

**IVER PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

A Meeting of the Amenities Committee was held on Wednesday 23rd July 2008, commencing at 8 pm at Iver Village Hall (Coppins Room).

MINUTES

Present:- Mrs Lidgate, , Mrs Watkins, Mrs Leech, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Mowat

In Attendance:- Mrs Collins (Clerk)

- 18 Apologies for absence were received from** Mr Wilson, Mr Bradford, Mr Adlam and Mr Clark
- 19 Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda** – there were none.
- 20 RESOLVED** to sign the Minutes of the previous meeting – 21st May 2008.
- 21 RESOLVED to receive approve and adopt the minutes** of the following advisory group meetings:-
- (a) **Iver Recreation Ground Group** – 16th July 2008
 - (b) **Iver Heath Fields Liaison Group** – 7th July 2008 none as meeting postponed until 28th July.
- 22 RESOLVED** to approve Clerk’s report on works carried out under delegated powers from 1st May to 30th June 2008 (appended)
- 23 Other reports from the Clerk:** there were none.
- 24 Budget Monitoring** – budget to 30th June was received and approved. It was noted that no budget had been set for the tracker on the vehicles (an oversight) and approved the viring of funds from the contingency fund to cover. Also noted that the expenditure on fire extinguishers would be very high because of those that had gone missing and those damaged but no proof of who did it and no insurance claim possible. Clerk was asked to investigate the alarming of them so that if any is removed from the wall then it sets off an audible alarm as a deterrent or at least alert others to what is happening
- 25 Bus Shelters** – (a) noted that residents had informed the Council during the public session on 21st July that the shelters in Swallow Street had been very quiet following the removal of one side of the older one (b) noted information from the police regarding the incident on 20th April and that someone had been apprehended for this. Clerk to write to residents who came to the meeting on Monday night to inform them of this and apologise that they did not get a chance to speak in the public session nor speak with Chief Inspector Wrigley
- 26 .Playgrounds** – (a) received the latest RoSPA report. Noted that all the defects are minor and that the grounds maintenance team are working through the repairs listed. (b) Report of an injury caused by a gate to the play area at Iver Heath but no fault found with the gate. Noted.
- 27 Allotments** – request for sheds – plot 22 at Iver (80’’x48’’x72’’) plus cold frame to run full width of the shed with height of 24’’ and plot 22 Iver Heath (6’ x 4’). Both sheds to be wooden structures. Resolved to permit these with the usual conditions that they should not be on a permanent base.
- 28 Recreation Grounds**
- (i) **Iver Heath** (a) bollard/kerbing in front of tennis court is now complete. Noted and Mrs Leech and Mr Lidgate thanked. (b) summer programme involving the recreation grounds appended. Clerk was asked to discuss with Sally the possibility for advertising sooner and more widely. (c) damage to new CCTV cameras (3 occurrences) have been reported to the police and there is some footage from the dome camera. It was noted that the police can roughly see who is responsible but not enough for evidence in court. The people concerned have been spoken to by the police. The CCTV company are looking at more robust fixings

and cages for the cameras. Clerk was asked to get the maintenance team to put anti climb paint on all the roof edges at the back and sides of the building with appropriate signage. (ii) **Iver** (a) sign requesting dogs to be kept on leads was put up on the changing rooms (facing the car park) week commencing 23rd June – it was noted that neither the Police nor SBDC has any facility for enforcing dog control orders and bylaws. Clerk was asked to write to the football club to say that they would have to check the pitches before play each time. (b) Resolved to set the charges for mini soccer pitches at Iver at £120 for weekly use during the season and £60 for fortnightly use as this is in line with Kidderminster Park (the nearest similar facility). It was also agreed to request £200 of the £400 still owed by the Club for last season. (c) buddy swing has been removed until the maintenance team can relay the safety surface tiles Noted. (d) a new trampoline mat is required following damage that looks to be deliberate. Price is £1595 but an insurance claim will be made. Resolved to replace the trampoline bed despite a recent incident where a young person broke her ankle because taking note of the RoSPA advice (appended) it was felt that the benefits of the play value of the equipment outweigh the risks.

- 29 **Seat** – the seat donated by the Rotary Club (near the Iver Village sign outside Kings Church) has had the back removed but it was quite rotten. Noted that the Rotary Club will be asked if they wish to repair it. 2 new seats approved at the last meeting will be installed in August. Noted.
- 30 **Burial Ground** – (a) Resolved to approve the memorial regulations (appended) and to add that it is strongly recommended that monolith memorials are used with a reminder that any repairs or refurbishment of the memorials is the responsibility of the owner. (b) Resolved that a reminder that the parish council will remove items from graves after 6 months and a reminder that permission should be sought for structures such as seats and memorials would be sent out with the memorial regulations as the action to take following a complaint from a resident regarding inappropriate items on graves and installation of seats without permission. (c) Resolved to approve the press release appended (c) Resolved not to erect a sign in the burial ground. (d) Noted that the maintenance team will be undertaking training in the testing of memorials in September. Following this a report will be made to the Committee regarding proposals for testing the memorials in the burial ground. For information a report by the ICCM on installation, inspection, management and maintenance of memorials is appended.
- 31 **Bowls Club** - grant of £425, as agreed at the time of drawing up the lease, to refund the annual lease fee – resolved to approve grant of £425 under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 32 **Thorney Park** – referred by full Council for discussion of ideas for its use by young people as requested by BCC. Clerk was asked to consult with Sally Tugwell as to what the young people might like to use it for, if anything.
- 33 **Nature Reserve** – Noted that Stewart Pomeroy has again written to BCC to see if the allotments can be included as part of the Nature Reserve.
- 34 **Vehicles** – (a) Use of Red Diesel – there has been some concern amongst Parish Councils that new legislation from HM Revenue and Customs from 1st April 2008 would mean that tractors towing gang mowers on the roads would have to change to white diesel. There is obviously concern about this because of the costs involved in changing over and then running on white diesel. Some Councils have written to their MPs. However the wording refers to unlicensed tractors and vehicles. The Parish Council tractor is licenced (albeit for £0). The Clerk advises that this may mean the Council is exempt. There is no clear advice at the present time and no help line telephone number supplied. Resolved to continue using red diesel for the time being pending further advice and information.
- (b) **Resolved** to approve purchase of used ride-on mower for the edges of the recreation grounds, allotments and other areas (£499). (c) Noted that the large van has been dented and the cost of

repair is approximately £1200. There were no third parties involved. Resolved that the clerk should not make an insurance claim and to use Swains for the repairs (having seen the 3 estimates).

35. Iver Heath Fields – report of possible insurance claim from a resident following a trip over tree roots was noted.

Graffiti on private property–Please give details of location and owner of the equipment/property to the Property Services department of SBDC.

Date of Next meeting – 29th October 2008 (budget setting meeting)

Meeting ended at 9.35 pm

CHAIRMAN