

IBSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held 20th April 2007, 5.30pm
Ibstone School

PRESENT

Mrs. G Storey	Chairman
Mr. C Harbord	Councillor
Dr T Keable-Elliott	Councillor
Mr. R Martin-Fagg	Councillor
Mr. M Smith	Councillor
Mrs. I Randall	Parish Clerk
Three members of the public	

07.61 Apologies for absence
Mr. Robert Emmett

07.62 Declaration of interest
Cncllr. Harbord declared an interest in the planning application for Crown Cottage which was permitted by WDC on the 1st of March 2007.

07.63 Minutes of the meeting 30th of January 2007
The minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed by the chairman.

07.64 Matters arising

07.50 Speed Limits

Cncllr. Storey reported that the public consultation on the proposal to reduce the speed limit through the village from 40mph to 30mph will take place this summer with large ads in the Public Notices section of local newspapers and notices placed on the affected roads in residential areas. It is proposed that the new limits in Area 8 should be in place by Spring 2008. In January, the Parish Council again submitted a request that the lower speed limit be extended well past the school.

Further research was being carried out on Speed Indication Devices with an onsite meeting on the 27th of April with a SID supplier to explore the different options and costs for the proposed SID sites.

Cncllr. Storey also reported on some of the schemes that were being tried out by other parish councils such as the hiring of speed guns. The Speed Watch Partnership lends the equipment and assists volunteers with operational advice and high visibility clothing. There is also the possibility of borrowing such equipment free for a week from Bucks. County Council. It was decided to solicit villagers' views at the open meeting on the 8th of May about carrying out such speed checks in Ibstone and the positioning of SIDs.

07.50 Neighbourhood Watch

Cncllr. Harbord reported that it was proving difficult to raise interest in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and that there was still a requirement for coordinators. It was decided to discuss this further at the open meeting in May.

07.50 School footpath

The overgrown path opposite Crown Cottage has now been cleared by members of the Chiltern Society and organised by the Rights of Way Officer at BCC. It has been greatly appreciated by the mothers and the children love it. Mr. & Mrs. Howard Jones and Mr. Randall had provided a temporary wood bark surface while funding is sought at BCC for a more permanent surface. Cncllr. Keable-Elliott asked that the owner of the land on which the school path lies be determined and their responsibility for any injuries sustained on this. The Parish Council registered their appreciation and thanks for the work carried out by the Chiltern Society.

07.53 IB23

Cncllr. Storey reported that there had been no response from Mr. and Mrs. Woodford to the letter sent by the Parish Council stating its concern about the height of hurdling and enclosure of footpath IB23.

A meeting with interested parties to discuss future approaches has been set up on 24th of April with Paul Smith and Michael Cusden of Hambleton, Kate Ashbrook of Open Spaces, Janet Mitchell of the Chiltern Society and Barbara Wallis of the Chiltern Conservation Board in addition to the Board's Planning Officer, Colin White. James Mawson of BCC Rights of Way Team presented his apologies for being unable to attend. It was also decided to explore the possible national implications that this case may have.

07.56 Noise from the M40

Cncllr. Storey reported on the letters written to David Liddington MP, Paul Goodman MP, Cncllrs. Emmett and Woollard. All expressed their support and Cncllr. Woollard passed on our thoughts to Valerie Letheren at BCC, the Cabinet member for transportation. Mr. Liddington wrote to say that he and Mr. Goodman are applying for a Parliamentary debate on the subject of M40 noise and forwarded our letter to Dr Stephen Ladyman, the Minister for Transport. He replied saying there's no budget for resurfacing this section of the M40 and the Stokenchurch noise absorption barrier is not illegal. He suggested that any future comments be addressed to Darren Rhoden, the Highways representative who's responsible for our stretch of the M40. His contact number is 01234 796032.

The M40 Chilterns Environmental Group wrote to say that the group intends challenging the Highways Authority and to do so is to establish a fighting fund. They are having an open meeting on the 22nd of May and all are welcome.

07.65 Financial Matters

A. The budget for the spending up to April 20th 2007 was approved.

B. Cheque payments

Details of cheques that had been written since 1st February were presented:

207 Annual subscription to BALC	£50.02
208 M40 Chiltern Environmental Group grant	£50.00
209 Ad for IPC Clerk post on SLCC website	£50.00
210 Spoiled cheque	

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212 Clerk salary Feb 1 st – April 5 th 07 after deductions	£152.60
213 NI & PAYE on Clerk's salary	£198.70

The balances are still healthy and in surplus

- C. The PC was unsuccessful in its bid for Bonus Ball funding from BCC to improve damaged verges.

07.66 Planning

PERMITTED

- 06/05842 Mr. and Mrs. C Harbord
Crown Cottage
Conversion of outbuilding to residential use ancillary to existing dwelling
Parish Consent, WDC approve
- 06/07609/F Mr. & Mrs. S Fox
Keepers
Ibstone
Demolition of existing dwelling and most of adjacent raised terraces and erection of replacement dwelling
Parish approve WDC approve
- 07/05404 Mr. & Mrs. Sumptor
Cherry Tree
Ibstone
Erection of Stable Block
Parish Consent, WDC approve
- 07/054449 Mr. & Mrs. Clack
5 Chiltern Cottages
Ibstone
Construction of single storey extension & enlargement of side window
Parish Consent, WDC approve

PENDING

- 07/05726 Jan Reilly
Homelea
Ibstone
Addition of detached single garage
Parish Consent, WDC pending
- 07/05612 Mr. & Mrs. Freeman
Green Acres
Ibstone
Erection of covered link area
Parish Consent, WDC pending

07/05592 Wormsley Estate
OS Parcel 9361
Ibstone Common
Ibstone
Construction of 2 storey extension to south elevation, single storey extension to north elevation & refurbishment of existing dwelling to provide one 4 bedroom dwelling
Parish Consent, WDC pending

07.67 The Fox

Cncllr. Storey reported that in response to the PC letter to the NatWest Bank, the bank confirmed that The Fox still belongs to Mr. Bazini. The PC had then written to him outlining its concern that the pub was falling into disrepair but had received no response.

The PC also wrote to the CE of WDC about its concern that there might be an application for Change of Use for the Fox which would result in the loss of a valuable village amenity. The CE passed the letter to the WD Development Control Manager and his department wrote to say that no application for change of use had been received. He also confirmed that the Local Plan Policy is to 'protect and retain community facilities in villages where there is no alternative'.

Cncllr. Hugh McCarthy, WDC Cabinet member for planning responded saying that he had put this on his agenda for discussion with Gerry Unsworth at WD as a possible policy item within their community framework on the WDF. He will also 'do all in his power' to preserve these facilities. The Council concluded that at this point there was no more action that could be taken.

07.68 Regional Housing Strategy Review

Cncllr. Storey reported on the consultation document for this housing strategy. The sections most relevant to Ibstone included new proposals for affordable housing. Sections 4.10.3, 4.10.4 and 4.10.5 outlined that in considering the research results, the South East Regional Housing Board now noted that 'there is no proven case for increasing the emphasis given to targeting public sector funds towards investment in small villages. In particular there is no evidence that providing affordable housing in such circumstances will guarantee the sustainability of communities or that housing needs must of necessity must be met where it occurs. In this context, the nature of the relationship between the small villages and their market towns is more critical and supporting the role of these larger communities offers a more sustainable solution to housing need.' The Board's defined small market towns as those having a population between 3,000 and 10,000.

07.69 Rural Forum Report

Cncllr. Harbord reported on the Rural Forum meeting in March and noted that one of the 3 priority axes for spending in the EU Rural Development policy for 2007-13 is 'improving the environment and countryside' . A representative of BRAG, Bucks Rural Affairs Group which had its first meeting in February this year outlined the organisation's vision statement including key areas such as Rural Economy and Access to services and the review and development of the new Bucks Rural Strategy.

- 07.70 Bus Services
Cnclr. Storey reported on Bucks County Council's latest proposals for the reorganization of the local bus services. Following the experiences of some Oxon villages, the proposal of a demand response service for Ibstone was being withdrawn. The school services would remain and in addition there would be 2 journeys out at 9.30am and 1.30pm to Stokenchurch and then on to Marlow. Travellers would change at Stokenchurch to travel on to High Wycombe, There would be no services at weekends. There would be 3 return buses in late morning, mid-afternoon and early evening. The Council agreed to respond to Bucks CC that school holiday services are vital to the village and that the time of the services should be fixed every day and not variable as was being suggested. A consultation meeting is to be held in May which Cnclr. Keable-Elliott will attend.
- 07.71 M40 HGVs
The issue of large lorries coming through the village by accident and causing damage as they try to turn to get back to the motorway continues to be a problem. Mr. Michael Cusden of Hambleden has written to the Highways Department of Bucks County Council requesting a meeting to discuss this and has invited Ibstone Parish Council to attend the meeting with Dave Lemon of the Highways Department on the 25th or 26th of April. Cnclr. Harbord agreed to go to this.
- 07.72 Fencing on road to the Church
A representative of the Wormsley Estate had approached the PC to gauge initial reaction to a proposal to place a fence this road, half way between the road and the edge of the wood, which belongs to the Estate in order to prevent further fly tipping in this area. The work would include providing better car lay bys for people visiting the church. Cnclr. Keable-Elliott Noted that the Estate was already proposing to build a car park in the field next to the church which would be used by the staff of Manor Farm and visitors to the church and so the lay bys would not be required. Cnclr. Storey also voiced concern about the fencing in the light of the controversial action taken by the owners of Fingest Manor and IB23. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not favour such a move although understanding that the Council may not be in a position to prevent this happening.
- 07.73 Parish Council Elections and Code of Conduct
It was noted that 3 councillors were standing down at the next election and that 6 candidates were standing, namely Shaun Cutler, Melanie Grimsdale, Christopher Harbord, Tony Keable-Elliott, Irene Randall and Jonathan Sworn.
The Clerk reported that a new Code of Conduct for Councillors that was to be introduced had been delayed for some months and the original code would apply following the May elections.
- 07.74 Requests for grants
A grant for the Open Spaces 'Clutter on the Common' campaign was turned down.

07.75

AOB

Crow Act The PC had written to the Open Access Mapping Team supporting the view that the land know as Grays Bank should not be included draft map of Open Country for West England.

Bracken Cottage TPO The Clerk reported that Mr. Jonathon Sworn had responded to the Parish Council saying that he appreciated the PC taking an interest in the old oak in his garden which is under a tree preservation order and that he had contacted WC about the surfacing work that he hoped to carry out.

Stokenchurch Deer Sign

Cncllr. Harbord asked that Stokenchurch PC be contacted to ask that the Deer warning sign be made more legible by having the trees cut back.

Flyer for the Open Meeting

Cncllr. Storey requested the agreement of the council to circulate a leaflet to the villagers showing the subjects that will be on the Agenda at the Open Meeting on the 8th of May. This was agreed.

New Parish Clerk

The Council ratified the appointment of Mrs. Deirdre Hansen as Clerk to Ibstone Parish Council from the 7th of May 2007 and thanked Mrs. Irene Randall for standing in until a permanent replacement could be found.

07.60

Date of Next Meeting & AGM

May 8th 2007 8pm at the Cricket pavilion.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.