

IBSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2019

Ibstone Parish Council held a well supported Ordinary Meeting on Monday 21st January at Ibstone School. Some of the items discussed are included in this newsletter, together with other topics of village interest.

Change in Local Government

A summary of proposed changes in local government presented to our meeting by WDC Councillor Chris Whitehead is attached to the covering email with this newsletter.

Traffic Matters

The most recent statistics from the MVAS will shortly be available on our website (www.ibstone.org). It will be noted that 58% of vehicles entering the village from Stokenchurch did so at a speed exceeding 30 m.p.h. Fortunately the device does appear to slow down traffic in its vicinity so the PC confirmed its decision to purchase a second one in order to reinforce efforts to reduce accident risk in the village.

Planning Matters

Responses received from parishioners to the Planning Statement distributed last October were fewer than anticipated but a large majority of them were supportive. The PC therefore agreed to adopt the statement and will continue to address planning matters in the manner set out within it. We will nevertheless welcome further comment at any time.

We now endeavour to inform all who are on the PC email list of new applications within the parish once the PC is notified by WDC, although you can check for yourselves by visiting the WDC website www.wycombe.gov.uk. Decisions are based upon planning legislation and we were recently sent a list of local policies applied by WDC (shortly to be formally adopted) when they consider applications for development within the Chilterns AONB. Those policies are attached to the covering email to this newsletter for your information and use. Other national policies also apply including the Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2018 which can be found on www.gov.uk.

All councillors are happy to try and help from time to time with any queries that you may have on current and outstanding planning applications.

Heathrow Airport Expansion

An article appeared in the Henley Standard on 18th January (see your email from Melanie Grimsdale dated 22nd January) setting out possible new flightpaths for aircraft following the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport. The Government are consulting on the issue and you can find out more information and make your comments by visiting <https://afo.heathrowconsultation.com>. Some of the alternatives could result in greater aircraft noise in the village, so have your say before the **deadline of 4th March 2019**.

Playground Equipment

The PC has been approached by a resident requesting more equipment on the play area adjacent to the cricket pitch. Discussion at the meeting covered the extent to which young families in the village need it and use it, and whether increasing its size would make it more attractive to them and to other visiting children. Concern was also expressed over the possible urbanising effect additional facilities might create.

We decided that this was an issue upon which we would like to seek opinions from all residents. **We would therefore be very grateful to receive your comments by email to me or any other councillor** (addresses on our website). We are of course conscious that any additions would need to fit in with the existing rustic look of the site, and would require consultation with the Cricket Club and permission from The Wormsley Estate.

Parish Council Precept

You will be pleased to hear that we have held the Council Tax precept for the parish at £7,000 for the fourth consecutive year. We understand however that Council Tax is likely to increase in 2019/20 as a result of greater demands from WDC and BCC.

Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held at Ibstone School at 7.30 pm on **Tuesday 12th March 2019**. Please contact any Councillor or our Clerk if you have any queries or matters you wish to raise in the interim. Contact details are available at www.ibstone.org.