

IBSTONE PARISH COUNCIL Annual Parish Meeting

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 Abbatsfield 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 incinerators 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 motoway 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 saracen 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.

Richard Scott

Chairman