

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ibstone Parish Council at 19.30 on Thursday 31st May 2018 at Ibstone C of E School

Present:

Cllr. Richard Scott	Chairman
Cllr. Jeremy Malkinson	Vice-Chairman
Cllr. Melanie Grimsdale	Councillor
Cllr. Simon Hammond	Councillor

And also present

Mrs. Deirdre Hansen Parish Clerk
1 member of the public present.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present.
2. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Wright.
3. The Chairman gave his report for the year 2017/18

Chairman's Report 31st May 2018

The year to May 2018 has been another active one for your Parish Council.

Planning Matters

A steady stream of planning applications within the parish boundaries has been referred to us by Wycombe District Council. The majority were non-contentious. We are however concerned that a decision upon appeal to permit the construction of a new house within the garden of Abbotsfield is likely to lead to increased pressure on the green spaces within the village in the future.

Another notable application was for two further classrooms at Ibstone School, to accommodate additional pupils. This was granted and the Parish Council hope that the school will be able to implement sufficient effective measures to reduce anticipated traffic problems as it expands.

We also made strong representations over an application to construct 140 houses at Little Studdridge Farm, Stokenchurch because of its potential effect on our parish. The application was refused on 11th January 2018 but we do not yet know if it will be appealed.

We also objected to an application under environmental legislation to establish two furnaces at Lower Studdridge Farm. This was refused and we do not yet know if this will be appealed.

Traffic Matters

The Mobile Vehicle Activated Device purchased in 2017 has proved very effective in reducing traffic speeds at various locations throughout the village, and we are now actively considering purchasing a second one.

We continue to monitor parking around the Common. A number of signs have been erected requesting vehicles to avoid parking on the verges and although they have not been universally welcomed they do seem to have been generally successful in protecting them.

Village Fireworks Evening

The PC supported another well attended event last November, and our thanks go once again to Karen Hammond and her committee and team of willing helpers.

M40 Noise

Sound Absorptive barriers have recently been erected to reduce noise in Stokenchurch. We have lobbied for many years to minimise any negative effect that larger barriers could have upon our Parish and the jury is now out judging the degree of our success in this respect. It will still be a number of years before the motorway surface is replaced with a quieter one, but there should be a significant reduction in noise at that point.

We would like to record our thanks to David Anker who has been our liaison with the M40CEG since 2012 and who has now stood down.

Centenary Memorial to the end of The Great War

Plans are well advanced to erect a sarcen stone with a plaque on the Common in time for 11th November, when there will be a series of National events to commemorate this important centenary.

Litter Pick

Another very successful Litter Pick was organised on 21st April, and our thanks once again go to Irene and Rass Randall and their team for arranging it.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

It is very important for the Parish Council to be able to communicate freely with villagers, but the recent implementation of GDPR means that everyone on our email lists has to opt in to remain there. Most have done so, and a final reminder has recently been sent to cover anyone who has overlooked the necessity. Our list is also used for Neighbourhood Watch and general village information purposes.

Parish Council Clerk

I would once again like to record my thanks to Deirdre Hansen, our Parish Clerk, who has most efficiently kept us on the straight and narrow for another year – and to my fellow Councillors for all the time and effort that they have put into their roles.

4. The Responsible Finance Officer gave the Finance report for 2017-18, see attached.

5. Public questions:

- i. Parking signs on the common: it was raised that the signs that had appeared on the verges of the common, apparently with PC approval, resulted that cars parked on the road obstructing sightlines for vehicles exiting some properties opposite the common. The Chairman responded that although the PC had supported efforts to reduce parking on the common, preserving the common, it had not been consulted on style or location of signs. The PC felt that cars parked on the road reduced the speed of the traffic. Parking in the village has been discussed by the PC for many years and no satisfactory solution has been found, it appreciated that any action had unintended consequences.
- ii. Flooding on the Ibstone Road in the woods towards Stokenchurch (outside our parish). Rain frequently causes floods, probably due to insufficient drainage. The Chairman thanked the public for bringing this to the PC's attention. The Chairman would speak to Wormsley initially.
- iii. The Chairman mentioned the Police report received which he will include with his newsletter.

The Chairman.....

date.....