

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

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

Present:- Mr. Lomas (Acting Chairman), Mr. Taylor, Miss. Blanchard, Mr. Gawler (Councillor and South Gloucestershire Councillor), Mr. Heal, Miss. Weldrake, Mrs. Aplin, Mr. D. Hockey (South Gloucestershire Councillor) and Mrs. Evans (Clerk)

Action

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Fifteen members of the public were present.

Mr. Carver brought the Parish Council up to date in connection with the Frampton End Road campaign. He had attended SGC meeting on 15th December 2010 and following on from that meeting a few members of SGC had walked the lane with members of the campaign group and confirmed that there are problems with safety issues and traffic. There are 760 signatures on the petition of support, 178 signatures of support from Iron Acton residents, cyclists, walkers and horse riders. Mr. Carver invited Iron Acton Parish Councillors to walk the lane to experience the problems for themselves, and offered the dates of 6th or 9th April. The Clerk was asked to liaise between Mr. Carver and the Parish Councillors.

A number of residents addressed the Parish Council in connection with the Bloor Homes proposal to develop Engine Common. The residents were present to show their continued objection to any development, and have distributed a flyer around the parish informing parishioners of the proposed development and seeking support. Residents have formed a campaign group and have been in touch with Steve Webb MP, who has expressed his support to keep Engine Common rural. They have also set up an on-line petition which has been signed by local residents and the Evening Post has also been in touch with them. The campaign group felt it was somewhat underhand the way Bloor Homes submitted their proposals on the very last day of the Consultation, thereby not allowing the campaign group to submit their comments/objections. SGC is well aware of the views of residents, and Councillor Pat Hockey has said she would be happy to write to Mr. Patrick Conroy to formally ask how the action group should proceed in order to get a slot at the Public Inquiry later this year. Councillor Dave Hockey informed the meeting that the Inspector will look at the draft Core Strategy document later in the summer, although no date has been agreed yet. The Engine Common Action Group would be invited to attend the Public Inquiry which should take place locally. The whole of the draft Core Strategy document will be discussed at the Public Inquiry. The rules of the Public Inquiry need to be established, as they can sometimes change. It was also mentioned that increasing the parish by 350 houses (Bloor Homes proposal), would increase the size of Iron Acton Parish by some 70%.

01-03-11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Sheppard, Bellis and Pat Hockey.

02-03-11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Personal and/or Prejudicial

None received.

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

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2011 had been circulated. Councillor Heal requested that 'Hanson' be changed to 'Cemex' in minute number 19-02-11. Councillor Heal proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded that these minutes be approved and signed subject to the agreed amendment. **All agreed.**

04-03-11 CLERK'S REPORT

Action from February Meeting

06-02-11 – The Clerk has emailed SGC regarding activities at Crossing Cottage estate. Currently awaiting a response.

06-02-11 – Regarding the request by Councillor Blanchard to enquire of SGC about a change of use for the Morrisons depot following their withdrawal from the site, Councillor Hockey emailed a copy of a Motion to go before SGC on 23rd March – Lorries Associated with Yate Distribution Depots.

15-01-11 and 18-02-11 – The Clerk has emailed the Open Spaces Society and Joint Cycleway Group informing them of the Parish Council's decision not to continue membership.

19-02-11 – The Clerk has endeavoured to contact Bribex in Yate to request prices for additional signage for the village green. Unfortunately the person that the Clerk needed to speak with has been out of the office for a considerable amount of time. In lieu of any communication with Bribex the Clerk requested a quote from a company called Archer Signs. Their quote was for approximately £100 per sign, which was emailed to Parish Councillors for their attention. The Clerk then contacted Bribex again and spoke with one of the Directors, who was most apologetic that our enquiry had not been dealt with. The Clerk has been assured that a quote will be with the Parish Council by Monday 21st March for consideration.

20-02-11 – The Clerk has emailed GB Sport and Leisure requesting that they undertake the annual RoSPA accredited inspection of the play equipment in the Parish Meadow.

Heron Homes Exhibition, Brimsham Park - The Clerk attended the Heron Homes Exhibition on Friday 11th March 2011 in connection with their proposal to extend Brimsham Park with a further 1,500 homes and office/unit facilities. A number of residents of Yate Rocks were also present as this proposed development will affect them. Some of the land to be developed is highlighted as being a risk of flooding, as advised by the Environment Agency. Access to the proposed development will use existing roads. The development also contains the proposal for two additional primary schools.

Engine Common – Bloor Homes - A flyer has been distributed around the parish by residents concerned over the possible development by Bloor Homes on land at Engine Common. The Clerk has been contacted by a number of residents who have expressed their interest in attending Parish Council meetings.

Grasscutting Tenders - The Clerk has shown Mr. Bird of Frome Valley Landscaping around the areas covered by the annual grasscutting contract.

Year End Accounts - The Clerk has commenced preparation work in connection with the year end accounts.

Further the Clerk reported that letters had been received from County Air Ambulance Trust, Victim Support and St. Peter's Hospice thanking the Parish Council for their donations.

05-03-11 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Councillor Dave Hockey reported that the Frome Valley Farm shop has agreed to allow a pedestrian access from the footpath on Green Lane. A bridge will be put across the ditch. This should happen by the end of April.

Dog fouling is still a problem in and around the village and quite a high profile problem as highlighted in the recent Focus questionnaire. Unfortunately as there are only two SGC dog wardens they are only able to deal with high priority areas. SGC are investigating the possibility of introducing a scheme similar to one in Scotland

there responsible dog walkers wear an armband and try to encourage other dog owners to be responsible and clear up after their dogs.

Councillor Hockey reported that there is also an issue with speeding cars along Nibley Lane which is currently being looked into. Councillor Taylor said that this problem had become worse since the new SGC offices had been built on Badminton Road. Councillor Hockey confirmed that SGC officers will be taking appropriate action.

Councillor Gawler reported that North Road School had received money for a new roof, new electrics and other repairs around the school. A new gas pipeline is programmed to be installed during the summer, along North Road as far as the school.

Councillor Gawler also reported that Wotton Road is programmed for a top dressing, but was unable to confirm how long the stretch would be. A fair amount of work has to be done to repair the road.

06-03-11 **PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Councillor Taylor reported that dog fouling in the cemetery is becoming an increasing problem. Also people are allowing their dogs off the lead despite the notice asking that all dogs are kept on a lead through the cemetery. Recently, a local resident, Mrs. Taylor was tending to a grave when she was attacked by two black Labradors. Councillor Blanchard suggested putting a notice in Focal Poyntz reminding people to keep their dogs on leads, and ask Mrs. Blake to do a comic-style drawing. The Clerk was also asked to look into getting sign repaired at the Chilwood Close end of the cemetery.

Councillor Taylor also reported that the green and black bins in the cemetery are being used, although rubbish is still be dumped on the pile in the allotment.

Councillor Blanchard reported on the recent National Grid presentation she attended regarding works to the Hinkley C and Oldbury connections. The Larks Lane substation within Iron Acton Parish would have to be made bigger. Councillor Blanchard also reported that National Grid would be happy to show the Parish Councillors around the Sub-Station, and somebody would be in touch with the Clerk in order to arrange this.

Councillor Blanchard also reported that she had attended the recent Heron Homes concept presentation in connection with their proposed development at Brimsham. The actual boards that were on display at the presentation are on Heron Homes web site - www.heron-northyate.info.

07-03-11 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

National Westminster Current Account	£ 2,757.46
National Westminster Reserve Account	£ 160.70
National Savings Accounts	£16,418.35

08-03-11 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PRIOR NOTIFICATIONS/TREE WORKS**

PK11/0760/F - Barn 6 Lavenham Farm, Nibley Lane, Iron Acton - Conversion of building 6 as shown on sheet P3/A from work/live unit ancillary to building 5 to an independent residential dwelling with separate access. To object that no further development takes place at Lavenham Farm until the four passing bays (condition 18 of PK06/0769/F) are constructed on Nibley Lane.

09-03-11 **PLANNING CONSENTS**

- PK11/0328/F - 327 North Road, Yate
- PK10/3274/F - Irondale House, High Street, Iron Acton

- PK10/3273/CA – Irondale House, High Street, Iron Acton

10-03-11 **PLANNING REFUSALS/WITHDRAWALS/APPEALS**

- None received.

11-03-11 **PLANNING APPEALS**

- Bridge Cottage, Stover Road – The appeal has been withdrawn. SGC and the occupier of Bridge Cottage have agreed to a four month delay period in order to comply with the Enforcement Notice to cease the unauthorised use of the site following refusal of planning permission.

12-03-11 **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT**

- None received.

13-03-11 **CEMETERY**

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that a request had been received from Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Evans of Sunset View Cottage, Breadstone, Berkeley, Glos GL13 9HF who wish to reserve a burial plot within Iron Acton Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Evans are originally from Iron Acton and have relatives buried in the cemetery. **It was agreed** that this request be allowed at non-parishioner rates. Proposed Councillor Heal and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.** The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. and Mrs. Evans accordingly.

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that permission had been requested for the erection of a headstone, surround and vase for the late Mr. Barry Rubery. **It was agreed** that permission be granted. Proposed Councillor Blanchard and seconded Councillor Weldrake. **All agreed.** The Clerk also informed the Councillors that when the memorial masons has telephoned to enquire about the fees, they had omitted to mention that a vase was also to be erected. The Clerk will contact Summers and request an additional £20.00 fee for the vase.

Councillor Weldrake addressed the Parish Councillors. There are a number of burial plots within Iron Acton Cemetery that have had unofficial surrounds built using locally purchased path edging type materials. Although families apply for the correct permission to erect a headstone and pay the appropriate fee, they do not apply for the additional edging. Councillor Weldrake therefore requested that the Parish Councillors pay a visit to the cemetery in order to take a look at the unofficial surrounds. **It was agreed** that the Parish Councillors would visit the cemetery at 7.00pm on Monday 18th April 2011 prior to the Parish Council meeting. Proposed Councillor Weldrake and seconded Councillor Blanchard. **All agreed.**

14-03-11 **ANNUAL GRASSCUTTING TENDERS**

The Clerk reported that tenders figures had been received from Landscape Services quoting £5,770.85; Frome Valley Landscaping quoting £5,723.73; Holly Hill Farm quoting £3,807.75 and DR Howse quoting £4,410.00 although DR Howse had not quoted for the Nibley Lane allotment bank. The Clerk expressed her concerns regarding the standard of cut that could be achieved by Holly Hill Farm as they would probably be using a mowing unit pulled by a tractor. Following discussion **it was agreed** to accept the tender from Holly Hill Farm. The Clerk was requested to write to Holly Hill Farm confirming acceptance of their tender and request a copy of their Public Liability Insurance certificate. Once this had been received then the contract could commence. Proposed Councillor Heal and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.**

Clerk

15-03-11 **NIBLEY LANE ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that an allotment has become available at Nibley Lane. The Clerk had also received a letter from another tenant on the Station Road allotments confirm that they wanted to give up their allotment. Bearing in mind the long waiting list, the Clerk requested that the Councillors give

consideration to dividing both of these allotments into half allotments in order to reduce the waiting list. **It was agreed** that these allotments be divided. **It was also agreed** that rents for the half allotments be £15.00 for a parishioner and £20.00 for a non-parishioner and be charged for any new tenant as from this financial year. Councillor Heal proposed and Councillor Blanchard seconded. **All agreed.** The Clerk was instructed to proceed with the allocation of these half allotments.

Clerk

16-03-11 **PARK STREET, IRON ACTON**

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors that an application had been received from SGC for the temporary closure of Park Street from 10.00am to 5.00pm to facilitate the annual Iron Acton May Day Celebrations. **It was agreed** that no objections be raised. Proposed Councillor Weldrake and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.**

17-03-11 **YATE BUS TERMINAL**

Councillor Lomas addressed the Parish Councillors. Councillor Lomas raised his concerns about the new canopy at Yate bus terminus. When Councillor Lomas recently used the Yate terminus a number of elderly people were also waiting, shivering and getting wet because the canopy does not have any sides and therefore cannot provide protection against the wind and rain. Councillor Lomas requested that the Parish Council express their concerns over the design of the canopy. Councillor Hockey confirmed that the new bus terminus is the joint responsibility of SGC and Tesco, and that Yate Town Council is also pushing to get this problem fixed. Councillor Hockey therefore suggested that the Clerk liaise with the Clerk at Yate Town Council about what course of action is being taken, and keep Councillor Lomas informed. Proposed Councillor Lomas and seconded Councillor Gawler. **All agreed.**

18-03-11 **BUS STOPS**

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors of an email received from Mrs. Dunn who lives on the old Yate Road regarding the bus stop on Iron Acton Way. Mrs. Dunn believes that the Iron Acton Way bus stop is positioned inappropriately and doesn't really serve residents at the top end of Yate Road nor residents of Dyers Lane. Presently they seem to be situated in the middle of nowhere and the stop on the opposite side of the road to Murray Hire is just a little square of concrete with no footpath to follow so that bus users have to cross a very busy road in order to walk to their destination. Also the current location of the Iron Acton Way bus stops means that residents do not get a chance to catch the 88 buses. Mrs. Dunn is asking for the Parish Council's support to take this matter forward and re-site the stops to a more convenient location. **It was agreed** that the Clerk write to Mr. Peter Walker of the SGC Public Transport Team to ask that this matter be looked into. Further discussion took place regarding the X27 bus service and access to Frenchay Hospital. The X27 stop to service Frenchay Hospital is a considerably long way from the Hospital and pedestrians have to cross the extremely busy ring road. **It was also agreed** that the Clerk would include this issue in her communication with Mr. Walker. Proposed Councillor Lomas and seconded Councillor Taylor. **All agreed.** The Clerk was also asked to write to Mrs. Dunn confirming the Parish Councils' course of action.

Clerk

19-03-11 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as Monday 23rd May 2011 in North Road School Hall. **It was agreed** that the same parish organisations as in 2010 be invited to attend or provide a written report. **It was also agreed** that all reports would be photocopied and available at the meeting for people to read in order to save time. Proposed Councillor Aplin and seconded Councillor Weldrake. **All agreed.**

20-03-11 **VILLAGE GREEN**

The Clerk confirmed that Bribex had not been forthcoming with a price for the three additional 'no parking' signs on the village green. The Clerk had contacted another company called Archer Signs based in Nottingham who had provided a quote of £359.54 for the three signs. Councillor Heal suggested that the Clerk contact All Signs in Yate to see if they could undertake the work. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would contact All Signs and obtain a quote. Proposed Councillor Clerk Heal and seconded Councillor Weldrake. **All agreed.**

21-03-11 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Wixoldbury Farm	Cutting Holly Hedge	£204.00
SGC	Cemetery Rates	£138.56
Iron Acton Parish Hall	Room Hire	£19.00
BWBSL	Water Rates - Nibley Lane	£130.58
BWBSL	Water Rates - Station Road	£20.07
Mrs. P. Evans	Clerk's Salary, Broadband, Telephone	£644.70
HMRC	Tax and NI	£117.23
Iron Acton PCC	Room Hire	£15.00

Proposed Councillor Aplin, seconded Councillor Gawler, all agreed that the above accounts be paid.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 18th April 2011 in Iron Acton Parish Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. Prior to this meeting, the Parish Council will meet in Iron Acton Cemetery at 7.00pm for a walk-round and inspection of headstones and surrounds.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

Signed:

Dated:
