

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> April 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, Miss. Weldrake, Mr. Heal, Mr. Gawler (Councillor & South Gloucestershire Council), Mrs. Hockey (South Gloucestershire Council), Mrs. Evans (Clerk)

**Action**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Three members of the public were present.

Councillor Bellis (having stepped down as Chair) addressed the meeting regarding Agenda Item 12 - Application for Street Closure of Park Street. This application was made in connection with the annual May Day celebrations and the closure of Park Street was to facilitate the laying of the miniature railway track. The deadline for response had passed. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had emailed SGC to inform them that the application has been received immediately after the March meeting and the Parish Council would therefore not be able to comply with the 21 day deadline. Councillor Bellis reported that no objections had been received from residents.

01-04-09 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Sheppard, David Hockey, and Blanchard.

02-04-09 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Personal and/or Prejudicial**

Councillor Bellis declared an interest in Agenda Item 12, and took no part in those discussions.

03-04-09 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009 had been circulated. Councillor Lomas proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded that these minutes be approved and signed. All agreed.

04-04-09 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Vice Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had liaised during the month on various issues, which the Clerk had fully reported in her Clerk's Report.

05-04-09 **CLERK'S REPORT**

Planning Issues:- During the month the Clerk had been tidying and collating some planning applications. PT08/1658/F refers to the 3 100m high wind turbines off the Old Gloucester Road. On looking at the SGC web site, the Clerk discovered that a decision had been made on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to permit this application. However there were eight pages of very tight conditions relating to noise levels (not to exceed 3dB(A)), a 'hobby and farmland bird mitigation strategy', 'badger mitigation strategy', 'shadow flicker', domestic television or radio reception loss or interference, etc.

Allotments:- The Clerk visited the Nibley Lane allotments on 7<sup>th</sup> April to show a prospective tenant a vacant allotment. It became obvious that a number of allotments were not being tended. The Clerk has therefore given 30 days notice (according to the allotment agreement), to tenants of allotments 11a and 10b. The tenant on allotment 2b has failed to pay for his allotment for last year despite three reminders. The Clerk has therefore given him 7 days to remove any of his belongings. There are two other allotments available for rent (the tenants having given up this season), for which the Clerk is seeking tenants.

Allotment rent letter have gone out for this year together with notice that the rents will be increasing as from 2010/2011.

The Clerk had been contacted by Bristol Water in connection with the water trough and tap (cemetery). The Clerk attended the allotments on 16<sup>th</sup> April with Nigel Brown from Bristol Water. The inspection revealed that the pipe to the trough needs to be re-lagged. The tap in the cemetery is dripping, probably a washer that needs replacing, and also the stand pipe needs to be lagged. Bristol Water has therefore given us 28 days to carry out this work. The Clerk has contacted Keith Cole to ask him to carry out this maintenance work.

Anti-Social Behaviour:- As you are all aware there has been a considerable amount of anti-social behaviour occurring in the village particularly. This culminated on 3<sup>rd</sup> April with the discovery of excrement underneath the slide. This was cleared away on the Friday evening and SGC emergency cleansing team disinfected the piece of equipment on the 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Further on 14<sup>th</sup> April at 5.00pm, after returning from work the Clerk witnessed four youths running down the drive towards the Parish Meadows. The Clerk went out to have a look and discovered the youths sitting on the grass outside our house. They then got up and walked back down the drive and stood on the High Street close to my garden wall. The Clerk walked along the inside of the wall and hid at the corner watching and listening to them. Two of the youths then ran across the road, knocked loudly on the door of the Malt House and then all four of them ran back down the drive and hid behind the Parish Hall. Mr. Townsend had come out of his house and we talked briefly about how fed up residents of the High Street were with children knocking on doors and running away.

The Clerk then walked into the Parish Hall car park and discovered the youths hiding behind the shed. The Clerk confronted them and told them that residents were completely fed up with their antics, and the more they did this the more their faces would be recognised. The Clerk also told them that everything had been reported to the Police. Finally the Clerk told them that they had no business behind the Parish Hall and told them to clear off. They then proceeded to walk out of the car park and back up the High Street towards the church. They expected the Clerk to return down the drive, but decided to follow them all the way up the High Street. They then ran up the church steps and disappeared through the churchyard and cemetery. All of this was reported to the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, who now has a file on the problems we are experiencing.

Parish Meadows:- Again this month, the Clerk has spent a considerable amount of time in the meadows dealing with anti-social behaviour and vandalism. This is fully reported in Agenda item 19.

The Clerk has arranged a meeting with Rob Peters of Tremendous Gardens for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to have a look at the broken fence between the Parish Meadows and Mr. and Mrs. Bourns field.

The bonfire site has been reseeded by Acton Aid.

Grass Cutting Tenderers:- Following the decision at the March meeting, the Clerk endeavoured to obtain references for Mapleleaf Gardens. Mapleleaf gave the names of two referees, the first was rather mediocre and the second refused. Therefore, after liaison with Councillor Bellis, it was decided to give the contract to Landscape Services. The Clerk has however spoken with Will Stops, the owner, and told him that the Parish Council were not overly impressed with some of the standards of cuts last season. Landscape Services will be using a new mower on the village greens, the type used on golf courses, which should give a better cut. The Clerk also mentioned

to Mr. Stops about the cut before May Day.

Unfortunately, the grasscutting contractor had a problem with the combination lock for the play area gate. The lock was take off and has somehow reset itself. The Clerk had no idea what the combination had moved to. Also, the lock to the gate on Park Street has disappeared. The Clerk has therefore bought two new combination locks for these gates. The combination is the same as before, for both gates.

Iron Acton Police Beat Officer:- On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009, the Clerk met with our new beat officer, PC Ian Matthews. The meeting was to introduce himself and to discuss the anti-social problems we have been experiencing in the Parish. At the moment there are no PCSO's attached to PC Matthews, however two PCSO's are expected to be in place by the middle of May.

In connection with the anti-social behaviour, the Clerk and PC Matthews had a long discussion about what has been happening. PC Matthews informed the Clerk that as a first measure and deterrent, the Police suggest erecting some corrugated plastic signs saying that the Police are aware of anti-social behaviour in the area and it is being monitored. On the reverse of the sign is a CCTV image and wording along the lines that a mobile CCTV unit is in the area (although no CCTV filming actually occurs). PC Matthews and the Clerk agreed that as a first step three signs would be erected - one by the church, one by the Parish Hall and one at the entrance to the Parish Meadows in Park Street.

PC Matthews reiterated that if any more anti-social behaviour occurs, or anything untoward, residents should be encouraged to either report it to the non-emergency number, or the Clerk, or Crimestoppers.

I have also invited PC Matthews to our annual parish meeting.

#### 06-04-09 **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Councillor Pat Hockey reported that an issue over parking problem in the Chilwood Close/Algars Drive area had been raised. Councillor Dave Hockey is planning to meeting with residents and engineers from SGC to discuss how this can be resolved.

Councillor Gawler reported that a temporary blanket Tree Preservation Order had been put in place for the whole of the Engine Common area (North Road to the railway line and Broad Lane to Tanhouse Lane). This Order was made to facilitate the inspection of all trees and hedgerows in the area.

#### 07-04-09 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported balances as at 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009 of:-

National Westminster Current Account	£2,716.04
National Westminster Reserve Account	£8,453.50
National Savings Accounts	£15,892.87

The Clerk confirmed that the £10.00 bank charge had been re-credited to the current account on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

The Statement of Audited Accounts for 2008/2009 and the Statement of Unaudited Accounts for 2009/2010 were approved. Proposed Councillor Bellis, seconded Councillor Weldrake.

The Clerk had also prepared the Annual Risk Assessment for 2009/2010, which had been distributed to the Councillors for their approval. Proposed Councillor Bellis, seconded Councillor Weldrake

#### 08-04-09 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PRIOR NOTIFICATIONS/TREE WORKS**

PK09/0548/F - The Stables, Tanhouse Lane, Yate - Construction of new vehicular access from Tanhouse Lane. No objections.

09-04-09 **PLANNING CONSENTS**

- PK09/0192/F - Little Orchard, The British (minute 08-02-09)
- PK09/0280/LB - Acton House, The Green, Iron Acton (minute 08-02-09)
- PK09/0253/F - Castle Fields, Latteridge Road, Iron Acton (minute 08-02-09)
- PK09/0361/F - 319 North Road, Yate (minute 08-03-09)

10-04-09 **PLANNING REFUSALS/WITHDRAWALS/APPEALS**

None received.

11-04-09 **PLANNING APPEALS**

None received.

12-04-09 **APPLICATION FOR STREET CLOSURE**

Councillor Lomas chaired the meeting for this Agenda Item. This application was noted. All residents affected by this closure had been informed and no objection had been received. **It was agreed** that as the deadline for replying had passed, no further action would be taken.

13-04-09 **CEMETERY**

- An application for the erection of a memorial and inscription for the late Dorothy Williams was considered. **It was agreed** there were no objections.
- An application for the erection of a memorial and inscription for the late Jeremy Tovey was considered. **It was agreed** there were no objections, however the Clerk was instructed to write to H.J. Jefferies Ltd requesting that the current garden edging stones be removed (as they encroach into the plot in front) and the ground made good. Should the family wish to erect and edging they the usual application has to be made to the Parish Council.
- An application for the erection of a replacement memorial and inscription for the late Reginald Shepherd was considered. **It was agreed** there were no objections.
- An application for the erection of a memorial and inscription for the late Michael Davis was considered. **It was agreed** there were no objections.
- An application for the erection of a memorial and inscription for the late Lawrence Maciver was considered. **It was agreed** there were no objections.

**Clerk**

14-04-09 **LETTER RECEIVED FROM MR. D. BATE**

The Clerk had previously circulated a letter and drawings received from Mr. D. Bate. Mr. Bate was seeking the Parish Council's support for his proposal to develop the field adjoining his property (to the side of the Old Police House, by the traffic lights) as an 'exception site'. Mr. Bate proposes building 7 two bedroom and 3 three bedroom houses on a New Build Home Buy/Non-Subsidised basis. The proposal also includes for 13 parking spaces (although only 12 are shown on the plan) and a new 'village green'. This proposal was discussed and **it was agreed** that the Parish Council would respond by way of acknowledging Mr. Bate's letter; that the Parish Council consider that there may be a need for affordable housing within the village, but the field proposed, by way of its location being in a highly visible position and at the gateway to the village, is not considered appropriate.

**Clerk**

15-04-09 **SGC TREE WARDEN SCHEME**

The Clerk had distributed a copy of a letter received from Chris Wright, SGC Tree Officer. SGC are in the process of reviving the Tree Warden Scheme and are in the process of contacting people who are already on their existing list. Mr. Barry Wright is currently Iron Acton's Tree Warden. **It was agreed** that Councillor Aplin would make contact with Barry Wright to ascertain if he is still willing to act in this capacity.

**AA**

16-04-09 **FIRST BUS - WITHDRAWAL OF X27 SERVICE**

Councillor Pat Hockey updated the Councillors. Two tenders have been circulated;

one for a replacement service; one for a reduced service. Responses are awaited. SCG are aiming for a seamless transfer on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009. SGC will make special arrangements for students and pupils to attend school/take exams. **It was agreed** Clerk that the Parish council would write to Brian Allinson reiterating the Parish's concerns at the withdrawal of the X27 service and the need to ensure that there remains a bus service for the village.

17-04-09 **BUS SHELTER CLEANING**

The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from Mrs. Angell who cleans the North Road area bus shelters. Mrs. Angell no longer wishes to continue cleaning the shelters. **It was agreed** that a decision whether or not to replace Mrs. Angell would be deferred until the May meeting.

18-04-09 **OPEN SPACES SOCIETY**

The Clerk had received a letter from the Open Spaces Society requesting a donation to support their Open Spaces and Public Paths Campaign. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would decline. Proposed Councillor Taylor, seconded Councillor Bellis.

19-04-09 **PARISH MEADOWS/PLAY AREA**

As had been fully reported in the Clerk's Report (Agenda Item 07-04-09), there has been a spate of anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Parish Meadows and Play Area. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would prepare a short notice to be delivered to all houses in the village (High Street, Park Street, Latteridge Road, Station Road, Holly Hill, Nibley Lane, Chilwood Close and Algars Drive) urging residents to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism either to the Police on the non-emergency number, Crimestoppers or the Clerk. Clerk

19-04-09 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mrs. P. Evans	Stationery, Postage, Locks	£105.67
Alianz	Annual Insurance	£1,065.65
BWBSL	Water Charges - Station Road Allotments	£18.46
Avon Wildlife Trust	Membership Renewal	£42.00

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

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk reminded all those present of the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting in North Road School Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009** in the Marshall Rooms, Iron Acton, commencing at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_