

**Minutes of the EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF IBSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Friday 30th July 2010 at 7.30pm at Ibstone Cricket Club.**

Present:

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

Mrs. D Hansen Parish Clerk

And 2 members of the public were present

10.305 Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr M. Smith

10.306 The meeting was held to discuss and decide whether to make a contribution to the cost of replacing a drainage ditch due to be dug between the footpath to the school and the road near the entrance to Twigside.

The Chairman gave a brief introduction to the issue that had arisen. Twigside have claimed against BCC for water that is being drained off the road onto their land. As a result BCC have decided to dig a 1 meter wide and 1 meter deep, 15 meters long open ditch, which BCC think will solve the problem. This is the most economical solution for BCC, which is acceptable to the owners of Twigside. By undertaking the responsibility for solving the problem of excess water draining onto the Twigside land, BCC have assumed all responsibility for the work and any subsequent consequences which may follow after the works are completed. The verge and footpath are owned by BCC; therefore they are responsible for the safety of any users.

The Chairman, clerk, Mike Smith for the school governors and Michelle Foster, Acting Head of Ibstone C of E School met on site with Ian Sharp, BCC local area technician to look at the proposed plans and to discuss the options.

The school is very opposed to an open ditch, considering it to be a health and safety risk. It would lie alongside a path currently used for 4 – 7 year olds to walk to school several times each day as part of BCC's Walk to School initiative. In addition to the possibility of a child falling into the ditch, concern was also voiced about stagnant water that could lie there. A covered soak away would be the school's preferred option. The additional cost of providing this solution was prohibitive to BCC.

At the clerk's suggestion the Chairman raised the consideration that the Parish Council may be able to make a financial contribution to a more expensive soak away. With some financial assistance the BCC spokesman said that it could certainly consider the more expensive option of the soak away. The Chairman asked BCC to stop all work on the proposed ditch at once so that an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council could be held to consider the matter.

The possibility of funding for this project was discussed and the two options considered. The Chairman emphasised that taking into account the urgency with which BCC was dealing with the matter, the suggestion was to put in place an option whereby the Parish Council could make some financial contribution towards a soak away, if all other efforts including pursuing the Health & safety concerns, failed. The next scheduled meeting of the PC is not until September by which time the ditch would have been in place.

Councillor Cutler said that small children should be accompanied by adults on the path and Councillor Grimsdale considered that BCC must be made aware that it would be held responsible for any incidents that occurred. Councillor Keable-Elliott stated that the responsibility for the work

was that of BCC and was not the responsibility of Ibstone Parish Council. Councillors Cutler and Grimsdale agreed with this. The Parish Council should remind BCC of its responsibilities.

The following motion was put before the Council

‘That Ibstone Parish Council should be prepared to make a financial contribution to the cost of a soak away if the open ditch was the only option offered by BCC’.

Councillors Cutler, Keable-Elliott and Grimsdale voted against the resolution and Cllr Randall voted in favour. The motion was defeated.

The meeting closed 7.55pm

The Chairman.....

Date.....