

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th JULY 2024 AT 7.00PM AT THE HUB, PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES, 45B, HIGH STREET, IVER.

Present: Cllrs Peter Kinchin (Chair), Julie Cook, Peter Stanhope, Adam Burke, Ciarán Beary, Kevin Brown, John Rossetti, Wendy Matthews & Sarah Hutchins.

Also in attendance: Jeremy Day, Deputy Clerk – Open Spaces & Highways.
There were no members of the public present.

107/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

108/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

109/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

110/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29th MAY 2024

The minutes of the meeting on the 29th May 2024 which were circulated on 11th June 2024 and received at the Full Council meeting on 15th July 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.

111/24 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2024

The minutes of the meeting on the 12th June 2024 which had been received at the Full Council meeting on 15th July 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.

112/24 PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

The Deputy Clerk's report was received and noted.

113/24 TREE WORKS AT COTTAGE IN THE WOODS PATH (IVER HEATH) AND AREA OUTSIDE 45B, HIGH STREET

The Committee received the report from the Deputy clerk and considered the quotes obtained for the works at both sites. Following a discussion it was:

Resolved to accept the quote from Contractor 2 at a cost of £3,100.00 ex VAT

Following a discussion regarding the provision of the Tree Surveys currently being obtained from the surveyors the Council has used for a number of

years, a motion was brought by Cllr Julie Cook and seconded by Cllr John Rossetti that the Chair, Vice Chair and Deputy Clerk should meet with the surveyor to understand their approach to sustainability and tree and forestry management. A vote took place, and it was:

Resolved that the Chair, Vice Chair and Deputy Clerk will not meet with the surveyor to understand their approach to sustainability and tree and forestry management.

The Deputy Clerk referred to the budget situation and reported that following the acceptance of the quote from Contractor 2 the balance remaining in the budget for 2024/25 is £2,480. After a discussion which included the point that the Council could be required to undertake work of an urgent nature at any time, it was:

Agreed to make a recommendation to Full Council for the Virement of £12,000 at the September Full Council meeting.

114/24 REMEDIAL WORK TO PAVED AREA OUTSIDE COUNCIL OFFICE - 45B, HIGH STREET

The report of the Deputy Clerk with quotes for the work was received and following discussion and review, a motion was put by Cllr Peter Kinchin and seconded by Cllr Ciarán Beary that the work be completed by Contractor 2. A vote took place, and it was:

Resolved to ask Contractor 2 to complete the work at a cost of £2,320.00 ex VAT.

115/24 FUTURE USE OF ST LEONARD'S MOUND

The Deputy Clerk gave a brief update from a meeting he had attended with Cllr Graham Young and the team at Lilliput Nursery which confirmed their great interest in being able to use the area in the future with young members of the nursery particularly related to conservation and nature. Cllr Wendy Matthews highlighted that other youth community groups including scouts as well as the community in general were supportive of developing the area for community use and were willing to help with the work to do this. A point was raised concerning the perimeter fencing ensuring the area was secured for use by the Nursery in particular and the Deputy Clerk state that that would form part of the overall health and safety review of the re-opening of the area. He also stated that the site remained closed current as some remedial work was required to the steps which will be carried out by the Grounds Maintenance team outside of the current summer maintenance schedule. The Deputy Clerk also stated that further information from the Nursery was being prepared and will be brought to the September meeting.

116/24 CURRENT CONDITION OF NOTICEBOARDS AT RICHINGS PARK

The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update on the condition of the 2 noticeboards in Richings Park and Cllr Wendy Matthews confirmed the history concerning the ownership of both the Parish Council Noticeboard and the Residents' Association. The Deputy Clerk suggested he looked into identifying the supplier and seeing whether some maintenance work to both could be identified and report further at the September meeting.

- 117/24 JSM CONSULTING – MUD WHARF / SLOUGH ROAD**
The report of the Deputy Clerk was received that confirmed the discussions and meetings that took place concerning this activity and that the matter was now concluded and the files concerning this were archived.
- 118/24 CCTV COVERAGE OF RECREATION GROUNDS**
Following a discussion that positively indicated that the Committee had the view that the CCTV coverage should extend beyond just the buildings it was agreed to refer this matter back to the Facilities and Events Committee and that they Deputy clerk would work with the Deputy Clerk – Facilities & Events to get an idea of the feasibility of re-angling existing camera and the cost of doing this and also costs of any new equipment required to do this.
- 119/24 DEVOLVED SERVICE – GRASS CUTTING WORKING GROUP**
It was noted that a meeting of this group would be arranged for the next evening (Thursday 25th July). There were discussions concerning the venue and the Deputy Clerk advised the Committee to consider the advice they had been sent by the Locum Clerk concerning the location used for this meeting.
- 120/24 FOOTBALL CLUB USEAGE OF RECREATION GROUNDS IN IVER & IVER HEATH**
The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update reporting that a new Men's Football Club, FC Baylis, were now playing at Iver Heath Recreation Ground on a Saturday Afternoon. He further reported that the income from Football pitch hire was received in the Open Spaces & Highways budget.
- 121/24 FINANCIAL COMPARISON REPORT**
The Financial Comparison Report to 17th July 2024 was received and noted.
- 122/24 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT**
The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update which included the following:
- The Summer Grounds Maintenance work is working successfully, and everything is up to date. There have been no complaints raised concerning the service being provided but where reports of remedial work is required these are being inspected and prioritised with work being carried out to satisfaction. The Grounds Team are all well, well-motivated and engaged and are well briefed on health and safety precautions for hot / sunny weather days and understand their obligations. The Co-Deputy Clerks work together to ensure they are fulfilling the Council's duty of care towards its employee's well-being.
 - All equipment is in good working order with very little 'downtime' having been experienced so far in the summer season because equipment is well maintained, serviced and cleaned down properly after use. The Deputy Head Groundsman and the Deputy Clerk work closely together to ensure we have spares and supplies for the Council's equipment which again has not caused any major 'downtime' where supplies have run out.
 - There are now 3 electric strimmer's which means each team member has use of updated equipment. Electric equipment has reduced vibration and therefore a greater 'use' time making the operation more

efficient. Fuel trimmers are still available should the need arise to use them.

- A contractor who can carry out Cable Routing Tracing has been identified which will allow for a number of activities including the installation of the new noticeboard at Langley Park Road to be completed and the required hedging work at the Iver Recreation Ground.
- The stress testing of lamp columns for TSID's is booked for mid-August. Whilst a cheaper cost was being sought, the original suggested contractor has been selected by the Deputy Clerk to use.
- Buckinghamshire Highways have completed the maintenance of 'line of sight' grass verge cutting and as result of that the wildflower patches are largely requiring clearing and making good for next year where the proposal is to use existing and additional sites for lower species of wildflowers that do not obstruct the view of traffic.

123/24 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair continued to thank the Deputy Clerk and the Grounds Team for the work being done to maintain the open spaces maintained by the Parish Council. He also acknowledged the way the Committee was working together for the good of the community.

124/24 WEBSITE / PRESS RELEASES

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the website continued to be used to keep residents updated of actions & activities undertaken.

125/24 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.58pm.

Signed Chairman

Date: