

IVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting of the Local Government Electors for the Parish of Iver** held at Iver Village Hall on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr J Wilson – Chairman of the Parish Council chaired the meeting.

Approximately 80 members of the public including Parish, District and County Councillors
Mrs S Moffat (Locum Clerk to the Council)

The Chairman opened the meeting by reading the Statutory Notice.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Insp Cook, Dominic Grieves MP, Mr and Mrs Lamb, Rev. Eady, Ms Carter Mrs Treguna, Ms Wilson, Mr Furness, Mr Peters, Mr Spurles, Amanda, Mrs Buick, Mr Pomeroy, Mr Collis, Mrs Rowell, Mrw Worrall and Mrs Sands.
2. **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9th March, 2009 be confirmed and signed.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: There were none.
4. Chairman's Report: The Chairman commented on and detailed the interesting work of the Council during the past year (a copy of which is appended to these Minutes). A summary financial report was circulated (appended to these Minutes).
5. General Discussion and Question time: The Chairman said there would be a Civic Award Ceremony after this meeting in recognition to some of the volunteers in the Parish who have given freely of their time to help the community.

General Questions were as follows:

Mr Beeson asked if there was any money in the budget for bus shelters particularly for one in Church Road. Mrs Leech, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, replied there was possibly money in the budget for one bus shelter this financial year.

Mr Beeson went on to congratulate the Council for the new zebra crossing in Church Road, the Christmas lights and the new pavement design outside the shops in Thornbridge Road. However the filling in between the paving was breaking up causing a trip hazard. He also mentioned there was a continuing problem of puddles developing in Church Road near the Crooked Billet roundabout and asked if this could be resolved.

Mr Gould said the Highway's contractors had filled in two potholes in the road by the Medical Centre in Iver Heath but left at least 8 holes untouched. County Cllr Lidgate said he would report this to Bucks CC. Also the water leak in Wood Lane was queried as this has been happening for the last 2 years. This causes frequent icy conditions of the road surface in cold weather and should be salted more frequently. Mr Wilson replied that this problem has been noticed and there were discussions with Bucks C.C. to deal with it. However he will ask the local County Councillors to take up the matter of more frequent salting of this part of the road in icy conditions.

A resident congratulated the Parish Council on the new playground equipment in Iver Recreation Ground as the equipment was more challenging than the usual type and was very good.

Another member of the public complained about the potholes in the pavement from Iver Village Centre to the Station which makes it impossible to walk along the footway without stepping on to the road and is made more dangerous at night, on the return journey, when it is dark and pedestrians walk with their backs to oncoming traffic. The Chairman was aware of this and would be taking up the matter with the relevant County Councillor.

Mrs Gill noted that a large amount of Parish Council's funds were being allocated to the new sports pavilion at Iver Recreation Ground and asked what proportion of youth in the village would be using this new pavilion compared with those from surrounding areas such as Langley and West Drayton. The Chairman explained that Deleford Colts are the main users of the pavilion and a large portion of their membership comes from the

Iver area although some do come from outside the parish. However as yet it is not a hundred percent certain that the new pavilion will be built. Mrs Gill went on to say that litter is a hazard in the recreation ground but the Chairman explained that this is cleared regularly by the Parish Council's ground maintenance team.

Mr Gould enquired if the footpath in Bangors Road North has been cleared as he did ask for this to be done six months ago? Mr Fisher said he had walked this footpath in November and it had been cleared. Mr Graham confirmed this.

Mrs Matthews asked about the parking restrictions by the shops in Thornbridge Road. The Chairman explained that it was the intention to have 2 hours parking restrictions but could not guarantee regular enforcement of this by the police.

Another member of the public asked about plans for improving parking in the village. The Chairman explained that this village is the only one in South Bucks that does not have a car park. There have been suggestions for having one by the station. It is difficult to find suitable land. If the renovation of the High Street does take place as mentioned in South Bucks District Council's Core Strategy then the derelict land between the Swan leading up towards the Parish Council's Premises may be an ideal site.

The Chairman thanked those persons present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 1st MARCH 2010

Iver Parish

Iver Parish includes the areas of Iver Village, Richings Park, Iver Heath, Iver West and the hamlets of Shreding Green and Thorney.

It has a population of between 10 and 11,000 people and is about one sixth of the population of the district of South Bucks.

The Council

The Council is comprised of 14 councillors, 6 from Iver Heath, 1 from Iver West, 7 from Iver and Richings Park.

The council has a full time Clerk and two part time assistant clerks, a maintenance team of two full time maintenance employees and one new part time employee undertaking highways work funded by the County Council.

Our clerk is also the clerk to Dorney Parish Council for which we charge them a fee.

We moved into a new Parish office at 63 Chequers Orchard, Iver last year.

We have 10 full Parish Council meetings a year. In addition we have 4 Committees covering Policy, Amenities and Highways and Partnerships which meet 6 times a year and Planning which meets every three weeks.

We also have 1 sub committee and 5 working groups.

Budget 2009-10 – £ 400,364 net expenditure (£51,000 less than 08-09) performed substantially in line with budget. The Precept was £352,000 that is the money paid by the Council tax payers (£336,000 08-09).

Budget 2010-11 – The Precept in the year 2010-11 will be £364,000.

Gross spending may well be much higher as the Council is planning to build a new pavilion on Iver Recreation Ground; this is likely to cost up to £500,000 which it is intended will be funded by the Football Foundation who will hopefully contribute at least 50% of the cost of the building. The parish will if necessary borrow up to £250,000 towards the cost of the building and will also put £52,000 of its reserves into the project.

The Council has recently taken a lease from the District Council to take over a piece of Green Belt land in Swan Road, Iver. There will be some cost in securing the land and it will be managed by the Council with a view to it being used either for leisure activities or later as a new burial ground.

The Council also aims to improve the appearance of the areas owned by the parish council or looked after by it, forge relationships with young people and find out how to work with them to reduce antisocial behaviour and vandalism.

The Council pays half the cost of an extra Police Community Support Officer on our streets.

The Council – with Iver Educational Trust – pays for a full time youth worker who has been very effective over the last two years.

The Maintenance team undertake all parish council work except for St Peter's churchyard and burial ground.

Policy

Parish Guide

The Council has produced a new Parish Guide this year which will be a source of information for the two years until 2011.

Paid Councillors

Your Parish Councillors decided unanimously that they would not vote in favour of payment for councillors.

Thorney Park

The Parish Council has advised the County Council that if the County is unwilling to run the park the Parish Council would take it over and run it if the County transferred it without cost to the Parish.

Local Area Forums

In July the Parish Council voted that it would not take part in an Iver and Wexham Local Area Forum (LAF) along with most other members of the South Bucks Association of Local Councils. Despite that the Iver and Wexham LAF was formed under the chairmanship of the County Councillor. A further vote taken in February decided by 8 votes for and 4 against to take part in the Iver and Wexham LAF.

Amenities

Iver Recreation Ground

The development work by Kebble Homes has been completed and residents and users of the recreation ground will benefit from additional and improved parking on the site. The children's playground is very popular with a wide range of activities. Additional playground equipment is to be installed shortly from a grant from the District Council.

The Council has planning permission to erect a new pavilion on the recreation ground and it is hoped that a grant from the Football Foundation will result in this project going ahead.

Iver Heath Recreation Ground

Improvements have been made to the CCTV equipment on the site and this should result in better coverage as well as better images which will be helpful to the police if there are incidents on the site.

The pavilion is used regularly by our youth worker Sally Vigers who meets up with the young people of Iver Heath there every Tuesday evening

Iver Heath Fields

We remain grateful to the Friends of Iver Heath Fields for their work in looking after these four fields, 41 acres in total. In the year the Council and IDCA placed a plaque, a Servis tree and a seat in memory of Simon Hill who had been a great supporter of the fields and done so much good work there.

Allotments

The allotments at both Iver and Iver Heath are well used and there seems to be a renewed interest in allotment holding – possibly due to the economic situation. There are still allotments available at a modest annual cost.

Millennium Nature Reserve

The work on the Millennium Nature Reserve at Hardings Row (off Swallow Street) continues, being undertaken by the Groundwork Trust under the guidance of the Parish Council which owns the land. Now that the grazing land lease has ended it is intended to put together a plan for the use of the whole area as a nature reserve. This Nature reserve is well worth a visit, preferably on foot, and it will be a useful educational resource to be used by schools and other groups.

Christmas lights

The turning on of the Christmas lights in late November was a very well attended and took place in Iver Village Hall and the Kings Church hall. The Council took the opportunity to consult with the public at the event on the plans for a new pavilion on Iver Recreation Ground and the response was largely positive.

Summer Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets placed around the parish over the summer have again brightened up the shopping areas in all parts of the parish. Last years displays were even better than previous years.

The funding of the Christmas lights and the hanging baskets comes from the invested reserves of the Council. Unfortunately in the last year there has been very little interest accrued to put toward those two initiatives and if things do not improve this may not be feasible this year.

BMX Track

The Council was approached during the year by a group which was involved with BMX Bike riding at a very high level. Discussions have continued with a view to establishing a BMX track in the Iver Recreation Ground and it is hoped that this project will be completed in the next year.

Planning

Project Pinewood – the proposed plan of Pinewood Studios to use Green Belt Land adjacent to Pinewood Green as a living filming residential site has been rejected by South Bucks District Council Planning Committee on the grounds that it was on Greenbelt land and in the Colne Valley park. 400 people turned up for the hearing and certainly made their presence known. The Parish Council objections to the plan were put forward by the chairman of the Parish Council and Mitchell Gears from Fulmer put forward arguments relating to Pinewoods finances. The District Council anticipates that there will be an appeal by Pinewood Studios.

Since the hearing a resident has applied for part of the land to be designated as a Village Green. This will no doubt delay the plans

Pinewood - Peace Road

I have been informed by Pinewood Studios that the gateway to the path through the south of Pinewood Studios land from Pinewood Road into Black Park has been amended so that it can now be used by people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters. This is a welcome change brought about by discussion with Pinewood Studios. This path has proved to be a most popular route into the park and is used by more and more residents on foot or by bike.

Crossrail

Crossrail plans were approved last year and as a result the parish will lose the ability to use Dog Kennel bridge. Negotiations are to take place to provide an alternative footpath.

In addition there have been moves to create a roadway along side the railway with a view to creating a by pass for HGV's and connecting up to the Ridgeway estate and the new estate adjacent to the railway. This is referred to in the South Bucks Core Strategy with the main thrust being to reduce the impact of HGV movements going through Iver High Street and Richings Park.

3rd Runway at Heathrow and Heathrow Rail Hub

The controversial proposals for a third runway at Heathrow were approved by the Government last year. This development would be devastating to Richings Park in particular and to Iver generally; added to by the possibility of a major rail hub between Richings Park and West Drayton. Whether these proposals will be upheld after the next General election is a matter for conjecture. It does though appear likely that a new rail line through South Bucks will be put to consultation.

Core Strategy

South Bucks Core Strategy has been the subject of two consultations this year. I am pleased to say that the area south of Iver has received attention in the strategy and reference has been made to the need to reduce HGV movements and redevelopment of the Court Lane estate, although it is still not considered necessary to have a relief road.

Road Safety & Partnerships

Thornbridge Road improvements

The much needed improvement to the parking around the shops in Thornbridge Road was completed in early 2009.

It has been suggested that parking restrictions are appropriate in this area to restrict all day parking. It is expected that proposals will be put out to public consultation.

Street lighting

As a result of the snow over the Christmas period a number of street lights have been damaged beyond repair. Unfortunately those who drive into your street lights do not tell us of the damage they have done and as a result the cost of replacement falls to the Parish Council at a significant cost to the budget and the lights are not insured due to cost being prohibitive.

A knock down or breaking of a light costs £800 each time.

Devolved Highways work

By agreement with the County Council the Parish has taken on work on local highways previously the responsibility of the County. This is paid for by the County out of their budget but enabled problems to be dealt with more expeditiously. The budget for this work was £15,000 per year. This has proved to be a successful venture.

459 Bus Route

The County Council announced that it wished to remove the 459 bus route earlier in the year. This caused much consternation to the residents of Iver and Richings Park area due to their only bus being taken away. After much hard work by the County Councillor for Iver and Richings Park a more satisfactory solution was reached and a bus is still available.

Website

The Iver Parish website can be used to advertise your events on the social calendar.

Iver Carnival

After the disappointment of having to cancel the Carnival in September 2008 we held the event in September 2009 and it was a great success with more floats than ever before and events that went on into the evening.

NALC

Earlier this year we had an article printed in the NALC journal focussing on the youth work funded by the Parish Council and showing the benefit achieved by employing an outreach youth worker and the positive side of that work in communicating with the youths of the Parish.

Thanks

All who have attended tonight

Clerk and Assistants and our locum clerk

Maintenance and Highways teams

Youth Worker

Vice Chairman.

Chairmen of Committees

Councillors

Partners of Councillors who let them out to attend meetings

Those District Councillors who have attended to give us information

County Councillors who get our voice heard in Aylesbury

Helpers at the office

Working group help

Police and PCSO's

Iver Educational Trust

That is my review of the last 11 months of the year.

Now before we move on to the award ceremony are there any questions.