

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 16th November 2009**

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), Mrs. Aplin, Mr. Lomas, Mr. Taylor, Miss. Weldrake, Miss. Blanchard, Mr. Heal, Mr. Gawler (Councillor & South Gloucestershire Council), Mr. Hockey (South Gloucestershire Council), Mrs. Evans (Clerk)

Action

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Four members of the public were in attendance, three from Acton Aid.

Acton Aid gave a presentation to the Parish Councillors in connection with a proposal to erect a bandstand type structure on the Parish Meadows. It would be a multi-functional structure for use during events such as the Proms and the Bonfire/Fireworks display. The catalyst for this proposal is that Acton Aid has to hire a marquee for each Proms event, which is expensive. Acton Aid would have curtain sides made that could be hung from the sides of the structure. Acton Aid had also approached other organisations within the Parish, namely the Actonians, the two primary schools, the Church and the Mother and Toddler group. All had expressed an interest in using the structure. The structure would be situated in the corner by the stream and style, comprise some 12m² in area with a concrete hard-standing (level with the grass), with a low roof. The actual materials to be used had yet to be agreed but would need to be strong, durable, vandal proof and low maintenance. Acton Aid would fund the whole structure and then hand it over to the Parish Council. The Parish Council would then be responsible for maintenance and insurance etc. Acton Aid is keen to commence this project. It was agreed that the proposal would be added to the December agenda for discussion and decision.

Clerk

01-11-09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

02-11-09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Personal and/or Prejudicial

None received.

03-11-09 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2009 had been circulated. Councillor Taylor proposed and Councillor Gawler seconded that these minutes be approved and signed. All agreed.

04-11-09 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that flooding and ponding in North Road, Mission Road and Engine Common continues to be a problem. Councillor Lomas also mentioned that the ponding outside the scrap metal merchants next to 212 North Road remains an issue. The road has been marked by SGC but nothing further has been done. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase SGC.

Clerk

The Chairman also reported that the high boundary wall to Craif Affie is being rebuilt. The boundary wall is part of the dwelling. Scaffolding had been erected along this wall which was forcing traffic further out into the road, which was causing some damage to the verge on the other side.

A quote had been received from Andrew Herbert to replace the cobble stones around the village green. This quote was for £180. It was agreed that this quote be accepted.

05-11-09 CLERK'S REPORT

Action from October Meeting:

01-10-09 – Public Participation - The Clerk had contacted SGC Planning to ascertain what exactly is allowed under the TPO in the North Road area. The Tree Officer had confirmed that although ordinarily planning permission would be required, general annual maintenance of hedges (including Conifer hedges) and fruit trees is allowed without planning permission.

04-10-09 – Chairman's Report – The Clerk had contacted Allianz and confirmed that Mr. Hurley is insured under the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance, as long as he used Parish Council tools.

15-10-09 – BT – Adopt your Local Red Telephone Kiosk. A letter had been sent to BT declining their offer of adopting the North Road Kiosk for £1.

16-10-09 – Recycling Facilities in Iron Acton - Email had been sent to the parishioner confirming that the Parish Council did not feel recycling facilities in the parish were appropriate due to the close proximity of the Yate Sort-It Centre and Morrisons. The parishioner has acknowledged this email.

20-10-09 – Iron Acton Bypass – Holly Hill - A letter had been sent to Mark Parry of SGC Traffic Management, copied to Peter Hart, requesting that SGC consider a form of safe crossing at the Holly Hill entrance. Following a conversation with Peter Hart, it was discovered that the land from the road at Holly Hill, to the entrance gate (approximately a 20m stretch) is not SGC adopted highway, therefore they have no control or say over what happens on this land. Councillor Bellis requested that a meeting be organised between Mr. Parry and the Parish Council in order for SGC to see the situation for themselves. Councillor Gawler volunteered to contact Mr. Parry and reiterate the problem of pedestrians/cyclists trying to cross the by-pass.

All other general correspondence has been sent.

Nibley Lane (Agenda Item 15) - The Clerk had been contacted by Mr. Jones and Mr. Harley, residents of the OAP bungalows on Nibley Lane. These residents had complained to Merlin, SGC and the Police about vehicles using the access lane in front of the bungalows to turn their cars around. Subsequently, Merlin erected signs on the green in front of the bungalows stating 'No Turning'. Mr. Jones and Mr. Harley contacted the Clerk asking that an article be placed in Focal Poyntz informing residents that these signs had been erected and that there was an enforceable £60 fine with 3 penalty points. The Clerk then contacted Merlin, SGC and the Police to seek clarification on this. The Police have confirmed that the signs and fines are not enforceable. Further, Mr. Harley contacted the Clerk again suggesting that the speed sign erected in Nibley Lane was not in fact wired up and therefore useless, as the sign did not flash at all. The Clerk contacted Jeremy Harris of SGC who confirmed that the sign had been wired to flash and also provide data on the speed of traffic using Nibley Lane. Mr. Harris confirmed that according to the data received, 85% of the traffic using the lane travelled at speeds of less than 31mph, with the average speed being 25mph. Mr. Harley had also stated that the residents had been 'abused' on occasions, and their cars damaged. The Clerk suggested to Mr. Harley that he report this to the Police.

Parish Meadows - The Parish Meadows appear to have coped reasonably well following the Acton Aid Bonfire event on 7th November 2009. There was some confusion over the combination number to the padlock, as the Clerk had recently changed the combination. The Clerk also reported by Mrs. Elizabeth Parker had telephoned to say that the Lime tree in the Parish Meadows had pushed over the boundary wall. A quote had been obtained from Andrew Herbert for £540. It was

agreed that this quote be accepted.

Village Green - The Clerk received an email from Mr. Patrick Murphy who lives on the village green querying the area to the front of the Chapel Patch and the recent works undertaken. The Clerk had made enquiries to SGC with regard to the ownership of this piece of land. The information received from SGC shows that the land is adopted by SGC. The Clerk has spoken with Lynne Tucker in the Legal Department of SGC who had confirmed that as the land is adopted by SGC it is unlikely to be registered village green. However, this needs further investigation. There are a number of small parcels of land around the Iron Acton and Latteridge Village Greens which require clarification as to ownership/registration. The Clerk has therefore written to Ms. Tucker enclosing plans/maps asking that clarification of their status and ownership is identified. In the meantime, the Clerk has written and holding email to Mr. Murphy saying that this matter is being investigated.

For your information, Ms. Tucker also informed the Clerk that DEFRA is undertaking a pilot project to identify and define clearly registered areas of common land and village green and are consulting Parish Councils. This work is currently being done in the north of the country, with SGC due to be consulted some time in 2010/2011.

BT Kiosk, High Street - The Clerk has reported to BT that the kiosk on the High Street is in a poor condition and requires some maintenance/cleaning.

X27 Bus Service - The Councillors will no doubt have heard through the local press that the X27 Bus Service along Station Road will continue into the long-term and beyond its initial 6 month extension. SGC had promoted a 'Use It' campaign which saw significantly higher users of the service. Councillor Aplin requested that the Clerk contact SGC to ask that a full timetable be placed at the bus stops. The existing timetables do not make it clear that buses run until quite late via the 329. Councillor Bellis queried the current status of running the bus back along the High Street. Meetings had been held in April 2009 with Steve Webb, First Bus and members of the public – this needs to be addressed again.

Allotments – The Clerk reported that Bristol Water had informed the Parish Council that the water meter would now be read in February and August each year.

06-11-09

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Councillor Dave Hockey reported that the CCTV cameras have been installed on the Latteridge Road and Wotton Road junctions and will operate 24/7. These cameras will also identify the size of lorries using the roads. The flashing speed sign at 'Fishponds Corner' on Latteridge Road will be installed for 2 weeks. The results will then be sent to Councillor Hockey. Councillor Blanchard queried the location of this speed sign as it is directly on a bend when vehicles will be braking/slowing down in order to negotiate the bend. Councillor Hockey confirmed that it may well be necessary for it to be installed at another location depending on the results of the initial installation.

Councillor Gawler reported that the Manor Road Footpath installation works will commence at the beginning of January 2010. However, this will necessitate the complete closure of Manor Road for a 5 week duration. SGC are organising a shuttle bus to transport residents to North Road. The bus will operate along Tanhouse Lane and Chaingate Lane.

Councillor Gawler also reported on the meeting with Yate Town Council, SGC, Westerleigh and Iron Acton Parish Councils which took place on 12th November 2009. This meeting was to discuss traffic management issues in connection with the new SGC offices on Badminton Road. There are 705 desk spaces in the new offices, however only 600 staff members are anticipated to attend the offices. There are only

312 parking spaces provided and SGC are encouraging staff to travel to work using public transport. An SGC consultation will be taking place with all interested parties.

07-11-09 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported balances as at 11th November 2009 of:-

National Westminster Current Account	£4,456.70
National Westminster Reserve Account	£8,458.20
National Savings Accounts	£16,418.36

Following the Parish Council budget meeting held on 2nd November 2009, a figure of £18,000 was recommended as the required Precept for 2010/2011. Councillor Bellis Proposed, Councillor Weldrake seconded. All agreed. The Clerk will inform SGC at the appropriate time.

Also, following the budget meeting, the Clerk had investigated alternative telephone packages. The Clerk has now changed the BT package to a new rate of £14.45/month with 500 free minutes worth of telephone calls. This works out as a saving of approximately £200/annum.

08-11-09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PRIOR NOTIFICATIONS/TREE WORKS

- PK09/5654/F - Barton Farm House, Chaingate Lane, Iron Acton – Erection of first floor side extension to form additional living accommodation. No objections.
- PK09/5641/TRE - Brookside Cottage, 21 Engine Common Lane, Yate – Works to fell 2 no. Leyland Cypress trees covered by SGCTPO 633 (Land at Engine Common) dated 22nd September 2009. No objections.
- PK09/5671/R3F - Broad Lane Depot, Broad Lane, Yate – Siting of 6 temporary portable buildings and provision of associated parking for a period of 5 years. (Renewal of temporary consent PK04/3724/F). No objections.
- PK09/5596/F - Watery Lane, Engine Common, Yate – Erection of stable block (retrospective). No objections.
- PK09/5393/CLP - Berkeley Cottage, Yate Road, Iron Acton – Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey detached building for use as an annexe ancillary to main dwelling. To object – Query full Planning Application requirement, overdevelopment of site, dangerous access of main road with 50mph speed limit, unsuitable visibility entering and exiting property.
- PK09/5130/F - SGC, Yate Outdoor Sports Complex, Broad Lane, Yate – Erection of 100 no. seater stand to existing all weather pitch. No objections.

09-11-09 PLANNING CONSENTS

- PK09/5353/F – Unit 45-48 Waverly Road, Yate.
- PK09/5229/F – 2 Lodge Road, Yate (conversion of existing garage).

10-11-09 PLANNING REFUSALS/WITHDRAWALS/APPEALS

- PK09/5051/O – Land at Wotton Road, Iron Acton (Refusal).
- PK09/5231/F – 2 Lodge Road, Yate (erection of 1 no. detached dwelling) (Refusal).
- PK09/5369/F – The Cottage, Yate Road, Iron Acton (Refusal).

11-11-09 PLANNING APPEALS

- None received.

12-11-09 LAND AT YATE ROAD, IRON ACTON (opposite Stover Road Trading Estate)

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SGC stating that two expressions of interest had been received in connection with a parcel of land, owned by SGC, opposite the Stover Road Trading Estate). The suggestion was to use this land for allotments. The expressions of interest had been registered by Yate Town Council and Westerleigh Parish Council. Following discussion, it was

agreed that Iron Acton Parish Council had no interest in this parcel of land, and the Clerk was instructed to respond to SGC according. The Clerk was also asked to query access and parking arrangements for this proposed allotment site; to ensure that access to the Frome Valley Walkway is protected; and to point out that the land is liable to flooding.

Clerk

13-11-09

PARISH MEADOWS

Councillor Bellis reported that there had been some confusion over the combination code to the access gate to the Parish Meadows, in order to Acton Aid to gain entry to organise the bonfire/fireworks event on 7th November 2009. The code had been changed as too many contractors/organisations were aware of the old code. The Clerk informed the Councillors that Mr. Haslehan of Acton Aid had contacted her at 9.30am on the morning of the event in order to obtain the new code. It was agreed that the Parish Council, as custodians of the land, need to formalise arrangements for any organisation wishing to use the Parish Meadows. It was also agreed that the Clerk would prepare a booking form type document for approval.

Clerk

14-11-09

MORRISONS DEPOT – GREAT WESTERN BUSINESS PARK

Councillor Taylor reported that he had received a number of complaints in connection with delivery lorries to the Morrisons depot. These lorries were approaching the depot from the roundabout, along Armstrong Way and were therefore pointing in the wrong direction in order to join the queue to gain entry into the depot. The better route would be to travel along Iron Acton Way, turning right into Churchward Road (just before North Road traffic lights) and then right onto Armstrong Way. However, the queue sometimes extends along Armstrong Way to the North Road junction and beyond. It is also believed that there is capacity on the site for lorries to wait to be unloaded rather than waiting on the road. It was agreed that a polite letter would be sent to Mr. Tim Clubb, the depot manager, asking that Morrisons remind drivers that the more appropriate access route would be along Iron Acton Way, and also to ask Mr. Clubb to consider allowing lorries onto the site to await unloading. This would go some way to alleviate the nuisance and disturbance caused by queuing lorries. Councillor Taylor asked that this letter be copied to Murray Hire and Tower Joinery.

Clerk

15-11-09

ACCESS ROAD OUTSIDE NIBLEY LANE BUNGALOWS

The Clerk informed the Parish Councillors about an issue that had arisen concerning the access road outside the Nibley Lane bungalows. Two residents, Mr. Jones and Mr. Harley had complained to Merlin, SGC, the Police and the Clerk that vehicles were using the access road to turn around, and had requested that signage be erected stating 'no turning'. This had been done by Merlin. The gentlemen then informed the Clerk that these signs had gone up and that they were enforceable by the Police with a £60 fine and 3 penalty points. The Clerk had liaised with the Police who informed the Clerk that the signs were not enforceable. However, Mr. Jones and Mr. Harley are insistent that something be put in Focal Poyntz informing reader that vehicles should not use the access road. Mr. Jones and Mr. Harley also informed the Clerk and the Police that 'drug deals' were taking place in the parking spaces outside the bungalows. The Police and the Clerk reiterated to the gentlemen that they need to make a note of car registration plates if they are suspicious.

Also they complained about speeding vehicles. To this end, flashing speed signs were installed at the 30mph sign at the entrance to the village on Nibley Lane for the month of October 2009. However, Mr. Jones and Mr. Harley complained that these signs had not been connected as they never flashed. The Clerk contacted SGC who provided the data sheets from these signs which showed that 85% of vehicles using the lane travelled at a speed of 31mph with the median speed being 25mph. However, the total number of vehicles counted amounted to some 13,207. This

number has been queried with SGC as it appears very high.

It was agreed that the following wording would be placed in the next Parish Council article for Focal Poyntz:- "The Parish Council has become aware that nuisance is being caused to residents of the Nibley Lane bungalows from vehicle using the access road to turn around. Signs have been erected by Merlin Housing Association requesting that vehicle refrain from doing this". Clerk

16-11-09 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING BRIEFING – 30th NOVEMBER 2009 The Clerk informed the Councillors that an invitation has been received via SGC in connection with an Infrastructure Development Plan Briefing. This briefing will take place on 30th November 2009 at 2.00pm-4.00pm in Thornbury Chamber or 6.00pm-8.00pm in Kingswood Chamber. It was agreed that the Clerk would remind Councillors via email nearer the time. Clerk

17-11-09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS Councillor Aplin enquired whether the Clerk had contacted Simon Carney in connection with a reprint of the 'Iron Acton – Parish with a Heart of Oak' book. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she had not had chance, but would do so. Clerk

Councillor Heal enquired on the current status of the Parish Council Web Site. The Clerk confirmed that it had been submitted to the various search engines for priority recognition. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she had spent a great deal of her own time preparing this site.

The Chairman enquired of Councillor Heal whether there had been any news in connection with the grant application by the Parish Hall for the new extension. Councillor Heal confirmed that a meeting with SITA had taken place and the Parish Hall Committee would hear whether they had been successful or not, by the end of November 2009.

Councillor Blanchard informed the Councillors that the tree works to Welforge would be taking place the following day. These works will necessitate the electricity supply being interrupted for most of the day.

Councillor Taylor asked that the Clerk report to SGC that there is considerable flooding on Station Road (by the bus stops) and at the junction of High Street and Park Street. Clerk

20-11-09 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Landscape Services	Grasscutting	£1,037.83
BWBSL	Water Rates – Station Road	£37.76
South Glos Council	Dog Bin Collection	£78.66
Iron Acton PCC	Marshall Rooms x 2	£30.00
Mrs. P. Evans	Broadband x 3 (£53.97), Telephone (£98.45), Stationery (£5.98), Backdated Salary (£44.82)	£203.22

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

The Chairman reported that a special offer of £399 for an Inspiron 1700 series laptop had been received from Dell Computers. The offer ended on 18th November 2009. The existing Parish Council laptop is in need of a replacement keyboard and a new battery, the battery alone will cost £110. It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase a replacement laptop. Proposed Councillor Taylor, seconded Councillor Gawler. All agreed. Clerk

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 7th December 2009 in the Marshall Rooms, Iron Acton, commencing at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____