

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 19th OCTOBER 2009**

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

Present:- Mr. Sheppard (Chairman), Mr. Bellis (Vice Chairman), Mr. Lomas, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Gawler (Councillor & South Gloucestershire Council), Mrs. Evans (Clerk)

Action

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two parishioners were in attendance. Also attending Mr. Eric Gordon of the Standards Committee who would later give a presentation.

The Parishioners, who live in The British referred to the Frome Valley footpath that emerges onto the Goose Green Way (Dunkerley's yard side). The footpath then continues on the other side of the road. As there is a break in the footpath caused by a road, the parishioners queried whether there should be an official crossing, as this is a busy road and crossing can be quite dangerous. The Clerk will query this with SGC.

Clerk

The Parishioners queried why there is no footpath from the railway bridge to Brimsham Green school. This is a heavily used route for children attending school. The road is also used by lorries operating out of the depot. Unfortunately there are currently no SGC funds available to instate a footpath.

The Parishioners also asked the Parish Council for clarification on the criteria for trimming/cutting of trees in the North Road/Engine Common area following the implementation of a blanket TPO. The Clerk will make enquiries with SGC as to what is allowed.

Clerk

Mr. Eric Gordon gave a presentation on the work of the Standards Committee. The Committee consists of 15 members and is chaired by an independent person. The role of the Standards Committee is to promote high standards of behaviour within local government. It also provides training opportunity for Councillors and Clerks. There are 10 basic principles of Public Life - Selflessness; honesty and integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; personal judgement; respect for others; duty to uphold the law; stewardship; leadership. The Clerk will photocopy the sheet provided and distribute to all Councillors.

Clerk

Mr. Gordon was impressed to see that Iron Acton Parish Council always has an agenda item entitled 'Declarations of Interest', as not all Parish Council's do. This is considered to be good practice.

01-10-09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Weldrake, Blanchard, Aplin, Heal and Hockey

02-10-09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Personal and/or Prejudicial

None received.

03-10-09 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2009 had been circulated. Councillor Lomas proposed and Councillor Bellis seconded that these minutes be approved and signed. All agreed.

04-10-09 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman and Mr. Hurley had attended the Parish Meadows to unblock the stream on two occasions. They had also attended to a couple of minor repairs on the climbing frame. Councillor Taylor queried whether public liability insurance was required by Mr. Hurley as he was undertaking work for the Parish Council. **It was**

agreed that the Clerk would contact our insurers to ascertain the position. **It was also agreed** that the Clerk and Councillor Bellis would meet in the Parish Meadows to decide on where the fixing points for the benches should be located.

Clerk
Clerk/
PB

The Chairman reported that Mr. Driver has been clearing out the ditches on Mission Lane.

The Chairman also reported that the area to the front of Chapel Patch had been reinstated.

There are a number of cobble stones which need reinstating around the village green edge. **It was agreed** that the Chairman would ascertain a price for fixing these from Andrew Herbert.

RS

05-10-09 CLERK'S REPORT

Action from September Meeting:-

01-09-09 - Public Participation - Councillor Aplin has contacted Simon Carney and asked him to have a look in his records to see if he has a copy of the book on file.

05-09-09 - Chairman's Report - The Clerk has contacted SGC regarding the drain outside 212 North Road and the fact that it is not draining away.

14-09-09 - Proposed Iron Acton Christmas Evening 2009 - The Clerk has confirmed with SGC that the Parish Council have no objections to the temporary road closure.

16-09-09 - High Street - The Clerk has spoken with Peter Hart of SGC Highways and asked that consideration be given to a one-way system (east to west) when the Traffic Management Review is considered.

17-09-09 - Traffic Management - Badminton Road - The Clerk has emailed Parish Councillors with the new date for the meeting with Yate Town Council to discuss traffic management issues along Badminton Road. This new date is Thursday 12th November 2009 at 8.00pm in Poole Court.

18-09-09 - Dyers Pond - Councillor Sheppard and the Clerk will be speaking with Mr. Williams presently in order to arrange the clearing. The Clerk is in the process of endeavouring to find a company to undertake the survey.

19-09-09 - Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer - The Clerk is in the process of organising this with the HMRC.

Parish Meadows - The lock on the gate in Park Street has disappeared. The Clerk has therefore purchased a new lock at a cost of £10.00 and set a new code. It is apparent that too many people knew the old code.

Allotments - The Clerk has received a couple of complaints from residents living in the Station Road allotment area about bonfires on the allotments. The smoke from these bonfires has been billowing over their gardens spoiling washing and forcing residents into their houses. The Clerk has written to Station Road allotment holders asking them to be considerate when lighting bonfires.

Bonfires - The Clerk has also received a complaint from a resident in the High Street regarding the lighting of bonfires. On three occasions (on a Monday morning), the resident has been forced to take in washing as this was being spoilt by the smoke. There are no byelaws that allow or prohibit bonfires. However there are a number of considerations that need to be taken into account when lighting a bonfire. The Clerk has included this information in the Parish Council's article in the next edition of Focal Poyntz.

06-10-09 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Councillor Gawler submitted SGC data sheets in connection with traffic movements along Wotton Road (March and April 2009, and North Road (17th April to 12th May

2009).

Councillor Gawler reported that the Manor Road footpath works will be commencing on 26th October 2009.

Councillor Gawler also reported that a meeting had been held in parliament, attended by Steve Webb MP in connection with the Gypsy & Traveller Consultation. The meeting had been progressive and a number of issues highlighted. Councillor Gawler also confirmed that issues at the Tanhouse Lane site are ongoing.

07-10-09 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported balances as at 14th October 2009 of:-

National Westminster Current Account	£4,874.15
National Westminster Reserve Account	£8,458.20
National Savings Accounts	£16,418.35

The Clerk confirmed that the second half of the precept, amounting to £7,000 had been received into the Current Account.

It was agreed that a Budget meeting would be held on Monday 2nd November 2009 in the Marshall Rooms, commencing at 7.30pm. The Clerk will circulate budget Clerk figures prior to this meeting.

08-10-09 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PRIOR NOTIFICATIONS/TREE WORKS**

- PK09/5458/TCA - Welforge, Latteridge Road - Works to reduce 9 no. Copper Beech trees, 1 no. Red Maple tree and 1 no. Ash Leaf Maple tree by 33% all situated within the Iron Acton Conservation Area. No objections.
- PK09/5474/TCA - Welforge, Latteridge Road - Works to reduce 1 no. Ash tree by 33% situated within the Iron Acton Conservation Area. No objections.
- PK09/5369/F - The Cottage, Yate Road, Iron Acton - Erection of single storey and two storey rear extensions to provide lobby and utility area with additional bedroom and en-suite facilities above. No objections.
- PK09/5353/F - Unit 45-48 Waverley Road, Yate - Erection of palisade fencing and gates (1.9m high). No objections.
- PK09/5513/TRE - 250 North Road, Yate - Works to reduce 1 no. Field Maple tree covered by SGTPO10/09 dated 19th March 2009. No objections.
- PK09/5340/F - Land off Larks Lane, Iron Acton - Construction of a ménage. No objections.

09-10-09 **PLANNING CONSENTS**

None received.

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

None received.

11-10-09 **PLANNING APPEALS**

None received.

12-10-09 **REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would make their annual donation of £250.00 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Proposed Councillor Taylor, seconded Councillor Sheppard. All Agreed.

The Clerk also reported that a request for financial assistance had been received from the County Air Ambulance Trust. The Trust is endeavouring to raise funds to provide landing pads in a number of hospitals around the South West, in particular at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. **It was agreed** that a donation of £150.00 would be made. Proposed Councillor Taylor, seconded Councillor Sheppard. All Agreed.

13-10-09 **CEMETERY**

The Clerk informed the Councillors that two applications for the erection of

headstones within the cemetery had been received. These were in connection with Robert Steve Hawkins, a child buried in 1955 and was a replacement headstone. The second was for Robert Hawkins (senior) who was buried in 2008. This is a new headstone. **It was agreed** that these two applications be approved. The Clerk will write to the memorial masons accordingly.

Clerk

Further, the Clerk informed the Councillors of a request for a reopening of the grave space of Mr. Herbert Tovey, who was buried in 1977. This is for the interment of his late wife. **It was agreed** that this be approved. The Clerk will contact the funeral directors.

Clerk

14-10-09 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE - ST. MARY'S CHURCH, YATE

A letter had been received from Yate Town Council inviting Iron Acton Parish Council to participate in the annual Remembrance Service on 8th November 2009 at St. Mary's Church. **It was agreed** that Councillor Sheppard would represent Iron Acton Parish Council. **It was further agreed** that Councillor Bellis would represent the Parish Council at the St. James the Less service on 8th November. The Clerk will liaise with Mr. Wheeler, the church warden.

RS
PB
Clerk

A letter of invitation had also been received from Chipping Sodbury Memorial Day Services, to attend the Remembrance Service on 11th November. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter kindly declining the invitation.

Clerk

15-10-09 BT - ADOPT YOUR LOCAL RED TELEPHONE KIOSK

A letter had been received from BT inviting the Parish Council to adopt the North Road telephone kiosk for £1.00. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would decline the offer. The Clerk will write to BT accordingly.

Clerk

16-10-09 RECYCLING FACILITIES IN IRON ACTON

The Clerk had received a request via Councillor Weldrake, from a parishioner asking that consideration is given to the possibility of having some form of plastic recycling facility within the village/parish. The Clerk had contacted SGC to enquire about the possibility. SGC confirmed that an application would have to be made to SITA, who would look at the population density of the area, a suitable location for the unit and also what other recycling facilities are close-by. The Yate Sort-It Centre is 1.5 miles away from the centre of Iron Acton, and Morrisons is 2.1 miles away. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council did not consider it appropriate to pursue this because of the close proximity of other recycling facilities and no suitable location. Further, it was noted that there may well be new legislation coming into force in the future. The Clerk will email the parishioner.

Clerk

17-10-09 PARISH MEADOWS

The Parish Council had received a request from Acton Aid to use the Parish Meadows for their annual bonfire and fireworks night on Saturday 7th November 2009. **It was agreed** that permission be given. The Clerk was instructed to write to Acton Aid asking that the bonfire site area be re-grassed/reinstated, that cars driving over the Meadows is restricted and any damage done to the grass would be made good.

There was also a further request from Acton Aid for use of the Parish Meadows for their annual Proms Night on 26th June 2010. **It was agreed** that permission be given. The Clerk was instructed to write to Acton Aid asking that cars driving over the Meadows is restricted, that no cars are left parked in the Meadows, that a complete agenda for the event be provided to the Parish Council in advance, including the location of where the fireworks will be set off.

18-10-09 CLERKS SALARY - 2009/2010 NATIONAL FINAL SALARY AWARD

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the 2009/2010 National Salary Award had been settled at 1% as from 1st April 2009. This was an increase of 15p/hour taking

the Clerk's hourly rate to £11.93/hour. **It was agreed** that this pay increase be accepted by the Parish Council, backdated to 1st April 2009. Councillor Bellis proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded. All agreed.

19-10-09 **INVITATION TO "WISH YOU WERE HERE" WORKSHOP**

The Clerk informed the Councillors that an invitation had been received from the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy Consultation regarding a workshop being held on Tuesday 3rd November 2009 (correspondence previously circulated to Councillors). This workshop will look at areas put forward by developers as potential sites for growth in the Yate and Chipping Sodbury area. One of the areas referred to is Engine Common (land at Mission Road and Engine Common Lane). The Workshop will report back on the results of the last engagement event and present the revised vision and strategic objectives; discuss the strategic objectives in more detail; look at specific sites and assess their suitability in terms of creating a sustainable community; consider how the sites will work in conjunction with the existing communities of Yate and Chipping Sodbury. **It was agreed that** Councillors Sheppard, Lomas and Gawler will attend the morning event.

Clerk

20-10-09 **IRON ACTON BYPASS - HOLLY HILL**

Councillor Bellis asked that the Parish Council write to SGC thanking them for the recent works undertaken on the footpath along the by-pass (from Dyers Lane down to the entrance at Holly Hill). However, pedestrians and cyclists still have no safe place to cross the by-pass in order to leave the village. Pedestrians/cyclists can cross the by-pass at the traffic lights. But there is no safe place to cross the Wotton Road, and further there is no footpath from the Wotton Road to Holly Hill. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would write to SGC thanking them for the recent work and asking that consideration be given to the possibility of installing a central island in the road opposite Holly Hill, or some form of safe crossing facility. Proposed Councillor Bellis, Seconded Councillor Sheppard. All Agreed.

Clerk

21-10-09 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A mound of gravel had been placed on the access track through the Nibley Lane allotments. No permission for this has been sought. The Clerk was instructed to contact the adjacent resident to ask for the gravel to be moved.

Clerk

The Clerk was asked to contact the Environmental Health department in connection with Mr. Sandy's farm on Nibley Lane. There is a suggestion that the land is being used to dump building waste. There has also been a report of rats in the vicinity.

Clerk

The Clerk was also asked to chase Streetcare in connection with the relocation of the dog bin in the cemetery.

Clerk

21-10-09 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Open Spaces Society	Membership Renewal	£40.00
Poppy Appeal	Donation	£250.00
County Air Ambulance	Donation	£150.00

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed:

Dated:
