

Iron Acton Parish Meeting 2014

Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2014 at 20:00

Held at Iron Acton Parish Hall

Present: - Councillor Sheppard (Chairman), Councillor Bellis (Vice Chairman), Councillor Lomas, Councillor Blanchard, Councillor Huish, Councillor Tillotson, Councillor Taylor, Councillor Heal, South Gloucestershire Councillors Pat & Dave Hockey and Donna Beal (Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

25 members of the public were present.

01-05-14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Gawler.

02-05-14 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2013 had been previously circulated. Councillor Sheppard proposed and Lyn Noble seconded that these minutes be adopted and signed. **All Agreed**

03-05-13 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Councillor Bellis gave a report.

IAPC Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting 08.05.2014

I became Chairman of Iron Acton Parish Council in May last year. I would like to repeat my thanks for the contribution over many years of the previous Chairman, Councillor Bob Sheppard. I would also like to record my appreciation of the support given to me by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Chris Heal. We are admirably supported by our Clerk, Mrs Donna Beal. I aim in my work as Chairman to ensure that we do the right thing for the right reasons, which means inevitably that some things are not done 'the way they always have been'.

Communications – our means of getting our messages out are few. We are a small parish with limited means, so our traditional means, for those who are unable to attend meetings and hear it first hand, is the publication of agenda and minutes, and now we are able to use our website. We have had technical problems with this recently, not our fault, this has now been put right. We are looking into whether we would be better served by changing our web-site provider. We also use Focal Poyntz, which is a marvellous parish facility, but obviously it is limited to 3 times a year with a limited lead-in time. There will be some occasions where we need to use other means such as leafleting households, but we have to consider the cost of this against the benefit.

Speed Limit Consultation – last autumn we gave our input to South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) about possible speed limit changes in various parts of the parish. This was based on what we had heard from people, together with consideration of matters such as signage, enforcement, thoughts about whether such changes would change driving behaviour or not. This can be emotive for all sorts of reasons. In Latteridge we argued for, and won the case for, an extended 30mph limit where the professional view was that this could not work. On the other hand, by a small majority, we voted for no change to existing limits in the High Street, Holly Hill and associated nearby roads. We realise that this does not please everyone, but the overall consultation is not over so you still have the chance to make your voices heard to both your Parish Council and to SGC when the next stage comes up. It is important to understand that this is mainly a SGC matter, where the Parish Council has a voice but not a veto.

Frampton End Road – this is an example of where some voters, admittedly a large number from Frampton Cotterell, started a campaign and achieved the change they wanted, which in this case is

closure of the road to vehicles, to the benefit of walkers, cyclists and horse riders. This didn't happen overnight – these campaigns, and the legal processes for such changes, take years to carry out properly.

SGC Core Services – last autumn we had to make decisions because of the harsh reality of what the national financial situation means for local government. SGC have got less money, so they are going to do less for us, unless we pay. That is the simple message. We were given the choice of having the same level of service on such things as highways grass verge cutting, but paying for it, which means your precept goes up, or having the 'core service' level, which means the bare minimum. We would then need to decide to live at that level, or to provide our own service, which again would mean an increase in precept. So we decided to work with the basic 'core service'. On verges, for example, this means that we get 2 cuts a year. So we need to hear from you if that works for you, in the circumstances, or if you'd like us to arrange for more cutting at more expense on the precept.

Dog bins – as part of the 'core service' review, the previous dog bin service was withdrawn. Our choice was to pay to continue, or to have some general waste bins moved to provide a similar level of coverage, given that SGC will now accept dog waste in general bins. So we chose the no-cost option again. This has been a slightly difficult message to get out, but there should be no need for dog waste to go anywhere but in a nearby bin throughout the parish. We have brought with us tonight the map to show where every bin in the parish is either already located, or due to be located by SGC. The re-locations should be completed in June.

The recent closure of Church Road bridge in Frampton Cotterell has had a massive effect on the roads in and around Iron Acton. Unfortunately this closure will happen again in the summer, and for longer. We will be working closely with SGC officers and Councillors to come up with a better plan to manage the resulting traffic next time. You will probably not be surprised to hear that we were not consulted about arrangements the first time, or that the person with overall responsibility at SGC does not live in the area and is possibly unfamiliar with the roads affected.

At some time we will probably be invited to comment on a planning application for a solar farm at Latteridge. Although we have accepted the Community Benefit scheme should planning permission be granted by SGC, this does not bind us in any way at all when the plans are submitted – we can oppose the plans and still receive the benefit if they are given approval. Again, this is a contentious issue in many respects so please make sure that your views are made known to your Parish Councillors.

The continued pressure for development in or near Engine Common needs constant vigilance and input. We are indebted to the work of Mike Keenan and Save Engine Common, as well as Parish Councillors Bob Sheppard and Howard Gawler.

04-05-14 OTHER REPORTS

Councillor Taylor reported on behalf of the allotment association and advised that since the allotments were being run by the allotment association a dramatic improvement had been reached thanks was made to the allotment association for all the hard work.

Councillor Heal chairman of the parish meadows committee

South Gloucestershire Councillor Dave Hockey gave a verbal report points raised included:
Green bin charges

Church road closure and unexpected delays due to Bristol water having issues. It was observed that chaos had been caused in the surrounding arrears. Further work has been scheduled to coincide with

the summer school holidays which hope to take approximately six weeks but with no guarantees on the time schedule. It was stated that a better programme of procedures would be looked into for the further work.

Speed limits

Merlin consultations had taken place for residents, neighbours of residents and the whole parish. A parishioner raised concerns over the new waste bags provided that they were unsuitable Councillor Hockey advised that he would look into this.

Parishioners raised points over the speed limits and a poll was taken to show support for a 20 mile speed limit for Iron Acton high street and Nibley lane this and was recorded as 23 in favour.

South Gloucestershire councillor Pat Hockey gave a verbal report talking about planning and housing and the need for robust reasoning why engine common should stay green. It was advised that parishioners should speak at consultations and make themselves heard.

A written report was supplied from North road school noting the achievements and developments throughout the year.

North road ladies gave a verbal report and advised that it currently had 48 members and new members were welcome. It was advised that £1300 had been raised for a meningitis charity last year and plans were in process or more fundraising.

The cinema society reported that it was doing well and new equipment was soon to be purchased from the grant applied for from south Gloucestershire council.

Iron Acton parish hall reported that the hall was being well used and that it was a great asset to the parish and that plans were being looked into to redevelop the entrance hall.

05-05-14 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The Audited accounts for 2012/ 2013 had been previously circulated. Councillor Bellis proposed and Councillor Lomas seconded that these accounts be adopted and signed. **All Agreed**

06-05-14 UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2013

The Unaudited accounts for 2012/ 2013 had been previously circulated. No observations were raised.

07-05-14 ANY NEW BUSINESS

A comment was raised in relation to the green bin collection and it was noted that the redundant green bins would be collected in the autumn.

It was raised about the new street lights being kept in keeping for a conservation area, councillor Hockey advised that this would be looked into and keep the parish council informed.

A suggestion was made about a new light being put at the entrance of the parish meadow.

White lines were requested for around the hammer head Councillor Pat and Dave Hockey would look into this.

It was noted that a request was made to look into when the rubbish bins would now be collected due to the dog waste being deposited in them, the clerk will contact South Gloucestershire council to gain a response to the question.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

DRAFT

DRAFT