

THE IVERS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 14th October 2024 at 7:00pm at
The Jubilee Pavilion, Iver Recreation Ground**

Council Members Present: Cllrs Beary (Chair), Kinchin (Vice-Chair), Bhatti, Brown, Cook, Rossetti, Gupta, Young, Sullivan, Matthews and Stanhope.

Officers in attendance: Ron Spurs, (Locum Clerk) and Jeremy Day, (Deputy Clerk)

Members of the public: 11.

209/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bhachu, Burke and Hutchins.

210/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a. To note any declaration of interest made by Members in connection with an Agenda item. Members to specify the nature of the interest;
- b. To receive any written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests;
- c. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

211/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An Open Session will be held for members of the public who may ask questions or submit comments about agenda items/parish council matters. Parish Councillors may also make comment at this time. If there is a representative from Thames Valley Police, and/or a Buckinghamshire Council Member in attendance, there will be an opportunity for them to report on any relevant matter or ask/answer questions. Each person speaking will usually be limited to three minutes. Duration of this part of the meeting usually to be no longer than fifteen minutes. Questions and representations can be submitted to the meeting via the Clerk who will read these out. If you wish to address council or ask a question and do not wish to attend the physical meeting, or are not able to attend, you can submit questions in writing or via email to the Clerk no less than 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

There were 11 members of the public in attendance.

1. A member of the public raised a question regarding Hardings Row, she stated that she understood that there was funding available for Boardwalk. The Chairman responded that the funding was still there and that she would hear about it when the work is underway, it is scheduled to happen.
2. A member of the public read a statement to the meeting concerning the Iver Regeneration project at Item 11 and urged the Council to reject this motion and instead start a meaningful, inclusive listening campaign and conversation about Regeneration of the Ivers and how best to deliver this.

3. A member of the public stated: On item 11 it states to identify suitable sites and to consult with stakeholders and landowners. Whilst the regeneration of the High Street is a popular thing, but it is important that it is done with the residents. It is hard to get co-operation from the residents the residents associations spent a lot of time creating their interfaces and we ask that you come to us as well. To help and get information and ask the residents what they want and bring this information. Just recently we had a consultation with Bucks and we got 117 responses about the High Street, please use this resource. The Chair thanked the member of the public.
4. A member of the public raised the question of parking, why were the gates closed at the Jubilee Pavilion closed at the weekend when the Football Club operates. The Chair responded that the Recreation Ground has been occupied a few times by members of the travelling community and that it takes a lot of money to remove the people involved and he agreed to look into the matter.
5. Unitary Cllr Louisa Sullivan stated that she had received questions regarding an item on the Agenda and obviously that before you have heard the item is problematic. She reminded of the democratic process with 14 elected councillors and 3 unitary councillors and so far we have been managing future development plans and having meetings with other parties and coming together to form plans together. The Chair thanked her for comments.
6. A member of the public spoke regarding item 11 on the Agenda with regards to the process of selection of the chosen representatives She also raised a question regarding representation from the wider community outside of the Parish Council. The Chair responded that we will answer that during the session later in the meeting.

212/24 MINUTES – To consider the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September 2024.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

213/24 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair thanked members of the public being present. He stated that there are possibly things on this Agenda tonight that you consider contentious, and he asked them to consider how you turn up at a meeting and how you behave at a meeting, and how you listen to other persons points of view. This is a meeting where we are councillors to promote all of the Ivers and represent the constituents of our parish and it is not about blowing our own trumpets and not about self aggrandisement.

214/24 COMMITTEE MINUTES

To receive the committee minutes as detailed below:

- a. Staffing Committee held on 9th September 2024
- b. Planning Committee meeting held on 10th September 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Committee meetings above be received.

215/24 EXTERNAL BODY MEETINGS

To receive a short, written report from councillor representatives attending the following external body meetings:

- a) Wexham and the Ivers Community Board meeting held on 23rd September 2024.

Members received this report.

216/24 FINANCE

- a. To receive the accounts for payment for September 2024
Resolved to receive the accounts for September 2024
- b. To receive the Budget Comparison report until September 2024
Resolved to receive the Budget Comparison until September 2024.
- c. Cllr Young to report on the bank reconciliations undertaken to date.

Verbal report provided by Cllr Young that he had inspect bank reconciliations.

217/24 GRANT APPLICATIONS

To consider the grant application received as detailed below:

- a) Iver Heath Drama Club

Resolved to make a grant of £500 to the Drama Club upon the Drama Club submitting a copy of their most recent accounts to Officers.

218/24 DEVOLVED SERVICES

To receive an update from the Open Spaces & Highways Committee concerning Devolved Services and to agree any relevant actions.

Resolved to defer further consideration of the report until a Parish Clerk is appointed and takes up their post.

219/24 FUTURE REGENERATION FOR IVER

Purpose and scope

The Council supports the concept of regeneration in Iver and development which will have a positive impact on the Villages. This will include advancing schemes that would provide affordable/social housing, parking facilities and commercial opportunities.

Proposed Cllr Beary. Seconded by Cllr Matthews.

Motion.

Given recent changes to planning law and the need for regeneration within Iver it is requested that as part of this motion the following is agreed.

1. To consult and identify suitable sites for regeneration within the village of Iver which will enhance local vision and aspirations, and the village feel.

2. For Cllr Beary and Cllr Matthews to consult with stakeholders and landowners to establish their engagement and commitment to any project any in the local area.
3. To bring any recommendations to either Full Council or the Planning Committee based on relevance of any decision needing to be made.
4. To liaise with Council Officers and other external parties to seek viability and feasibility.
5. For Cllr Beary and Cllr Matthews to work with all the interested parties to try to bring them all together as soon as possible, identify the necessary funding streams and report back to Council on progress.
6. To appoint Cllr Beary and Cllr Matthews to act as Regeneration Liaison Councillors
7. To accept the confidential report previously circulated. (Please note the confidential report is not for discussion and is for information purposes only.)

The Chair moved that item 11 on the Agenda be moved into private session, this was seconded by Cllr Kinchin. The Chairman asked for comments.

A Councillor stated that the item relating to regeneration did not fall into the criteria for private session.

The Locum Clerk that the statement regarding going into private session, however, in discussion with the Chairman prior to the meeting it is likely that commercially sensitive discussions might take place in the public part of the meeting and therefore his advice is that it should be considered in the private section

A Councillor asked if the motion could be split into two sections, one for open debate and the remainder in private session. The Locum Clerk agreed that this was possible.

The motion to move the whole item into private session was not approved.

Cllr Matthews proposed a motion that general issues were discussed in the open part of the meeting and defer the discussion of any commercially sensitive issues to a closed part of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Young.

Cllr Cook asked for a named vote.

For: Cllrs Beary, Matthews, Sullivan, Young, Brown, Kinchin and Bhatti.
Against: Cllrs Cook, Russell, Stanhope and Gupta.

The motion was passed.

The Chair opened the conversation around regeneration, to let councillors know what the possibilities are.

He stated that since the adoption of Phase 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan, opportunities concerning bringing forward Phase 2 has not happened as yet. If other initiatives come up either by councillors or neighbourhood groups, then they can be considered in Neighbourhood Plan Phase 2 or elsewhere. This (motion), is the beginning of an opportunity and it is not a robust plan. Cllr Matthews and I are looking at particular opportunities, and in order to represent the council we need the endorsement of the council to do this.

There is an identified need for car parking and social housing in Iver Village. The land ownership in the village of Iver is quite complicated and this is a bit commercially sensitive. There is an opportunity to discuss with others a wider scheme in the village. There could be an opportunity to expand areas and the council needs to know who owns all the land. A landowner has contacted the Chair and Cllr Mathews to explore these possibilities, that is the extent of this motion. There will then be a bigger discussion with the community, there are opportunities for grant funding and funds to do an overall plan.

It was stated that the Parish Council need to reassure everybody that this is very early stages, there has been no agreement with anybody or discussions. If the Parish Council can put this together and take this opportunity, we have to do it now, because now is the window of opportunity.

It was stated that the planning law has not changed as yet. The first part of the motion is inaccurate and misleading. Secondly, Parishes do not look after social housing. If we are having this kind of work we do not have a definition of regeneration. The area you mentioned was discussed in a Neighbourhood Planning workshop as one of the areas that maybe we want to have a policy on. Why do this piece of work outside the Neighbourhood Planning framework? This has no legal way forward. There is a third way which is a community led development. A landowner working with community representatives.

It was stated that a few members of the team were necessary so that the whole thing had more clarity and democracy. Cllr Brown proposed that 3 more councillors are added to the group.

Cllr Brown proposed an amendment to the motion that there should be 5 members. This was seconded by Cllr Stanhope.

The amendment was passed.

There was a further discussion regarding the idea by members.

A Councillor stated he was very uncomfortable about this. He stated he was not sure of the legality or that councillors should get involved. The way this is coming across you want the parish council to lead on it, and for that reason I would not be staying for session 2. There was a discussion about the management of existing assets owned by the council.

The Chair called for a vote on the amended motion. (Increasing the number of councillors on the group from 2 to 5).

This was passed.

Cllrs Bhatti and Sullivan left the meeting at this point.

220/24. CORRESPONDENCE - FOR NOTING

- d. Letter from Iver Heath Bowls Club regarding parking – operational matter resolved.

221/24 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To exclude the Public and Press from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters which will be discussed are considered to be confidential).

222/24 CONFIDENTIAL ELEMENT OF AGENDA ITEM 11

A discussion took place concerning this item with a variety of views and points shared.

It was agreed that the group approved in the motion item 11 would be Cllrs Beary, Matthews, Kinchin, Stanhope and Rosetti.

The chair stated that the confidential report referred to in Item 11 of the Agenda, was received by the council.

223/24 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE RECRUITMENT THE PARISH CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

The Deputy Clerk left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Brown informed the meeting that they had received applications for the Parish Clerk post. He also outlined the recruitment process.

224/24 TO CLOSE THE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm