

Ibstone Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish (Open) Meeting held on Tuesday 8th May at the Cricket Club commencing at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs. R. Storey, Chairman, Mr. C. Harbord, Dr. A. Keable-Elliott

And also present; Mr. M. Chadwick, CAF and Mrs. D. Hansen, clerk.

14 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies** received and accepted from Councillors R. Martin-Fagg, M. Smith, Wycombe District Councillor Emmett and Buckinghamshire County Councillor Woollard.
2. **The Chairman welcomed** the members of the Council old and new and the public present and explained the procedure of the evening.
3. **The acceptance of the minutes** of the previous meeting was moved to the end of the meeting.
4. **The Chairman** gave a comprehensive report of this year's Parish Council activities.

4.1 *Bus service*; the village currently has a daily service to and from Stokenchurch and High Wycombe. Due to cost savings and low usage BCC have been reviewing the whole service. She handed over the Mike Chadwick, who had been representing Ibstone's interests in this matter. He reported that Ibstone and Radnage will from 04/06/07 get a reduced bus service. The service from Stokenchurch will be improved and there will be an hourly service to Thame with connections to Oxford.

The school bus service will remain as it is during term time. He talked through proposed timetables, but they had not been finalised yet. The daily service will only run Monday to Friday, but will continue into Marlow. Stokenchurch bus services will be enhanced. New timetables will be posted at the bus stops. The Chairman thanked Mike Chadwick for coming to the meeting and representing Ibstone on this issue.

4.2 *Speed limits*: they had been due to change in autumn 2006, but due to budget cuts this has been delayed until early 2008, with consultation taking place summer 2007.

4.3 *The Parish Council had been investigating speed indicating devices*. There are 2 options, solar powered or mains powered. Possible positions have been discussed with the manufacturers. There followed a general question and answer session about the idea, type of sign and various locations to sight these signs. The public was in favour of the proposal. It is intended that they will be in place as soon as can be arranged.

4.4 *Large vehicles turning in the village*. There is a problem with large vehicles leaving the M40, in particular when it is closed and diverting through the village. Many get lost and turn in the parish. Councillor Harbord had been in discussion with BCC to look at ways of avoiding this. Unfortunately there is no internationally recognised signage, but Dave Lemon of BCC Highways will continue to research better signage.

4.5 *Speed checks*; Community Speed Watch: this is another way of trying to reduce speed through the village. There are many issues to be looked at, but there were 5 volunteers

(Cllrs Cutler and Grimsdale), Mrs P Wood, Mrs. R Storey and Ms Z. Cottle (?) volunteered to take on this responsibility. Councillor Harbord suggested that this be considered again after the SIDs had been in place for some time.

- 4.6 The *footpath leading to the school* was now clear and is in use. It now needs a new surface, but this is reliant on BCC funding.
- 4.7 *Road maintenance*: potholes are still a big issue as well as problems with the verges BCC will try and make good. Funding again is an issue.
- 4.8 *Neighbourhood Watch*; Cllr Harbord had taken this on. More co-ordinators and volunteers are needed. The public were asked to take a leaflet.
- 4.9 *Footpath on Cobstone Hill (IB23)*. The land owner has started to enclose the footpaths with willow wattle fencing and high wire fencing. Although he is not breaking any laws, users feel enclosed and there may be a health and safety issue to be considered. Many people and organisations are involved. Clerk to investigate if this is happening elsewhere, but Councillor Storey felt that after several approaches to the owners and meetings with interested parties there was no more that the PC could do.
- 4.10 *The Fox Public House*. It has been empty and on the market for nearly 2 years. The Parish Council concern is that developers may take an interest in the site. It had notified WDC that it would object to a change of use and it has been investigating possibilities of having the PH re-opened. It may require a village action group to take action as has happened in Fawly.
- 4.11 *Communication*: the PC has investigated the cost of setting and running its own web-site. Web-sites are popular with other PC's and can be used for more than just PC business. The new council to look at this. The notice board remains well used.

5 **The minutes** of the meeting of 10/05/06 were agreed and signed as a true record.

6 **Any Other Business:**

- 6.1 *Motorway noise M40*: there is a group looking at this. There next meeting is 22/05/07. Clerk to investigate where and when and communicate with Cllr Keable-Elliott. BCC has no funding available for resurfacing.
- 6.2 *Cllr Keable-Elliott raised the complaint* that several village residents had not received a notice of election, particular in Grays Lane. Clerk to write to WDC.
- 6.3 *Cllr Keable-Elliott brought the work of the retiring Councillors* to everyone's attention. Mike Smith's service to the village has been immeasurable. He had brought excellent expertise and advice in his 20 years on the council. He had shown himself to be a model Councillor and will be a huge loss. Roger Martin-Fagg in his 10 years on the council had done a sterling job and his loss will be felt. Chairman Gina Storey, the public present may not have been aware but, she had been very reluctant Chairman, but once she eventually agreed to become Chairman she has made a tremendous contribution to the PC and moved it into the 21st century and made it what it is today. He did not doubt that she would be standing again. The parish owed her a great debt of gratitude.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Keable-Elliott for his kind words.

The meeting closed 21.10