

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ibstone Parish Council at 7.30pm on Monday 10th May 2010 at the Cricket Pavilion

Present:

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

Mrs. D Hansen Parish Clerk

And 2 members of the public were present

1. The Chairman welcomed the members and the public present.
2. There were no apologies.
3. the Chairman's gave the following report:

Ibstone Parish Council has undergone some changes in recent months. Christopher Harbord who has chaired the PC for the last 3 years and served as a councillor for over 22, decided to stand down in February. We have missed his leadership and his experience, but appreciate that he felt he had 'done his bit' and it was time for new blood on the council.

Cllrs Keable-Elliott, Grimsdale, Cutler & Randall have now been joined by Mrs Margy Smith to give us our full complement of 5 councillors and we continue to be assisted by our experienced clerk Deidre Hansen. The next local elections are due to take place next year. In this last year we held 6 Parish Council meetings instead of 4 as an experiment and we will continue to do so.

The councillors and clerk have attended several briefing sessions in the last year with organisations such as Wycombe District Council, Bucks County Council and the Neighbourhood Action Group meetings, appropriately shortened to NAG organised by our local police representatives.

Indeed, much of our effort has been focussed on doing **exactly** that – **NAGGING** bodies such as Wycombe District and Bucks County to improve our local environment.

POT HOLES

Our roads have many fewer pot holes than they have had for some time. We would have preferred to have the surface completely stripped and a new surface laid but that is not an option in the current economic environment. The roads are by no means perfect, especially taking into account the long, hard winter that we have had but we have a good relationship with the local 'pot hole' team and their

repairs seem to be holding. It is a frustration to Ibstone PC that the road between the motorway and the top of the village comes under Stokenchurch Parish Council, but we do liaise with them to try to make sure that this road is included in their programme of works.

HGVs

After more than a year of chasing, there are now clear road signs as you come off the motorway showing that our roads are unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles. This has taken some time because we asked Bucks County Council to erect signs that would be obvious to drivers that do not speak English. They had to design a sign especially for us and this had then to be agreed by the Dept for Transport. Hence the delay. Hopefully the signs will have been worth waiting for.

NHW

Our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has gone from strength to strength under the auspices of Cllr Grimsdale. Relevant information is passed quickly when there is suspicious behaviour in the area. Unfortunately there have been 1 or 2 robberies in the village but this number might have been greater without the swift action of some villagers. We are mindful that the system must be used carefully, and not as a general way of circulating information to the village but there are plans to use the Neighbourhood Watch network in times of emergency such as extreme weather conditions to ensure that all villagers can access any help they need. This contact will be made through Cllr Grimsdale.

Planning

We have dealt with 11 planning applications in this last year and Wycombe District Council has permitted them all. There is 1 planning enforcement issue on-going in the parish.

Agricultural land

In this last year, the PC was asked for its opinion on the possibility of turning land that is designated as paddock or agricultural land into extensions of gardens. This is a Wycombe District Planning Department issue and their guidance is very detailed but basically states that 'any developments of the land should maintain its rural appearance. It should not have the appearance of, or be managed as, a domestic garden'. Full details are available from WDC.

Travellers Sites

Another subject which is not the direct concern of Ibstone Parish Council but some villagers have asked us to monitor, is the provision of Travellers' sites in the neighbouring Stokenchurch parish. 5 Oaks Farm at Studley Green and Dry Banks near the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf home on the A40 have been recommended as 'potentially suitable' sites by Wycombe District Council.

We attended a public meeting held by Stokenchurch Parish Council on the 19th of March with our then local MP David Lidington in attendance. There was a lively exchange and Mr Lidington took away several points to be addressed by the director of planning at Wycombe District Council. The outcome of his communication is that both sites are still being considered as '**potential**' travellers sites and that Dry Banks would start as a small site with 5 pitches with the possibility of being enlarged later. All of this is subject to planning permission being granted. There is no question of any Compulsory Purchase Order. We will continue to talk to Stokenchurch Parish Council about this.

Phone box

We have adopted our red phone box for £1. There will be no phone line in it because that would have cost a further £300 per annum. BT has promised that it will be handed over in 'reasonable' order and we have a volunteer from the village to look after this 1960s icon.

Tree Warden

The village has a new Tree Warden – it's Jeremy Randall (cries of nepotism)

That concludes my report. Does anyone have any questions?

- 4. Finance Report: see attached.
- 5. There was no other business.

The Chairman..... date.....