

## IVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting of the Local Government Electors for the Parish of Iver** held at Iver Village Hall (Coppins Room) on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 8 pm.

**Present:** Mr J Wilson - Chairman of the Parish Council chaired the meeting  
Approximately 20 members of the public including Parish, District and County Councillors  
Mrs. G. Collins (Clerk to the Council)

**The Chairman opened the Meeting by reading the Statutory Notice.**

- 1 Apologies for absence:** Parish Councillor Derek Adlam and District Councillor Simon Bullock
- 2 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007 be confirmed and signed.
- 3 Matters arising from the Minutes:** There was a question about the County Council's response to the request to consider allowing the Parish Council to take over the running of Thorney Park. The Clerk reported that no written response had been received and that she would write again.
- 4 Waste and Recycling Presentation by Elizabeth Cullen of the District Council.**
- 5 Police Report** – the chairman reported that unfortunately neither he nor the Clerk had received the report from PC Caroline Tailor but probably not her fault. However, he could report that the Dispersal Order in Swallow Street had ended and that arrests were being made following the recent spate of graffiti in the parish.
- 6 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).
- 7 General Discussion and Question Time :** Mr Langford asked about an article in the Bucks Advertiser stating that the Pinewood Project was being given planning permission this week. The chairman stated that the article was completely inaccurate and no planning application had yet been received by the Parish Council let alone decided upon. He would be asking the newspaper to retract the article. Three other residents complained about the antisocial behaviour around their houses and the bus shelter in Swallow Street and also the vandalism to the shelter. The chairman stated that the Council had decided not to remove the shelter as this was not the way to respond to anti social behaviour and that it should be stopped by residents and the Council assisting the police to put an end to the problems. The shelter would be replaced with one of the newer designs if it was ever in a very poor state of repair. He encouraged residents to dial 999 if there was a crime in progress such as graffiti, damage, threatening behaviour etc. He also asked the Clerk to pass the names of the residents in attendance to PC Tailor to see if she could visit them and assist them with their particular problems.

The Chairman thanked those persons present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9 pm.

**NB. Chairman's Annual Report on next pages.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2008**

**Highlights of 2007-08**

The last year has been our first year as a Quality Council and began with the election of a new Council in May 2007.

New Councillors elected were Malcolm Bradford, Damon Clark, Ravi Gidar, Pat Leech and Alan Oxley whom we are pleased to welcome.

We were sorry to hear of the passing away of Peter Smith who was a member of the last council.

A new Maintenance team was appointed and we were saddened by the death of Chris Campbell not long after his appointment. A new senior maintenance person will start at the end of this council year. We welcomed the appointment of Chris Sprules as a maintenance employee.

We are grateful to Nick Fisher who has manfully filled the breach this year and who we hope will be staying in a different part time role.

We said goodbye to Julie Simmonds who has progressed to the position of clerk to Stoke Poges. As a result we have restructured the office and will appoint two part time assistants. We are grateful to Peter Collins who has been in the role of temporary finance assistant this year and who will be replaced by one of the two new assistants.

We welcomed Sally Tugwell to the role of Youth Worker which we fund and have been impressed by the work she has undertaken with the youth of the parish.

Glenda Collins our clerk has had a challenging year with regard to staffing and I would like to thank her and the volunteers who have helped out over the last few months.

I could not complete the review of highlights without referring to the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh when they opened the Pinewood new entrance and met the Parish Councillors.

**THE COUNCIL**

14 councillors Iver Heath, Iver West, Iver and Richings Park

Clerk

2 Assistants to be recruited

Maintenance team – two full time, one part time to be appointed

Funding for a full time youth worker

50% funding for a PCSO

Service Dorney also for a fee

Parish office in High Street

11 full meetings

5 Committees 3 meet 6 times 1 fortnightly 1 ad hoc(HR)

1 sub committee

5 working groups

**Budget 2007-08 –£436,942** including funding for new playground £106,000. We expect to end the year close to the expenditure budget but needing extra funds from reserves as income did not meet the anticipated figure by around £10,000

**Budget 2008-09** £352,000 net expenditure. This is less than 07-08.

**Precept** £336,000 (£267,000 07-08)

The intention of the council is to use its resources to improve the facilities and environment in the areas owned by the parish council or looked after by it, to reduce the fear of crime, forge relationships with young people and find out how to work with them to reduce antisocial behaviour and vandalism. In doing this it will often act in partnership with others such as the Iver Educational Trust and the Thames Valley Police.

The council reviews every plan put forward for planning permission and its views are taken into account by the SBDC.

PCSO –we pay £16,200 a year, half the cost, for a presence of an extra PCSO on our streets.

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We fund an Outreach youth worker – with Iver Educational Trust – a presence to engage with young people on the streets, at a cost of £20,000 per year.

We now employ a Maintenance team of two full time employees which will save on contract work as they will undertake virtually all parish council work.

We will in 2008-9 be employing a part time employee to undertake work of the County Council such as cleaning street signs, cutting back overgrown hedges, removing flyposting etc. This will be provided by funds from the County Council to do the job that they are supposed to do.

## **What do we do?**

### **FACILITIES/AMENITIES**

#### **Equipment purchases**

We are now well equipped to undertake the maintenance work that was previously outsourced.

**Iver Recreation ground** – The improvement work continues. Extra equipment was installed. New signs installed. The council will be taking a firm stand on those who abuse the facilities by failing to remove their dog mess and have authority now to enforce the keeping of dogs on leads in the recreation grounds. The order has not yet been imposed but will be if the abuse continues.

The plan for a new pavilion is still proceeding; we hope to be funded largely from the Football Foundation. Full planning permission has now been obtained. The old changing room has been pulled down.

The children's play area has been moved into the recreation ground and is full of modern and challenging play equipment. The funds for this came from an agreement with the developers of the adjacent site, Kebbell Homes. The next stage of the process is to increase the size of the car park and that will be completed shortly.

#### **Iver Heath Recreation Ground**

Bison has agreed to provide kerbing to protect tennis court fencing, this is still awaited but imminent we are told.

#### **Allotments**

The allotment areas in Iver next to the recreation ground and in Iver Heath off Slough Road are better used now than for many years.

#### **Millennium Nature Reserve**

The work on the Millennium Nature Reserve at Hardings Row (off Swallow Street) continues, being undertaken on our behalf by the Groundwork Trust under the guidance of the Parish Council which owns the land. This is well worth a visit, preferably on foot, and it will be a useful educational resource to be used by schools and other groups.

**Churchyards** – St Peters Church are pleased with the work we are getting done in the churchyard which we took on as a responsibility when it was declared a closed churchyard.

**Christmas lights** – this annual ceremony gets bigger and better each year and is firmly fixed as a highlight of the Iver Parish calendar. Our thanks go to Pat Roberts, Pat Leech and Claire Mowat for their organisation of the event and of course to Father Christmas who interrupted his busy schedule to turn up. There were new and better Christmas lights last year and this year's ceremony is expected to be even bigger.

#### **Summer Hanging Baskets**

The hanging baskets placed around the parish over the summer were much improved, new sites were included and we are still looking for more sites for the baskets.

#### **Libraries**

We have contributed to the Community libraries and were very pleased to be involved in the opening of the library in the St Peter's Centre.

#### **Bus Shelters**

Two new bus shelters have been installed in Bangors Road North and Swallow Street.

We were also pleased to make donations to many organisations in the last year but usually restrict those to specific local needs and initiatives.

## **PLANNING**

### **Lea Barton Planning Application**

Lea Barton has been demolished and is currently being replaced by twelve accommodation units. Our negotiations with the developers proved successful and when the work is complete the whole area will be much improved.

### **Pinewood - Peace Road**

Pinewood Studios has laid a path through the south of their land from Pinewood Road into Black Park and has now erected an internal fence. This path will soon be opened to the public with a controlled access allowing residents to walk rather than drive to Black Park.

### **Crossrail Plans**

Plans for Crossrail have been the subject of Parliamentary consideration this year.

The Parish Council Clerk attended the House of Lords to give evidence to seek to ensure that Dog Kennel Bridge is retained or rebuilt.

### **Planning applications**

The Planning Committee has met every fortnight during the year and its views are generally upheld by the decisions of the South Bucks District Council which is the planning authority. It has sought to protect the nature of the area and environment and in particular fight against threats to the Green Belt.

A major project has been announced by Pinewood Studios to build what amounts to a new village on land between the studios and the M25. This is green belt land and your parish councillors are pledged to keep the Green Belt green. We expect a planning application to be submitted late this year. There is also expected to be full local consultation

## **ROAD SAFETY & LIGHTING**

The Road Safety and Lighting Committee has been very active in seeking to get the County Council to improve our roads, fill in pot holes and generally provide an adequately maintained road system in the parish.

The destruction by vandals of lampposts has stretched the budget of the committee.

The plan to improve the area outside the shops in Iver Heath is expected to be undertaken in the next year with funding from the SBDC.

We are also still seeking a way to get heavy traffic off unsuitable residential roads in the parish and further representations were put to the district and county councils with proposals for a rear exit from the Ridgeway going south to the A4/M4.

## **SECURITY**

It was dispiriting to see the vandalism to the security system at the Iver Heath Village Hall site where lampposts and security cameras were wrecked by juvenile vandals. There was also extensive damage to walls and fences between the Iver Heath recreation ground and St David's Close residences. A new strong fence has now been installed which we hope will solve the problem for the residents.

On the other hand it was good to see a group of young people taking time to clear the Iver Recreation Ground to show the population that not all young people are mindless destructive hooligans.

## **WEBSITE**

The web site has been improved over the last few months, with particular thanks to Chris Woolley, but we are still keen to have a lot more use of the site for advertising local activities in the social calendar.

## **CARNIVAL**

This September we will hold the bi-annual Iver Carnival which will involve a procession of floats and lots of stalls and events at the Evreham site. All those wishing to be involved should make contact via the parish council.

## **PREMISES**

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Our search for new premises is nearly over and we expect to move into the house adjacent to the Police Station later this year.

We have still not finally resolved an issue to protect the council land from becoming a right of way which could have opened up an opportunity for unacceptable development. If it is not resolved shortly the issue will be referred back to Court.

**Thanks**

All who have attended tonight.

Clerk Glenda Collins, the Maintenance team .

Vice Chairman Jeanette Watkins –Chairmen of Committees Sylvia Lidgate, Ruth Vigor-Hederley and Bill Lidgate

All our Councillors Derek Adlam, Malcolm Bradford, Damon Clark, Carol Gibson, Ravi Gidar, Pat Leech, Claire Mowat, Alan Oxley and Pat Roberts.

Partners of Councillors who let them out to attend meetings

We are fortunate to have 6 District Councillors who are also Parish Councillors which gives us a very strong voice in that forum.

County Councillors who get our voice heard in Aylesbury Alan Oxley and Bill Lidgate.

Our Youth Worker Sally Tugwell and all her volunteer helpers.

Helpers at the office Kath, Amanda, Hannah, Edward and Colin

Working group helpers

Police and PCSO's

Iver Educational Trust who we work with on Youth services.

**Julian Wilson**

**Chairman**