

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 21st February 2011**

The meeting of Iron Acton Parish Council was held in Iron Acton Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Action

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

Councillor Bellis expressed condolences on behalf of the Parish Council following the recent death of the Clerk's father-in-law. The Clerk thanked the Parish Council for their kind wishes and understanding over the past two weeks.

01-02-11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Sheppard, Gawler, Pat Hockey and Dave Hockey.

02-02-11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Personal and/or Prejudicial**

Councillor Taylor wished to declare an interest in Agenda Item 16 - request for financial assistance to Iron Acton Residents Association.

03-02-11 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th January RW, AA

04-02-11 **CLERK'S REPORT**

Action from January Meeting

06-01-11 - Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Clerk has emailed Mrs. Bennett requesting a list of all roads/streets within the Parish covered by the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, as well as a list of all the co-ordinators. Councillor Bellis said that it was his intention to stand down as treasurer of the Iron Acton NWS.

14-01-11 - Annual Grasscutting Tenders. Letters and tender documents have gone out to Landscape Services, SGC, Frog Lane Farm, Holly Hill Farm, D.R. Howse and Frome Valley Landscaping requesting that tenders be returned by 14th March 2011. Notification of tenders has also been placed on the Parish notice boards and the web site.

National Grid Presentation - The Parish Council has received an invitation for a Parish Councillor to attend a presentation by the National Grid followed by a question and answer session on Thursday 3rd March commencing at 16.00 hrs in Thornbury. This presentation will cover the proposed Hinkley Connections and likely works anticipated for the proposal for a new nuclear station at Oldbury. There is a possibility of some works in the vicinity of Iron Acton however no more information is available at this stage.

Cemetery - The Clerk has spoken to Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Gale in connection with the unsafe headstone of William Gale who was buried in Iron Acton in the 1940's. Mr. and Mrs. Gale are happy for the Parish Council to take whatever action necessary to make the headstone safe, and are quite content for it to be laid down on top of the plot. The Clerk will therefore ensure that this is done.

The footpath running through the cemetery also needs to be cleared of leaves. The Clerk will ask Mr. Hurley to do this.

The Clerk has checked the black and green bins in the cemetery weekly to see if they need to be emptied.

Private Lane, off High Street Hedge - The hedge was trimmed on Saturday 12th

February 2011 and all cuttings taken away.

Web Site - The Parish Council web site has been revamped and is now running smoothly. The Clerk has put on a number of photographs to enhance the site and the 'News and Information' page has been moved up the order so that it is now the second page.

Footpaths - The Clerk was contacted by a member of the public, Mr. Williams who lives in Frampton Cotterell. Mr. Williams was complaining about the height of the stile along the footpath opposite Algars Mill. I have passed this query onto SGC PROW team.

Dyers Pond - The pond has had its annual one third clearance.

E-On Parish Council Pack - The Clerk reported that E-On had sent a pack (small tool-box) to the Parish Council containing what was considered useful items that a household should have during a power cut. These items were an analogue corded telephone; a torch with batteries; a wind-up mobile telephone charger; a battery operated radio; a foil blanket; a reusable hand warmer. The Clerk will relay this information to parishioners via the Parish Council web site. Councillors questioned the usefulness of this pack considering the cost implications involved in putting together the box and postage.

Listed Building Consultation - The Clerk reported that SGC were undertaking a review of all listed and locally listed buildings within the county. In connection with Iron Acton Parish, SGC are proposing the addition of Avenue House and Dean Close to the locally listed list. The Clerk had queried Dean Close with SGC. It turns out that Avenue House had once been divided into two properties (Avenue House and Dean Close). When the property was subsequently sold, it was returned back to one property (Avenue House). The Clerk informed SGC of this and they have amended their records. The Clerk also enquired of SGC whether the owners of Avenue House had been informed of SGC intention to add this house to the locally listed list and SGC confirmed that the owners had been fully informed.

Trading Standards Alerts - The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that Trading Standards alerts had been received - "They are NOT from the Waterboard" and Scamnesty 2011. Both of these alerts had been publicised on the web site.

Turning Off Street Lights - The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that a letter had been received from Inspector Deryck Rees of Chipping Sodbury Police Station. Recent trials have been undertaken in connection with the turning off of street lights in a number of areas throughout South Gloucestershire. The official Police position is that they neither support nor disapprove of the scheme, and the decision to switch off street lighting is for the town or parish and district council to make, not the Police.

