

*The Annual Parish Meeting of Ibstone
Parish Council at 7.30pm on Monday 18th May
2009 at the Cricket Pavilion*

PRESENT

Mr. C Harbord	Chairman
Mrs. I. Randall	Vice-Chairman
Mr. S. Cutler	Councillor
Mrs. M. Grimsdale	Councillor
Dr R. Keable-Elliott	Councillor

Mrs. D Hansen	Parish Clerk
PC	Claire Marchant

And 5 members of the public were present: Mr. Oliver, Mrs Martin-Fagg, Mr. Sloane and Mr. Dad.

1. The Chairman welcomed members of the public. As everyone knew the Parish Council, no introductions were needed.
2. No apologies were received.
3. Chairman's report:
 1. Web-site. The Parish Council's web-site is now up and running. Thanks to Cllr Randall, who set it up and found the right provider.
 2. Cllr S Cutler and I have been attending the local NAG meetings. Speeding has been a big issue with the NAG. The police have been out at local schools and the community to get people to "commit to drive 30 mph". We do feel the NAG is a waste of Parish Council time, police time and resources. We have many meetings and other than speed have not achieved much.
 3. Neighbourhood Watch is running smoothly under the guidance of Cllr Grimsdale.
 4. We were consulted on the NATS. Changes to airspace were proposed. We raised objection to the proposals. We were not the only ones and they now have to reconsider and consult again. Nothing will be available until June/July 2009.
 5. We put up a new second notice board by the phone box. This allows more groups and individuals to advertise.
 6. The M40 bridge repairs have been delayed. The Parish Council has asked why these at the time urgently needed repairs have been delayed. We have been assured that Ibstone will not be cut off from Stokenchurch. The Parish Council continues to support the M40 Chiltern Environment Group, who campaign to have the noise levels reduced.
 7. Grays lane: we have commented to BCC on the new de-restriction sign, this makes no sense at all. They will not change it until all the new signs are reviewed. We have also asked BCC to review this dangerous junction. Unfortunately, mirrors are no longer legal. BCC have promised to look into this.
 8. The Communities Self Help plan that Cllr Grimsdale was working on has been put on hold.

9. We have dealt with 14 planning applications. The PC objected to 1. WDC permitted all. There are a few enforcement issues on going in the parish. (Grays and Lower Stud Ridge Farm).
10. We have tried to deal with excessive hedge growth that covered road signs and at times the road. We have asked BCC to clear any signs that were rendered invisible and asked individual land owners to cut back their hedges.
11. We carried out some minor playground repairs to comply with the required health and safety standards.
12. We have asked for the road from the village to Fingest to be resurfaced. BCC promised to include it in their bid for 2009/10 funding. (Still awaiting the outcome). Later we also asked for the road from the village to Mill Lane to be resurfaced.
13. We have spent many months and sent many letters trying to improve the situation with HGVs getting stuck in the village. They destroy the verges, people's gardens and at times cause major disruption to our community. BCC at first said the signs at the junction with the M40 and in the village were sufficient, (but only if you can read English!!). After a site meeting in January, they have now agreed to look into appropriate signage. They have not come back to us yet and we are still chasing. We have been advised to lobby our MP to get legislation changed.
14. We had a request to make the Parish a conservation area. We did make enquiries, but the village does not meet the criteria.
15. Rural bus services have been on the agenda. We have a limited "shopping service" to High Wycombe. The public can use the school buses if there is space. The problem is the lack of users. There is 1 person using the bus. The Parish Council asked Michael Chadwick to represent Ibstone on Area Transport Services meeting.
16. We implemented Standing Orders for the Parish Council, which is considered good practice.
17. We increased the clerk's pay rate and brought it in line with her other Parish Council.
18. We got 2 new litter bins in the village (by the school and the Mace)
19. We have requested a free salt bin for Grays Lane.
20. We have had a request for a seat in memory of Gay Turner. The common already has several seats, so on the mace was suggested.
21. Cllr Randall was appointed as "sponsorship "Governor to the school, after the school requested the PC propose a member.
22. We adopted the new Model Publication Scheme for the Freedom of information Act. And decided that the minimum charge would be £10.
23. There was a fear that BT would remove the Red phone box, but it is not under threat at present.
24. After much hassle the road drains were cleared. There is still more to be done.
25. The issue of the lorries servicing Twigsid development has affected the verges and since October we have had meetings with the architect and are assured they will be re-instated when the heavy work is completed.
26. Mrs Gracey came and spoke to the PC about the school's Travel Plan and the Walk to school plans. We have had some complaints re parking on the road due to walk to school, but the present arrangement fulfils the Education Committees criteria.

- 27. Our PCSO Jon Bateman has moved to the Met. His replacement should be with us June/July time.
- 28. Cllr Grimsdale fought through a snowstorm to attend a meeting regarding a defibrillator in the parish. After much discussion, it was felt this was not a Parish Council matter, but if Cllr Grimsdale could generate sufficient interest the Parish Council would consider making a donation towards cost. This is in fact the decision that Hambleden has taken.
- 29. As always we are grateful that Tony Grant organised the village litter pick on 07/03/09.
- 30. There have been on-going problems with the electricity supply, which I will elaborate on later.

Once again, I must thank the other members of the Council for their support, also not forgetting Deidre Hansen for her on-going commitment to both the village and the council.

4. The RFO presented the financial report. See attached.

There were a few questions about the variation in precept 07/08 to 08/09. This was due to the one-off additional Precept for SID's. These have not been purchased, but the money is intended to be used for speeding/traffic measures. The need had been perceived pre the change of speed limit in the village from 40pmh to 30mph.

5. PC Claire Marchant gave an update on police matters.

She explained that the NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) is a legal requirement. Our NAG is desperate for a Chairman. she encouraged members of the public to attend the NAG meeting.

Its main priorities are: Speeding, burglary and theft. All these will remain on going but the priorities are due to be revisited. She is trying to encourage WD Cllr Emmett to attend.

Cllr Cutler commended PC Marchant on getting children and parents involved in designing the speed posters and committing to 30mph.

Cllr Keable-Elliott commented that he was impressed with how well neighbourhood watch was working in the village.

Cllr Grimsdale commended PCSO Jon Bateman. He had done an excellent job and wished him well in his new job.

15 incidents of crime had been reported in the area year to date; this is a reduction of 7 on the previous year.

The Chairman.....

Date.....