

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 19th APRIL 2010

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

Present:- Mr. Sheppard (Chairman), Mr. Bellis (Vice Chairman), Mr. Heal, Miss. Blanchard, Mr. Gawler (Councillor and South Gloucestershire Council Representative), Mr. Lomas, Miss. Weldrake, Mrs. Evans (Clerk), Mrs. P. Hockey (South Gloucestershire Council).

Action

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public were present. Mr. Tony Harris addressed the Parish Council and thanked them for all their assistance in objecting to planning application (PK09/5051/O – Land off Wotton Road) and subsequent appeal. The appeal has now been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

01-04-10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Aplin and Taylor.

02-04-10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Personal and/or Prejudicial

Councillor Bellis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 12.
Councillor Blanchard declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.

03-04-10 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2010 had been circulated. Councillor Bellis proposed and Councillor Weldrake seconded that these minutes be approved and signed. All agreed.

04-04-10 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Sheppard thanked Councillor Bellis for standing in as Chairman at the previous three meetings. Nothing further to report.

05-04-10 CLERK'S REPORT

Action from March Meeting

12-03-10 – Village Green – The Clerk has spent a considerable amount of time investigating the possibility of a Section 38 application in connection with the resurfacing of the access track to the rear of Fairview Terrace. Information has been sought and obtained from the Planning Inspectorate and SGC Legal Services. This information is set out for discussion under Agenda Item 12.

13-03-10 – Annual Grasscutting Tenders – The Clerk has sent a letter to Landscape Services accepting their tender prices for 2010. Letters have also been sent to the unsuccessful tenderers thanking them for their interest.

14-03-10 – Annual Parish Meeting – Notices have been prepared for the Notice Boards, web site and church. The Gazette will be approached three weeks before the 11th May 2010. A letter has also gone to Yate & District Oral History Project requesting use of their Four Manors display boards, and letters have gone to each Parish organisation inviting them to attend the APM.

17-03-10 – Iron Acton Community Website – A letter has been sent to Mr. and Mrs. Huish confirming that the Parish Council web site is up and running and that the Parish Council felt this was the best forum for Parish Council matters to be viewed.

18-03-10 – Accounts for Payment – The Clerk has checked with BWBSL in connection with the water meter for the Nibley Lane Allotments. An inspector has been sent to check the pipes and there is no sign of a leak.

STREET BRIEFING – 26th MARCH 2010 - The street briefing took place on Thursday

26th March 2010 in the Parish Hall car park. PC Mike Lynette of the ASB Unit, PC Ian Matthews, PCSO Katie Radnedge, myself and three Parish Councillors attended along with three parishioners. This was a disappointing turnout considering that the whole of the village and Chilwood Close and Algars Drive has been leafleted. The briefing lasted approximately 45 minutes and the main outcome was that all incidents of anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police via the 0845 456 7000 number, even if the person reporting the incident did not want to make a complaint. Everyone present was thanked for taking time to attend.

PARISH MEADOW - Planting of flowers, shrubs and bulbs has commenced in the Parish Meadows. The first sections to be planted are at the entrance gate to Park Street, in front of Sea Harvest and beside the old stables.

GRASS CUTTING - The Clerk has received a number of compliments about the standard of the grasscutting on the village greens and parish meadow. The Clerk has passed this on to Landscape Services. It has also been reported to the Clerk that the strip of grass outside the car park of the White Hart is being cut by our contractor. The Clerk has met with Landscape Services and shown them exactly the pieces of village green that are covered by the grasscutting contract.

HIGHWAYS - The resurfacing of the Wotton Road has been completed. However, initially there was considerable disruption along North Road as traffic was being diverted along this route, and HGV vehicles were taking advantage of this diversion instead of going via the A46 to join the motorway despite the 7.5 tonne weight limit on North Road. It was reported in the Gazette that this was the cause for the burst water main at the North Road junction with Mission Road. The Police were called to carry out weight checks on vehicles using North Road.

The resurfacing of Stover Road has also been completed.

PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE - Following the letter to Mr. and Mrs. Huish regarding the Parish Council web site, Mrs. Huish emailed the Clerk with a positive acknowledgement to the new web site. However, Mrs. Huish commented that the 'spinning disks' to the side of the page headers would cause an epileptic seizure. The Clerk therefore felt duty bound to investigate this possibility and contacted a neuro-surgeon who confirmed that these disks would not cause a seizure for people with photo-sensitive epilepsy (the most sensitive form of epilepsy). The Clerk also contacted the support department of the web site provider who have also confirmed that these disks would not cause a seizure. Mrs. Huish has been informed accordingly.