Speedvisor Results Wotton Road - The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the results of the Speedvisor sign that had been located south of Chaingate Lane on the Wotton Road between 8th January and 7th February 2011. The sign had revealed that 85% of the traffic speeds had been above the 40mph limit. Therefore the sign will be programmed to be reinstated at this location as part of the on-going speed reminder programme.

05-02-11 **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Councillor Dave Hockey reported as follows:-

- Frampton End Road Petition - Peter Jackson, Brian Allinson and Mark Shearman walked the whole of Frampton End Road on Thursday 17th February together with some of the residents who had organised and signed the recent petition. They experienced the road from a walkers viewpoint as well as meeting and

talking to drivers, horse riders and families out walking with dogs and buggies when confronted with 'white van man' etc. Mr. Shearman has ordered black box monitoring equipment to be installed in the coming weeks to check on vehicle speeds and numbers using the road. Mr. Shearman expects to issue his report and recommendations needed to make the road safer for all users for consideration at the April round of Parish Council meetings.

- Core Strategy – Engine Common Proposal. The Public Enquiry into the Core Strategy is being brought forward to June/July 2011. Bloor Homes are expected to make their case at the Inquiry.
- Bags for Cardboard – As reported in last week's Gazette, SITA and SGC have done a 'u-turn' and are now intending to provide heavy duty bags, larger than the one provided for paper collection, to all residents who want one for cardboard recycling. They will be made available in approximately six weeks time for collection by residents from local sources, eg Parish Councils, SORT IT Centres etc.

06-02-11 PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Rubry – a lot of action in crossing cottage estate. Clerk to enquire about 'Estate Manager' status.

LB – Write to SGC re Morrisons depot ask what would be required to happen if it was change to an alternative user rather than a delivery lorry place. Meeting at Rangeworthy on Friday night. Question has been asked at various meeting is it possible to do it and what are the cost implications involved. Moment you change the use you devalue the property.

07-02-11 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported balances as at 17th February 2011 of:-

National Westminster Current Account	£ 3,172.84
National Westminster Reserve Account	£ 160.70
National Savings Accounts	£16,418.35

In connection with the Parish Council's disputed 2009/10 audit fee, the Clerk had received an email from Mazars stating that the scale of charges are set nationally by the Audit Commission and not Mazars. Therefore if the Parish Council had an objection to the fees then they should direct their complaint to the Audit Commission. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would settle the 2009/2010 fee of £334.88. Proposed Councillor Bellis and seconded Councillor Weldrake. **All agreed.**

The Clerk also report that a letter had been received from Mr. Iain Selkirk offering his services as an Independent Internal Auditor. **It was agreed** that Mr. Selkirk be confirmed as the Parish Council's Independent Internal Auditor for financial year ended 2010/2011. Proposed Councillor Bellis and seconded Councillor Weldrake. **All agreed.**

08-02-11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PRIOR NOTIFICATIONS/TREE WORKS

- PK11/0321/F - Hapenny Cottage, Chaingate Lane, Iron Acton – Erection of single storey side extension to provide additional living accommodation (resubmission of PK10/2031/F). No objections.
- PK11/0328/F - 327 North Road, Yate – Erection of two storey side and rear extension to form additional living accommodation, erection of replacement garage roof and erection of front porch. Creation of new vehicular access from North Road. No objections, providing the extension is built with compatible materials and is in keeping with the existing building.
- PK11/0477/F - Garborne, Chaingate Lane, Iron Acton – Erection of two storey rear extension and first floor side extension to provide additional living accommodation. No objections.

09-02-11 PLANNING CONSENTS

- PK10/3454/F – Land at Larks Lane, Iron Acton
- PK10/3559/F – WH Bence Coachworks Ltd, Great Western Business Park

10-02-11 **PLANNING REFUSALS/WITHDRAWALS/APPEALS**

- PK10/3557/CLP – Bramble Cottage, Latteridge Road, Iron Acton (refusal)

11-02-11 **PLANNING APPEALS**

- COM/10/0106/COU/1 – Bridge Cottage, Stover Road, Yate. The Clerk was instructed to request a copy of the Planning Inspectorate's decision notice and also to reiterate the Parish Council's objections to the original planning application for change of use.

12-02-11 **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT**

- None received.

13-02-11 **DISTRICT & PARISH ELECTIONS**

23rd May – Hall then school, APM LB, RW

14-02-11 **CEMETERY**

- To approve and sign the increased burial/memorial fees for cemetery. RW/PB
- To approve the request for the burial of England RW/DT
- To consider quote received for repair of cemetery/allotment wall. Ask for second and third quote.
- To approve the request for the erection of a headstone - Cadbury

15-02-11 **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that membership of the Open Spaces Society is due for renewal at a cost of £40.00 per annum. Following discussion, **it was agreed** not to renew the Parish Council's membership of this organisation. Proposed Councillor Heal and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.** The Clerk **Clerk** was instructed to respond accordingly.

16-02-11 **REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- A request for financial assistance had been received from St. Peter's Hospice in Bristol. **It was agreed** that a donation of £250.00 would be made. Proposed Councillor Bellis and seconded Councillor Weldrake. **All agreed.**
- A new request for financial assistance had been received from Victim Support. **It was agreed** that a replacement cheque for £100.00 would be sent. Proposed Councillor Bellis and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.**
- A request for a donation of £50.00 had been received from Yate Heritage Centre. **It was agreed** that on this occasion the Parish Council would not donate any monies. Proposed Councillor Bellis and seconded Councillor Blanchard. **All agreed.**
- Councillor Taylor left the meeting room. A request for financial assistance had been received from Iron Acton Residents Association
- A request for a donation had been received from the County Air Ambulance Trust. **It was agreed that** a donation of £100.00 would be made. Proposed Councillor Heal and seconded Councillor Bellis. **All agreed.**

17-02-11 **ALLOTMENTS**

- To consider increasing allotment rents for 2012/2013. £25/£35 Parishioner and Non-Parishioner. Phasing out Pensioner. To cover increased water costs. Have in effect been subsidising.
- Standpipe. Happy with that. DT/ RL

18-02-11 **JOINT PARISHES CYCLEWAY GROUP**

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that Yate Town Council intend to pass on administration costs of between £47.42 and £94.83 per meeting. This cost would be split equally between Group Members. Following discussion, **it was agreed** that Iron Acton Parish Council would not continue membership and withdraw.

Proposed Councillor Aplin and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.** The Clerk **Clerk** was instructed to respond to Yate Town Council accordingly.

19-02-11 **IRON ACTON VILLAGE GREEN**

One parishioner complained to councillor Weldrake. PB Piecemeal approach traffic management review has yet to gather findings. Good and practical to sort out the approach to misappropriate parking on the village green. Mr. Hitchings. DT parking has got worse, tyre tracks are prominent. All around the green as a gap will be exploited; leave a gate; radical change in the appearance of the village green. £35.00/ tonne. CH proposed additional signage located at three points around the green and saying that the cars will be removed. PB seconded. DT If situation has not improved by the end of August then alternative more permanent solution will be instigated. Article to go into FP about history of v green P?E to get prices and phone. Email the councillors. LB.

20-02-11 **PARISH MEADOW PLAY AREA**

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that notification had been received from Playsafety Ltd in connection with the annual safety inspection, which was due to be conducted in June. Playsafety Ltd had charged £107 plus VAT for last year's inspection. The Clerk had contacted GB Sport & Leisure who installed the climbing net and they have confirmed that they would be able to undertake a RoSPA approved safety inspection for approximately £80. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would request GB Sport & Leisure to undertake this year's inspection. Proposed Councillor Bellis and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.** The Clerk **Clerk** was instructed to contact GB Sport & Leisure accordingly.

21-02-11 **REQUEST FOR WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT**

The Clerk informed the Councillors of a request by Michael Evans (Clerk's son) to see if it would be possible for the Parish Council to accommodate his work experience placement for a week in July. Michael is extremely interest in history and wishes to study this at A Level. The Clerk confirmed that if the Parish Council was in agreement to this placement then there were a number of projects he could undertake such as cataloguing the deeds and documents held at the bank; researching how pieces of land came into the Parish Council's custodianship and plotting the timeline; inputting cemetery data; taking photographs of the parish to provide a pictorial snapshot of how the parish looks now and comparing it to historical pictures. The placement would be for 25 hours over the course of the week and the Clerk confirmed that she was more than happy to personally accommodate the extra hours. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council accept this placement. Proposed Councillor Bellis and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.**

21-02-11 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Ross Office Supplies	Stationery - Lateral filing rails	£17.63
Mrs. P. Evans	Salary	£570.47
Mazars LLP	Audit Fee	£334.88
St. Peter's Hospice	Donation	£250.00
Victim Support	Donation	£100.00
County Air Ambulance	Donation	£100.00

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 21st March 2011 in the Marshall Rooms, Iron Acton, commencing at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed:

Dated:
