attendance at the conference. Anyone wishing to attend should apply via the WBC website - tickets are free. WBC will host a climate conference to help tackle the climate crisis; this is a new initiative to come from the newly formed Environment Board at WBC. The conference will be opened by Richard Benyon MP.

7. Defibrillator Awareness – a further ‘awareness’ session will take place in the Inkpen pavilion on 23rd October at 7pm. The Clerk will contact those on the waiting list and anyone responding to the notice placed in the Inkpen Bulletin.

Action: Clerk

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

8.1 *Financial statement* up to 5th September 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 –Stationery - £76.98; Hire of the Parish Room - £12; Self Accounting Ltd - £36; Grass cutting at the playing field - £525; Web domain - £180. All invoices and payments had been agreed.

Committed Expenditure: as listed, is ringfenced for the purpose of the original grant. Football grant was granted for the young football team to purchase shirts and equipment - £805.42 remains unspent. It was hoped that a new young football team could take up the funding.

9. Date of next meeting: The date of the Parish Council Meeting is 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. Questions are requested by 2pm on the day of the meeting.

Signed:.....Date:

Chairman has appended his replies to Mr Robert Baker for the record:

Q: Have you, or are you intending to issue a summary of the village views based on the questionnaire? Number of questionnaires issued, number returned, summary of views, plus free flow comments ? It would be normal I think to give the Village some structured feedback or have I missed it?

A: The questionnaire was, I am told, sent to every household and was advertised widely so that anyone not having a questionnaire could request one. This was not a referendum, just a request for an opinion to enable the Trustees to prioritise renovation works.

From the data I have: 57 people responded by the closing date of which 20 objected that the extension was too big, 5 people thought that the glass front was a concern particularly in relation to security. Of those declaring a preference, 12 thought that the play area should be updated first and 8 thought that the pavilion should be the priority.

We have listened and brought forward upgrades to the children's play area without waiting for the fundraising to be completed.

Q: Village Hall / Pavilion activities:

In your email dated 28th March 2019 you wrote 'rest assured that it will be complimentary to the Village Hall and not in competition', this was in response to my question regarding optimisation of village facilities and avoiding duplication of offerings. So my question is if both facilities were to publish a menu of current and planned activities then no duplication would be apparent?

A: This is work in progress. The IMFT has published an events schedule on the website www.impft.co.uk/events . Work on the pavilion isn't scheduled to start until after April 2020. Meetings are already underway to work out the best way forward for both organisations.

Dr. David Thomas
Chairman of Inkpen Parish Council