

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ibstone Parish Council on Monday 24th May 2021 at Ibstone Church of England School commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Kendra Gittus
Cllr Melanie Grimsdale Vice-Chairman
Cllr Holly Hammond
Cllr Simon Hammond
Cllr Richard Scott Chairman

And also present
Deirdre Hansen Clerk
1 member of the public

1. The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the council.
2. No apologies were received.
3. Members noted the Chairman's report

Chairman's Report

The year to May 2021 has been like no other in the experience of the Parish Council. The COVID-19 global pandemic placed restrictions on our activities throughout the period and brought about the cancellation of several village functions which we normally support including the Village Show, Fireworks Evening and annual litter pick. Planned VE Day celebrations were also cancelled.

We however co-ordinated the village COVID-19 volunteer list whose members were able to assist shielding and other villagers who needed help from time to time.

We were obliged to hold six ordinary meetings virtually by Zoom and this proved to be a successful way to maintain our service to the parish.

Planning matters

The pressure on green spaces within the village has continued and we commented on several development applications during the year as well as three planning appeals and a continuing enforcement case at Litmore Shaw.

Towards the end of the year we consulted the parish on revisions to our Planning Statement in both hard copy and virtual formats, to ensure that we were continuing to reflect the opinions of our constituents, and having received almost unanimous approval we propose to adopt it at our Ordinary Meeting on 24th May 2021.

Community Assets

At our request Buckinghamshire Council listed The Fox as an asset of community value, and when it was recently formally placed on the open market, we consulted the village virtually with a SurveyMonkey survey to assess interest in its continued use as a village pub, restaurant and hotel.

There was a very strong desire for continuation of the use, but when it became obvious that we could not raise sufficient funds from residents or potential benefactors to exercise our right to bid, we resolved not to do so. The property is currently under offer to a private purchaser to whom we have reported the enthusiasm of the community for its continued use.

May 2021 Elections

Council elections took place on 6th May 2021 following their deferment in 2020 due to the pandemic. As there were five applications for the five positions as Councillor for Ibstone Parish Council **Richard Scott, Melanie Grimsdale, Simon Hammond, Kendra Gittus and Holly Hammond** were elected unopposed to serve on the Parish Council. At our Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18th May 2021 **Richard Scott was elected Chair and Melanie Grimsdale as Vice Chair**. Those of us who have been re-elected warmly welcome new Councillors Gittus and Hammond and look forward to working with them.

Thanks

I would like to convey our thanks to our Clerk, **Deirdre Hansen**, who has carefully guided us through the election process and for her help and support over the year. Her advice continues to be invaluable in ensuring the smooth running of the Parish Council.

Thank you also to my fellow Councillors throughout the year. In particular, we will all greatly miss **Michael Wright** who sadly died last July. His unfailing support and dedication to the running of the Parish is a great loss to us all. Also, we owe a great debt of gratitude to **Jeremy Malkinson** who stood down at the election following 10 years of dedicated service to the community during most of which he held the position of Vice Chairman. We are grateful for his support and sage input on all matters.

Although we were unable to meet at **Ibstone School** this year we thank them for the offer to use their premises for our meetings in the year ahead.

4. Public questions:

The estate manager at Twigsid brought the problem of a large number of cyclists coming down the hill on the bridleway towards Twigsid at very high speed to the PC's attention. He expressed concern that this is an accident waiting to happen. There is a blind spot by the cottage by the bridleway, where cars pull out, animals and children live. He asked the PC if there was anything that could be done.

Members discussed the matter and made some suggestions. It was suggested that the Open Spaces Society may be able to provide guidance or BC Rights of Way.

The Chairman.....

Date.....