

IBSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2021

Ibstone Parish Council held a virtual Ordinary Meeting on Monday 18th January 2021 and the following matters were included in discussion:

Planning Statement

You will be aware that the PC is a statutory consultee notified by Buckinghamshire Council on all planning applications in the parish. In January 2019, following a village consultation, we adopted a planning statement which confirmed the principles we apply in commenting on each case. Subsequent changes to legislation which included the adoption by the then Wycombe District Council of a Local Plan mean that our statement needs updating. We therefore include a revised version with this newsletter and request your comments upon it. Please state whether you agree or disagree with it, and if the latter give your reasons. You may send a hard copy to any of your councillors or email me at chairman@ibstone.org. **The village is changing and if you wish to influence the way in which change happens this is an opportunity for your voice to be heard.** The duty of the PC is to reflect the overall view of the community and your response will help ensure that it does so.

The Fox Country Inn

The Fox is currently being actively marketed for sale as a pub/hotel *with residential planning potential*, inviting offers in the region of £1.6m. **There is a clear and present danger that we could lose the only pub and dining facility left in the village.** Those of you whose email addresses are on our distribution list will recently have received a brief questionnaire asking for your views on the matter. If you have not received it or would like a hard copy please ask Councillor Hammond (simon.hammond@ibstone.org or 01491 638260). The Fox was recently registered as a community asset at our request and this gives the community (through the parish council) the right to bid for it. However, we would need to serve notice of our intention to do so within 6 weeks and agree terms within 6 months. The PC therefore wish to know if there is enough interest and/or support from parishioners to take it further. To do so would of course require a substantial sum of money and commitment to run the business, but it is one certain way to ensure that we retain the facility in the village. We look forward to your response.

Parish Council Elections

At the time of writing this newsletter Government guidance is that council elections, including our parish, will take place on Thursday 6th May. They could however be postponed due to the pandemic and we are therefore monitoring the situation. There is currently one vacancy on the council and following our next ordinary meeting scheduled for Monday 8th March we will update you on the situation. However, this note is intended as an early warning to alert you to the opportunity of helping your community by standing as a candidate. If you would like any information on what is involved in this very rewarding activity please feel free to ask our clerk or any councillor (contact details on www.ibstone.org).

Next Meeting

Our next virtual meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on **Monday 8th March 2021**. Please contact our clerk (clerk@ibstone.org) or any Councillor if you wish to raise any matter in the interim.