

The Ivers Parish Council
Outdoor Services/devolve Services Working Group
Meeting Notes and Actions
29 July 2024

Item 1 appoint a chair

Councillor Kevin Brown was nominated by Councillor Stanhope and seconded by Councillor Rosetti.
Resolved to appoint Councillor Brown as chair of the working group.

Item 2 apologies

Councillor Gupta

item 3 declarations

no declarations received

item 4 agree notetaker

Councillors Cook and Rosetti agreed to undertake this work

item 5 discussion on work involved as a consequence of the devolution offer

The working group noted the points made by Councillor Kinchin in his email sent prior to the meeting. Working group discussed that any new work that may be generated, if this offer was accepted, should be minimised. The working group noted that we are still recruiting for a full-time clerk and at present Clerk works between FTE 0.4 and 0.5, therefore we would expect that the new parish clerk would have capacity to administer a contract.

The working group noted that some areas in the parish which are presently in scope for verge cutting are in fact regularly cut by other groups for example Pinewood Studios undertake significant maintenance activities along Pinewood Road. Equally volunteers undertake significant maintenance activities including mowing, cleaning street signs, and making advisory notes and fix my street. Therefore, all the services and areas listed in the Bucks offer are in fact not actually performed by Bucks.

The working group discussed examples of what happens in other parish areas. Councillor Rosetti provided insight into the approach taken by Denham Parish Council. We understand Denham pays approximately £4000 per cut to an external contractor and that they make decisions as to when they need the cut throughout the course of the year, providing the contractor a week or two's notice.

The working group concluded that greater detail is needed as to the areas covered by the in-scope activities as proposed by Bucks Council.

As a result of our discussions the working group tasked the following:

1. Councillor Brown to ensure that the working group meets with the relevant Bucks officer, Zoe Ford. Councillor Luisa Sullivan has contact details and can help facilitate this if necessary. Councillor Brown to contact parish clerk in the first instance.
2. Councillor Rosetti is to identify some further examples of patent parishes who have accepted devolution of services and have conversations with those areas to understand how they operate in their key learning from operating in a devolved situation.

Item 6 feasibility study

Councillor Kinchin had been advised that it was a requirement law and that the figure of £5000 was an estimate provided by Clerk based on prior experience.

1. Councillor Brown was tasked to find out further information about the requirement for a feasibility study, including the specific law that is said to be relevant.

Item 7 costs of devolve services

Discussion of costs was included partially in agenda item 5. The working group discussed the quantum of the offer previously made by Bucks Council but is unable to progress further with information on hand. The working group agreed that

1. Further discussion to be held following the meeting with Bucks officer Zoe Ford, and consideration of information learnt by Councillor Rosetti.

Item 8 recommendations to open spaces committee

The working group noted the annual budgetary planning cycle and aims to have all deliberations completed to see this cycle.

At this stage further recommendations to open space committee are not made.

1. The working group agreed it is to meet again and tasked Councillor Brown to call the meeting when appropriate.

Meeting closed at 7 pm