

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 16th February 2009**

The meeting of Iron Acton Parish Council was held in the Marshall Rooms, Iron Acton commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:- Mr. Bellis (Vice Chairman), Mrs. Aplin, Mr. Lomas, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Evans (Clerk)

Action

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None. Four members of the public were present.

01-02-09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Sheppard, Gawler, Weldrake, Blanchard, Heal and Hockey. Councillor Gawler had informed the Clerk that he would be slightly late.

02-02-09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Personal and/or Prejudicial

None declared.

03-02-09 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2009 had been circulated. Councillor Lomas proposed and Councillor Aplin seconded that these minutes be approved and signed. All agreed.

04-02-09 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Bellis reported that he had attended the recent Rural & Parish Matters meeting on 9th February 2009. Councillor Bellis felt that this had been an excellent opportunity to network with other Parish Councils and SGC staff, and had obtained a number of useful contact details, which he would pass on to the Clerk. In particular these were Deborah White and Jacqui Ward from Community Planning, and Owen Jenkins, Highways Maintenance Manager. It was felt that it may be a good idea to invite these people along to one of our Parish Council meeting to give a presentation on their respective departments' activities and how they can help our Parish Council.

05-02-09 CLERK'S REPORT

Allotments - The Clerk had received notification from Bristol Water that they will be inspecting the water trough.

Cemetery - Yet again, the dog bin had not been emptied for some time. This has been reported to Streetcare. A credit note of £12.59 had been received in connection with the charges for the previous quarter. The Clerk had been in contact with SGC and Sita regarding the provision of a black and green bin for the cemetery. The green bin has been received, but Sita is looking into whether there will be charges for the black bin. The Clerk had persuaded her two sons that they would like the job of ensuring that the bins are taken to the roadside for collection and return to the cemetery on a Friday.

Village Green - The letter to the residents of the village green had been delayed. The Clerk has given a draft copy to Councillor Blanchard for comment. The letter will be sent out in due course.

Streetcare - Flooding in North Road - An email has been sent to Streetcare in connection with the continuing flooding problems in parts of North Road. Councillor Lomas kindly supplied photographs to emphasise the problem, together with full details of the location. A response is awaited.

Web Site - An email has been sent to Jon Aries thanking him, but declining his offer of expanding the Parish Council's details on the village web site. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council's own web site is currently being populated.

Works Around Parish - The overhanging ivy in Park Street will be removed by Mr. Cole at a cost of approximately £100-£125.00.

Parish Meadows - Confirmation has been received from RoSPA that their annual inspection will be undertaken in June. The Clerk has also been liaising with Chris and Jo Wright in connection with the planting schemes for the Meadows. Mrs. Wright has already planted some 500 bulbs. The Clerk has also prepared a grant application document in connection with SGC's environmental grant monies. Unfortunately the money for the current financial year has been spent, we will therefore need to re-submit in April. We are also able to claim grant money equivalent to £6.50 per hour, per person for any voluntary labour. The Clerk has also received a telephone call from Mrs. Fiona Bourns regarding the displacement of the boundary fence, by one of our trees. The Clerk has asked Mr. Wright to have a look at this and report back. It may necessitate the cutting down of the tree and replacing the fence.

Annual Parish Meeting - The Clerk has booked North Road School hall for the evening of Friday 8th May. This has been advertised on both notice boards and will be included in the Parish Council's article for Focal Poyntz, and will be advertised in the Gazette at the appropriate time.

Parking, High Street - Our response has been sent to SGC in connection with the implementation of parking restriction. A response is awaited.

Gypsy & Traveller Consultation - The Parish Council's comments have been emailed to SGC.

Training - The Clerk was unable to attend the Planning - Permitted Development briefing on 23rd January. The handouts for this meeting have been emailed to the Clerk for information.

Planning - Councillor Taylor requested that the Clerk contact the SGC Enforcement section regarding Lavanham Farm. It appears that the first occupation has taken place and they are therefore in breach of condition 18 of PK06/0769/F, requiring the completion of four passing bays in Nibley Lane prior to occupation. This occupation was confirmed by an update from SGC on the electoral role. The Clerk has received confirmation from SGC that they are treating this as an alleged breach of planning control. The Clerk has also received confirmation from SGC that the street trading licence for Tash's Tasties on Dean Road has been approved. The Clerk has also received confirmation from SGC on the tree preservation order at Cherry Lodge, which was confirmed without modification.

Miscellaneous - The Clerk reported that notification has been received from SGC that members of the public can now make an appointment on-line with the Register Office in Poole Court in order to register a birth, marriage, death or civil partnership. This piece of information has been included in the Parish Council's article for Focal Poyntz.

06-02-09 **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Councillor Gawler had provided a report to the Clerk via email, specifically in connection with our Avon & Somerset Police Beat Manager and PCSO's.

Councillor Gawler had a meeting with Chief Inspector Tony Oliver and Inspector Caroline Howard and Phil Moss of SGC Safer Stronger Group. They have a problem of keeping the workload even as PC Lee Bainbridge only works 5 days on and 5 days off. This equates to approx. 182 days per year instead of 250 approx. They have therefore decided to reduce PC Bainbridge's beat size to Charfield, Wickwar, Rangeworthy and Bagstone. Tytherington will go to Thornbury South and Alveston, whilst the whole of Iron Acton will join Frampton Cotterell. The current Beat Manager is PC Barroclough, who retires shortly but will be replaced. This means that Iron Acton will work out of Chipping Sodbury. Ladden Brook Safer & Stronger will therefore only cover two parishes and will alternate between Rangeworthy and Wickwar. The Police do not wish to amalgamate with another, or for Neighbourhood Watch to be merged into it, at least for the time being.

07-02-09 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported balances as at 16th February 2009 of:-

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| National Westminster Current Account | £3,383.02 |
| National Westminster Reserve Account | £10,416.15 |
| National Savings Accounts | £15,892.87 |

The Clerk reported that on checking the last bank statement, the Parish Council have again been debited a £10.00 charge on 31st October. This is contrary to what had been agreed at the meeting with our account manager on 18th September 2008. The Clerk has therefore written to the bank asking them to explain why these charges have suddenly appeared again. It is assumed that the 'account maintenance charge' of £6.00 per quarter will have to stand, but the Clerk has asked that the cheque and cash handling fees are waived. The Clerk has also pointed out to the account manager that there is no overdraft facility on the account, and that the Parish Council has some £10,500 deposited in the reserve account.

The Clerk asked the permission of the Parish Councillors to set up an account with a local stationer (Ross Office Supplies). They are able to offer very competitive prices. Since the demise of Woolworths in Yate, the only other place to purchase things such as paper, toner cartridges etc is Rymans (who are extremely expensive), and DTB's never seem to have any in stock. **It was agreed** that an account be set up. Proposed Councillor Bellis, seconded Councillor Aplin. The Clerk would also investigate Viking Direct.

The Clerk reported that the National Association of Local Council Clerks consider it to be good practice for the Council's accounts to be spot-checked periodically by a member Parish Councillor. **It was agreed** that this would be instigated in the new financial year, the first time being April 2009. The first check would either be carried out by the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

08-02-09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PRIOR NOTIFICATIONS/TREE WORKS

- PK09/0116/F - Rose Cottage, Dyers Lane - Erection of single storey and first floor side extensions, single storey rear extension and conversion of existing garage to form additional living accommodation. No objections, as long as proposed materials are compatible with existing.
- PK09/0280/LB - Acton House, The Green, Iron Acton - Internal and external alterations to include replacement windows to south and east elevations, removal of fixed glass panel to south elevation and replace with French doors. No objections.

- PK09/0192/F - Little Orchard, The British - Erection of detached garage. No objections.
- PK09/0253/F - Castle Fields, Latteridge Road, Iron Acton - Erection of single storey side extension to provide additional living accommodation (resubmission of PK08/2188/F). No objections.

09-02-09 **PLANNING CONSENTS**

- PK08/3156/F - Hoover's Lane, Bristol Road (minute 08-12-08)
- PK08/3101/O - Land adjoining 306 North Road (minute 08-12-08)
- PK08/3202/F - Site Adjacent White Hart Inn, High Street, Iron Acton (minute 08-01-09)

10-02-09 **PLANNING REFUSALS/WITHDRAWALS/APPEALS**

- PK08/3120/LB - Stonewall House, The Green, Iron Acton (minute 08-12-08)
- PK08/1752/F - Cherry Lodge, Bristol Road (09-07-08)

11-02-09 **PLANNING APPEALS**

PK07/2927/CLE - Little Acre, Dyers Lane (appeal allowed, enforcement quashed)

12-02-09 **STREET TRADING APPLICATION**

A renewal application for a Street Trading Consent had been received via SGC for Scoff the Lot, in the lay-by on Latteridge Road. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council had no objections to this application. The Clerk will inform SGC accordingly.

Clerk

13-02-09 **REQUEST FOR DONATION**

A request for a donation from Paul's Place had been received. Paul's Place is a charity based in Coalpit Heath who work with physically, sensory or cognitively disabled adults. **It was agreed** that a donation of £100 would be made. Proposed Councillor Bellis, seconded Councillor Taylor.

14-02-09 **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE BIG SPRING CLEAN 2009**

Correspondence had been received from SGC regarding the annual Big Spring Clean 2009 (1st to 30th April), encouraging neighbourhoods and organisations to get involved. Following discussion, **it was agreed** that the Parish Council would send a letter of thanks declining the invitation, as it was felt that our open spaces are relatively clear of litter. It is only the sides of roads that have this problem, and it was felt too dangerous for residents to pick litter in these places.

Clerk

15-02-09 **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CULTURAL STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Correspondence had been received from SGC regarding the draft Cultural Strategy running from 12th January to 3rd April 2009, which the Clerk had previously circulated. **It was agreed** that Councillor Aplin would prepare some comments on this document and report back to the Parish Council at the March meeting.

AA

16-02-09 **WEST OF ENGLAND PARTNERSHIP JOINT WASTE CORE STRATEGY**

Correspondence had been received from the West of England Partnership in connection with the Joint Waste Core Strategy, which the Clerk had previously circulated. Councillor Lomas had prepared some comments

17-02-09 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Paul's Place | Donation | £100.00 |
| South Glos Council | Dog Bin Collection | £64.61 |
| Iron Acton Parish Hall | Room Hire - 09.05.08 | £20.00 |
| Mrs. P. Evans | Telephone Bill | £63.69 |
| | External Hard Drive & Mr. Site | £166.98 |
| | McAfee Security Protection | £44.99 |

Proposed Councillor Bellis, seconded Councillor Taylor, all agreed that the above accounts be paid.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The full Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Monday 16th March 2009** in the Marshall Rooms, Iron Acton, commencing at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____