CHILWOOD WOODLANDS - The Clerk received a visit from PCSO Andy Pound on Thursday 8th April 2010. PCSO Pound informed the Clerk that he had attended the woodlands following a report that someone had been camping there. PCSO Pound found a tent, sleeping bag, rotting food and evidence of drug taking. The Clerk and her husband went to the woodlands, found the tent etc, wrapped it all up in a tarpaulin sheet (which was underneath the tent) and dragged it along to the Frampton End Road entrance of the Frome Valley Walkway. The Clerk then informed SGC Streetcare that this bundle needed to be picked up for disposal. SGC Streetcare would have charged for attending the woodlands in order to clear this mess.

ALLOTMENTS - Letters have been sent to all allotments holders requesting their annual rent for 2010/2011.

Complaints have been received from the residents of the four houses beside the Station Road allotments that bonfires have been lit on the allotments which have cause considerable smoke nuisance over the past couple of weeks. On two occasions these bonfires have been left unattended to burn out. The Clerk has therefore

written to these allotment holders requesting that they do not leave bonfires unattended and that consideration be given to wind direction etc.

BUS SERVICE 88 - The timetable and route for the new 88 services has been delivered to all residents of the village by SGC. Timetables have also been left in the Parish Hall and both the public houses and garden centre. It is interesting to note that although Wessex Connect said they would provide a 16-seater bus, the majority of buses coming up and down the High Street are full sized buses.

06-04-10 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Councillor Pat Hockey reported that SGC staff have now moved into the new Badminton Road offices. The lease on the SGC Bowling Hill offices will be terminating in June 2010. The new 88 bus service is up and running and timetables have now been put on the bus stops. Councillor Lomas mentioned that he had had cause to use the X27 service and was surprised to see so many people using the service. The Clerk asked Councillor Pat Hockey whether the situation in connection with Mr. Chamberlain's kitchen had been resolved. (Mr. Chamberlain is a Merlin resident in Chilwood Close, whose kitchen had been removed on 16th February for refurbishment, and still not replaced some four weeks later). Councillor Pat Hockey confirmed that this situation has been resolved. Unfortunately there had been problems with the contractor used by Merlin.

The Parish Council asked Councillor Pat Hockey to investigate the recent minor landslip on Latteridge Hill. This new landslip had occurred only days after major works to reinstate the previous landslip. Temporary traffic lights had been installed some three weeks ago and it appears that no further work had been carried out. Also the Parish Council mentioned that the lights have malfunctioned on a number of occasions, therefore it would be helpful if a telephone number was advertised to report problems with the temporary lights. Councillor Pat Hockey will report back to the Parish Council.

Councillor Gawler reported that the head teacher at North Road school had resigned. The head teacher of Rodford School is currently deputising.

07-04-10 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported balances as at 15th April 2010 of:-

National Westminster Current Account	£1,080.16
National Westminster Reserve Account	£160.23
National Savings Accounts	£16,418.35

The Statement of Unaudited Income and Expenditure 2009/2010 for Year Ending 31st March 2010 were presented to the Parish Councillors. Councillor Sheppard proposed and Councillor Weldrake seconded that the Statement be accepted. All agreed.

The Clerk presented the Receipts & Payments Account for Year Ended 31st March 2010 for approval. Councillor Sheppard proposed and Councillor Weldrake seconded that this be approved and signed by the Chairman. All agreed.

The Clerk also reported that notification had been received from Allianz that the administration of the Parish Council's insurance cover had been transferred to Aon Ltd. There were no changes to the insurance cover and Allianz remains the Parish Council's insurers. This change is purely for administration purposes. The Premium for 2010/2010 is £1,151.65, an increase of £86.00 on the year. Councillor Sheppard proposed and Councillor Bellis seconded that this be accepted. All agreed.

08-04-10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PRIOR NOTIFICATIONS/TREE WORKS

PK10/0492/CLP - Berkeley Cottage, Yate Road, Iron Acton – Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of single storey detached

- building. To object – Parish Council do not understand why a Certificate of Lawfulness is being applied for and feel that the proposed single storey detached building is too large to be subservient to the main dwelling.
- PK10/0513/F - 29 Chilwood Close, Iron Acton – Erection of single storey front extension to form porch and single storey rear extension to form utility area, wc and conservatory. Erection of two storey side extension to form additional living accommodation. No objections.
- PT10/0553/CLE - Patch Elm Farm, Patch Elm Lane, Rangeworthy – Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use as residential without compliance with agricultural occupancy condition attached to planning permission P87/2476 and for the continued use of land (outlined in red on plan) for residential purposes. To object – Mr. Farthing occupied dwelling under agricultural occupancy until 2006, therefore insufficient time elapsed to qualify for Certificate of Lawfulness.
- PK10/0578/TCA - Brookby House, High Street, Iron Acton – Works to remove 1 no. Leylandii tree and 1 no. Cedar tree in the Iron Acton Conservation area. No objections.
- PK10/0640/F - 1 Engine Common Lane, Yate – Use of land for the siting of 3 no pitches for travelling showpeople (sui generis) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) (Retrospective). To object, refer to Planning Inspectorate appeal decision to remove unauthorised showman’s caravans, permanently desist from using the site as a showman’s site and traffic movements on inadequate highway.
- PK10/0732/PNA - Two Pools Farm, Wotton Road, Iron Acton – Prior Notification of the intention to erect an agricultural building for the dry storage of straw and fodder. No objections.

09-04-10 PLANNING CONSENTS

- PK10/0071/F – The White Hart, High Street, Iron Acton
- PK10/0163/F – Eastington House, High Street, Iron Acton
- PK10/0136/F – Iron Acton Primary School, Wotton Road, Iron Acton
- PK10/0135/R3F – Iron Acton Primary School, Wotton Road, Iron Acton

10-04-10 PLANNING REFUSALS/WITHDRAWALS/APPEALS

- PK10/0220/F – Ash Cottage, Latteridge Road, Iron Acton

11-04-10 PLANNING APPEALS

- PK09/5051/O – Land at Wotton Road, Iron Acton – Appeal Dismissed.

12-04-10 VILLAGE GREEN

In connection with the access track to the rear of Fairview Terrace, the Clerk has investigated the possibility of making an application to the Secretary of State under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 in order to facilitate the resurfacing of this track with tarmac. The Clerk contacted the Commons and Village Green Protection Team of the Planning Inspectorate forwarding a photograph of the access track showing the potholes etc. Verbal and written confirmation was obtained from the PI that it is not possible to make a Section 38 application as the access track is designated village green and not common land. Village green is covered by far more protective laws than common land. The response received from the PI states *“town and village greens are protected by Section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857 which makes it a criminal offence to do any act which injures a green or interrupts its use as a place of exercise and recreation. To lay down tarmac on a village green would certainly contravene Section 12. It is difficult to advise what should be done to remedy the current situation, but to repair the potholes using existing materials would probably not be unlawful”*. The Clerk has also received definitive maps from SGC of all areas within the parish that

are registered village green, along with copies of the entries in the Commons and Village Green Register which go back to 1968. Only three areas of village green are registered – Iron Acton Village Green including those pieces on the Latteridge Road side of the by-pass (VG36), Latteridge Village Green (VG37) and the small strips around the main Iron Acton Village Green (VG42). Originally there were further village green units, but as these are not included in the final Register, one must assume that they were not finally registered and therefore became void. Following discussion, it was agreed that tarmac would not be laid as this would contravene section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857. The Parish Council would endeavour to remedy the situation by making good the potholes using existing materials. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter to the residents of Fairview Terrace informing them of the outcome.

Clerk

13-04-10 MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Clerk reported that an application for a street closure had been received by the Parish Council. This street closure was in connection with the May Day celebrations on 3rd May 2010, and requested the closure of Park Street for its entire length from the junction with Park Street through to the junction with Latteridge Road. Councillor Sheppard proposed and Councillor Gawler seconded that no objections be raised. All Agreed. The Clerk will respond to SGC accordingly.

Clerk

14-04-10 PARISH MEADOWS

The Clerk reported that permission was being sought by the Village May Day Committee to use that part of the Parish Meadow at the entrance off Park Street in order to facilitate donkey rides during the annual May Day celebrations on Monday 3rd May 2010. No objections were raised. Proposed Councillor Sheppard, seconded Councillor Weldrake. All Agreed. The Clerk will inform the May Day Committee accordingly.

Clerk

The Clerk also reported that the date for Acton Aid's annual Proms in the Meadow event has changed from 26th June to 10th July 2010. Councillor Bellis proposed and Councillor Weldrake seconded that this alteration be accepted. All Agreed.

15-04-10 CEMETERY

The Clerk reported that a request had been received for an amended headstone inscription in connection with Mr. Cyril James Beasley. Councillor Sheppard proposed approval of this inscription and Councillor Blanchard seconded. All agreed. The Clerk will inform the monumental masons accordingly.

Clerk

16-04-10 PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

The Clerk informed the Parish Council about membership of a new mapping service provided by Parish On-Line. This mapping service would allow a digital map of the parish to be downloaded and then overwritten with things like village green boundaries, telephone boxes, dog bin locations etc. This map could then be placed on the Parish Council's website. The cost for this service would be £20 set up, plus £10 per annum per 1000 head of population. Councillor Bellis proposed and Councillor Weldrake seconded that Iron Acton Parish Council enrol in this facility. All Agreed. The Clerk will organise this.

Clerk

The Clerk informed that Parish Councillors of an idea to set up an emailing list of interested parishioners in order to update them of Parish Council activities and items of interest. This could be achieved by asking interested parishioners to email the clerk expressing their interest to join the list and could be advertised on the Parish Council web site, via the notice boards and Focal Poyntz articles. The Clerk confirmed that once the list had been set up it would be relatively simple to maintain. Councillor Bellis proposed and Councillor Weldrake seconded that this be implemented. All Agreed. The Clerk will organise this.

Clerk

17-04-10 TRAINING

The Clerk reported that ALCA will be holding a New Clerks Training Course on Thursday 10th June 2010 in Iron Acton Parish Hall and sought approval to attend this course. Councillor Bellis proposed and Councillor Weldrake seconded. All Agreed.

18-04-10 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- The Parish Council had received an additional request for financial assistance from the Parish Hall Committee in connection with the purchase of two fridges, a drinks chiller and a pull-out kitchen tap. The Clerk confirmed that this additional request, if approved, would take the total amount donated to the Parish Hall to exactly £5,000 (excluding VAT). Councillor Blanchard highlighted that the £4,000 increase in the Parish Council's precept for 2010/2011 could possibly be misconstrued as the Parish Council increasing the precept in order to fund the grant to the Parish Hall. Councillor Blanchard asked that some form of agreement be set up between the Parish Council and the Parish Hall Committee in order that the Parish Council may use the Parish Hall more advantageously. It was agreed that this additional grant be approved, and Councillor Heal will approach the Parish Hall Committee with the Parish Council's suggestion. Proposed Councillor Sheppard, seconded Councillor Lomas. Five Councillors agreed, two abstained.
- A request for financial assistance had been received from Paul's Place based on Coalpit Heath. Proposed Councillor Sheppard, seconded Councillor Bellis that the Parish Council would support this organisation to the tune of £100.00. All Agreed.
- A request for a donation had been received from SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association). It was agreed that Iron Acton Parish Council would decline to donate. Proposed Councillor Sheppard, seconded Councillor Weldrake. All Agreed.
- A request for financial assistance had been received from Avon & Somerset Victim Support. Proposed Councillor Sheppard, seconded Councillor Weldrake that the Parish Council would support to the tune of £100.00. All Agreed.

19-04-10 RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk reported that membership renewal had been received in connection with the Parish Council's membership of ALCA at a annual cost of £229.44 for 2010/2011. Councillor Bellis proposed and Councillor Weldrake seconded that this membership be renewed. All Agreed.

The Clerk reported that membership renewal had been received in connection with the Parish Council's membership of the CPRE at an annual cost of £29.00 for 2010/2011. Councillor Sheppard proposed and Councillor Bellis seconded that this membership be renewed. All Agreed.

20-04-10 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

SGC	Rates - Cemetery	£131.48
SGC	Dog Bin Collection	£116.09
SGC	Dog Bin Collection	£131.32
Landscape Services	Initial Cut – Cemetery	£184.18
Mrs. P. Evans	Postage (£39.00), Web site renew (£89.88)	£128.88
Aon Ltd	Annual Insurance Renewal	£1,151.63
ALCA	Membership Renewal	£229.44
CPRE	Membership Renewal	
Paul's Place	Donation	£100.00
Victim Support	Donation	£100.00

Dectel	Purchase of Kitchen equipment for Parish Hall	£1,077.17
R.O. Williams	Clearing of Dyers Pond	£69.00

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 17th May 2010 in the North Road School Hall, commencing at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed:

Dated:
