

**IVER PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

A Meeting of the Amenities Committee was held on Wednesday 21st July 2010, commencing at 8 pm at the Committee Room, Parish Council Offices, 63 Chequers Orchard, Iver SL0 9NJ

MINUTES

Present:- Mrs Leech (chaired the meeting), Mrs Mowat, Mr Lidgate, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Watkins

In Attendance:- Ms G Collins (Clerk)

21. **Resolved to elect Mrs Leech** as chairman (proposed Mrs Roberts and seconded Mrs Watkins) for the ensuing year and Mrs Roberts (proposed by Mrs Leech and seconded by Mrs Watkins) as vice chairman. Both were unanimous elections.
22. **Apologies for absence were received from** Mr Adlam, Mr Clark and Mr Wilson
23. **Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** There were none.
24. **Resolved to sign the Minutes of previous meeting 19th May 2010.**
25. Resolved to receive and approve the minutes of the following sub committees and advisory groups:
 - a. Iver Rec Group (advisory) 30th June 2010
 - b. Iver Heath Sports Association (advisory) 15th March 2010
 - c. Iver Heath Fields Liaison Group (advisory) 8th February, 5th July 2010
 - d. Iver Rec Sub Committee 17th June and 15th July 2010
26. **Clerk's Report** – (a) Best Kept Village – we did not win. Noted (b) BMX track opened on 16th July. Noted. (c) letter from WJA Rural Practice re Iver Heath Fields. Noted that the clerk had responded stating that no grazing rights had been offered and that the grass would only be cut once a year. There had been no follow up from the Practice. (c) Iver Recreation Ground electricity – the meter has been checked and there are no problems now with excessive consumption. Noted, therefore, that it must have been heaters being used in the extremely cold weather. These probably prevented any water leaks. (d) comparison of gas and electricity bills for Iver and Iver Heath appended were noted with approval that in most cases prices had been reduced (produced by locum clerk) (e) Zurich Insurance claim by Mr Dearman Sept 2008 has been closed with no payments having been made. Noted. (f)
27. **Budget Monitoring to 30th June 2010** – report appended for Amenities, Iver Heath Sports and New Pavilion. It was noted that the budget was on target with savings in some areas.
28. **Resolved to Receive and Approve** works carried out under delegated powers (13th May to 30th June 2010 as appended) £3,799. 42 net
29. **Iver Heath Recreation Ground** – wall that was knocked down by the pathway to Bangors Road North. Residents have persuaded Rightscope to erect a more substantial wall but the condition is that there is a metal fence to protect it on the Parish Council side. 15m is required and residents have offered to erect it themselves for a grant of £850. The quote from the Council's contractor is £1,464 net of VAT. Mrs Leech proposed that that A and M Fencing be contracted to undertake the fencing work and clerk to notify the residents that the fence will only be erected if Rightscope erect the wall. The motion was passed unanimously.
30. **Tree Warden** – Report from the tree warden appended was noted. Sadness was expressed at the loss of so many of the young saplings in the drought and also thanked Mrs Gibson (tree warden) and the maintenance staff for their efforts in trying to keep them alive. Resolved to approve the use of the bowser (at a hire cost of £100 a week) for the 2 weeks in July and also approved that the clerk should hire it again if there is a prolonged period of drought in August/September. Resolved that the Committee should look into buying its own bowser for future and Clerk to put this on the October agenda. Resolved that a letter of thanks should be sent to Ann Runneckles at Pinewood Studios for her prompt assistance in getting access for watering.
31. **St Peter's Closed Churchyard** – (a) resolved to approve taking this into the Amenities Committee along with the budget for it as the contract for that and the Burial Ground can be amalgamated and paid for from the same Committee heading. (b) Resolved to approve extending the contract for the Burial Ground and St Peter's Closed Churchyard with Nick Robins for one year to 30th September 2011.
32. **Nature Reserve** – (a) there is to be a volunteer day on the weekend of 11/12 September. Further details will be sent to us by Louise of Groundwork. Noted and asked that this be advertised widely and specifically to the houses in Hardings Close, Hardings Row and Coopers Row. (b) Louise is putting together a bid for

some funding towards the checks of the ponds and grounds. Resolved to approve the clerk putting this in on behalf of the Parish Council.

33. **Water Supply Checks** – resolved to note that these have been carried out in both sets of changing rooms (May 2010) and there are no problems to report.
34. **RoSPA inspections of play equipment, BMX tracks and water features.** (a) Resolved to note that there is very little that requires attention. The majority are low risk items, some of which can be attended to easily and some that cannot. Copies of pages with work to be done sent with the agenda were noted. (a) Resolved to approve carrying out works to anything that is above low risk and where possible to the low risk items. Noted that there is nothing that can be done about the finger entrapments on the 2 buddy swings and that the basket weave is the design. Clerk was asked to approach the manufacturer to see if any other playground providers had had similar RoSPA reports and if so what they were doing about it. (b) Resolved to approve ordering of signage for the entrance to the Nature Reserve, which is recommended by RoSPA. It was resolved that the BMX club be asked to attend the Parish Council office for a meeting so that parameters for the club can be set.
35. **Swallow Street Bus Shelter** – email re bus stop usage (appended) from the bus company was noted. It was agreed that it is a respectable number of residents who use this stop. Resolved to take no further action.
36. **Allotments Iver** – fencing is required on several areas to protect the allotments and the recreation ground. Firstly the area between the allotments and the recreation ground including some of the rear boundary fencing – either to replace/repair existing £763 or to use palisade fencing at rear boundary instead of wire £1,591 (if green or £1,291 if grey). Secondly there needs to be a site meeting to review the area in the corner where people are getting in. Suggestions have been to fence the driveway to the garages and give residents a key or to use palisade fencing but this will probably just move the problem. Resolved to defer any decision until the next meeting and in the meantime to hold a site meeting to discuss the various issues and solutions ready for the next meeting.
37. **Allotments Iver Heath** – (a) noted that the lease is due for renewal this Autumn. BCC are looking at the land and deciding whether to lease all or part of it to the Council. The clerk has requested that the part next to the Nature Reserve be kept in on a longer lease so that it can become part of the Reserve or perhaps even offered to the Parish Council for sale. The County is looking at leasing the grazing land separately if they can get access to it. The clerk did say that if they granted a longer lease then the Parish Council would be able to get funding to fence it off and give a licence to graze itself. Resolved to approve the suggested negotiating points but also that the clerk should write to the County surveyors to request a valuation for the site with a view to considering purchasing the whole. (b) There is a water problem still on the western boundary and the clerk has pointed this out to the County Surveyor who does not think they can help. She is looking into whether it would be our responsibility under the lease.
38. **Football Club charges** – (a) resolved to agree charges for clubs for this season as per the clerk's recommendation on the appended report. (b) Resolved to agree to notify the football clubs that charges will be made for any training or events taking place outside of the times already invoiced for, if the changing rooms are used and/or any markings on the grass made. Clubs must notify the Council if they wish to use the changing rooms outside of the period invoiced for.
39. **Hardings Row** – noted that the Council's solicitor thinks that the licence should be put in the name of Jane Gavin and not Mr Maryon as most of the horses are hers and it will be her responsibility to look after the land. Resolved to approve the name on the licence and sign it.
40. **Swan Road Land** – (a) The wall has been completed. Noted that this is a good job (b) Resolved to approve the required short term tree works to be carried out by Practicality Brown (£2,300 including some mulching of debris) following receipt of 4 quotes. (c) Resolved to approve £400 each for the installation of three bore holes (and monitoring of them) required for one year by the Environment Agency prior to any decision about burial ground or cemetery usage. (d) Resolved to approve ordering of trees/hedging for Swan Road land ready for November with the rest of the Tree Council grant, provided that the tree warden manages to secure this. It was resolved to pay for the canes required on top of the tree council grant if that was not covered within it.
41. **Memorial bench** – the County Council and the police have acceded to the request for a bench outside the police station. Resolved to give permission to the Clerk to select the bench and arrange installation/plaque with the relatives at their expense.
42. **Refurbishment of third changing room at Iver Heath Pavilion** – 3 quotes were tabled. It was resolved that the Committee would like the work to be carried out by Keveren as it would provide a more

comprehensive job including flooring and ceiling works and use of anti mould/fungal paints etc. Clerk to instruct him to begin as soon as possible.

- 43. **Boiler Servicing and Repairs Iver Heath Sports Pavilion** – noted that the annual service showed some repairs required (appended) and this has been carried out at a cost of £928 as the clerk considered it a safety matter. This was approved. It was resolved to consider a replacement boiler system at the October meeting.
- 44. **Iver Environment Centre** (Nature Study Centre) – considered a request from Mrs Roberts that the manager be invited to a future Amenities meeting to give a presentation of his work and plans etc. Resolved that it would be best if the manager attended the public session of a full Council meeting and gave a brief report on the benefit of the centre to Iver residents.
- 45. **Saxon Court** – residents would like a sign at the entrance to the recreation ground directing visitors/deliveries to Saxon Court. Design, size etc to be provided by residents. This decision was deferred as the clerk had received no design from the residents yet.
- 46. **Press Release** – to approve items to be specifically circulated to the press.

Date of Next meeting – 6th October
2010

Meeting ended at 9.55 pm

Signed..... (chairman)

Date.....