

## THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7.35PM AT THE HUB, PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES, 45B HIGH STREET IVER.

**Present:** Cllrs Peter Kinchin (Chair), Julie Cook, Wendy Matthews, Peter Stanhope, Adam Burke, & Ciarán Beary, Graham Young.

Also in attendance: Jeremy Day, Deputy Clerk – Open Spaces & Highways. There were 4 members of the public present including Cllrs John Rossetti & Kevin Brown.

**457/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sarah Hutchins.

**458/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**459/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Standing Orders were suspended at 7.37pm*

Cllr John Rossetti introduced himself to the Committee and expressed his interest in the work Cllr Kevin Brown thanked the Chair of the committee for his welcome to the meeting.

*Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.39pm*

**460/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

The minutes of the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 which had been received at the Full Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were agreed. It was:

**Resolved** that the minutes were a true record of that meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chair and put in the minute book.

**461/23 RIVER COLNE, SLOUGH ROAD – JSM LTD REQUEST FOR WATER DISCHARGE**

- a) The presentation made by representatives of JSM Limited at 7.00pm was noted and the presentation documentation was received by members of the Committee.
- b) Following a discussion it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would distribute further the information requested from JSM Limited and would act as the contact point with JSM Limited. Cllrs Julie Cook & Wendy Matthews would act as council liaison with the Colne Valley Regional Park. It was stated that a decision couldn't be made at this point. There needed to be a further discussion concerning compensation. Cllr Matthews confirmed information concerning the previous similar activity in 2019 including the payment of £10,000 compensation. She also stated an ecological report was obtained at the Council's request paid for by the

contractor / contractor's client as well as relevant legal costs. The Deputy Clerk recommended that following distribution of the further information from JSM an extraordinary meeting of the committee be convened to progress the matter further towards a decision.

**462/23**

### **RECREATION GROUND USAGE SURVEY**

- a) The Deputy Clerk made a presentation with further ideas of how the priorities of the survey could be fulfilled. As part of this he explained that for 2024/25 the amount of money in budget and earmarked reserved totals £50,000. This covers both on-going maintenance & repairs and upgrades for play areas and recreation grounds. He stated that for the next year there are no anticipated major repairs required. He further stated, ahead of showing some ideas that there is an opportunity to both improve existing facilities and pieces of equipment as well as add new facilities and equipment. Ideas included re-marking and upgrades of ball courts and basketball courts, cleaning of play area surfaces, refurbishing play equipment, installation of balancing play equipment, upgrading of cycle tracks and removal of broken equipment and making the surface safe in preparation of a potential new piece of play equipment.

It was further highlighted that consideration should be given to less abled children and those with sensory needs. The Deputy clerk highlighted the success of obtaining grants in past and will look for funding opportunities. He asked that if Councillors become aware of grant opportunities, they share these with the Deputy Clerk.

**463/23**

### **TREE WORKS**

The report of the Deputy Clerk was received including all 3 sets of quotes as further requested at the January meeting. It was further pointed out that the work required doing urgently and therefore making a decision was needed at this meeting. It was agreed that it was imperative that consideration was given to wildlife conservation when the work was being carried out. As part of the due diligence process undertaken by the Deputy Clerk when commissioning the work this will be discussed and an assurance given by the contractor. Following a review of the quotes a motion was proposed to accept the quote from Contractor 2 for all priorities (Quote reference (8)) at a cost of £10,200.00 ex VAT.

It was **Resolved** that the quote reference (8) from Contractor 2 (F.A. Bartlett Trees Experts Company) was accepted at cost of £10,200.00 ex VAT to cover all trees requiring remedial work. The Deputy Clerk was actioned to commission work to be carried out as soon as possible with consideration to the point made above concerning wildlife / conservation.

**464/23**

### **HEDGING AT IVER RECREATION GROUND**

- a) The Deputy Clerk advised that the completion of this task is being progressed and currently the price for completing the job is under negotiation. The Deputy Clerk will continue to progress this activity.

**465/23**

**WILDFLOWER VERGES – PLAN FOR SUMMER 2024**

The Deputy Clerk gave an update regarding the current status of this activity and the need to drive it forward with limited locations having been received to date. The committee delegated responsibility to the Deputy Clerk to manage this activity using the sites from previous years where the activity was successful along with some more identified in Iver Heath supplied by Cllr Julie Cook.

**466/23**

**IVER HEATH RECREATION GROUND – PATHWAY TO ANSLOW GARDENS**

The Deputy Clerk explained that this was on the Agenda as a Councillor had received feedback concerning the condition of the path and its potential for significant flooding as a result of excessive rain. As a result of a discussion the Deputy Clerk took an action to establish the ownership of the path and report back to the next meeting along with an initial view of action that could be taken if appropriate.

**467/23**

**FINANCE**

The Financial Comparison Report to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 which included a record of the movements to ear-marked reserves agreed at Full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was received.

**468/23**

**DEPUTY CLERK UPDATE**

The verbal report from the Deputy Clerk was received which included the following items:

- The noticeboard replacement at Langley Park Road will be progressed early in the new financial year when the budget will allow for payment of an approved contractor to install it as it is on Bucks highways land. A number of approved contractors have been provided by the Local Area Technician.
- Bus passenger usage information for the stop at the junction has been requested from First Bus (acknowledgement received) and further chased but nothing has been received to date.
- A TSID (Traffic Speed Indicator Device) that was previously used by the Parish Council has been located, a new battery purchased and now needs a testing on the road. In order to append any items to a Bucks lamp column a stress test needs to be carried out by an approved contractor. The cost of which is estimated to be £120 per test. As there is only £530 in the TSID operation and maintenance budget the Council can only afford for several sites to be stress tested. The Deputy Clerk will work with Cllr Julie Cook to agree the sites from the original list to be stress tested.
- New rubbish bins that are 'in stock' will be installed in the Churchyard to replace the wire rubbish bins that have become impractical for use.
- The annual statutory play area inspections by a qualified RPII Annual Inspector are booked to be carried out un-announced in May 2024. The Deputy Clerk & Deputy Head groundsman (as accredited RPII Operational Inspectors) will carry out inspections at all areas in April.
- The last 25% of the grant for the installation of the vehicle chargers at the Iver Recreation Ground is being applied for.

- The new Buddy Benches (funded by the Community Board) have been installed in each recreation ground and the install at Richings Parks is being progressed.
- The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that an inventory of all play equipment at each recreation Ground and the Richings Park play area will be finalised and shared.

**469/23**

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Chair thanked the Deputy Clerk and the Grounds Team for their continued commitment.
- ANPR (HGV) cameras will be installed imminently on Bangors Road South.

**470/23**

**WEBSITE/PRESS RELEASES**

To continue to ensure our website reflects progress on current activities that are underway.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.23pm

Signed ..... Chairman

Date: