



THE IVERS

PARISH COUNCIL

45B High Street, Iver, Buckinghamshire, SL0 9ND

www.iversparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 16th December 2024 at 7:00pm
at Jubilee Pavilion**

Members Present:

Cllr S Bachu
Cllr C Beary – Chair of Council
Cllr M Bhatti
Cllr K Brown
Cllr A Burke
Cllr J Cook
Cllr S Hutchins
Cllr P Kinchin – Vice-Chair of Council
Cllr W Matthews
Cllr J Rossetti
Cllr P Stanhope
Cllr M Sullivan
Cllr G Young

In Attendance:

S Fishenden – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
D Ashlee – Council HR & Governance Support
One member of the public

Item 1: Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies

299/24 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gupta.

Item 2: Declarations of Members' Interests: To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for this meeting. To also consider any dispensations requested.

300/24 There were no declarations of interest received.

Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meetings:

3.1 Ex-FC Meeting – 31.10.24: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31.10.24 as an accurate record

301/24 The approval of the minutes of the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 31st Oct 2024 was deferred until the January 2025 meeting as some councillors reported not receiving the confidential appendix.

3.2 F.C. Meeting – 18.11.24: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18.11.24 as an accurate record

302/24 The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 18th November 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

Item 4: Public Session & External Reports

4.1 Public Session

303/24 The member of public present spoke to raise the following points:

- They welcomed the proposal for a strategic plan and felt this would help strengthen the council's representative role with Buckinghamshire Council.
- Encouraged the greater levels of communication with the Residents Associations
- Concerned that the reduction of HGVS generated by the closure of the business parks, may be replaced by alternative sites within the parish.

4.2 Unitary Councillors

304/24 Cllr Matthews reported that the ANPR cameras on Bangors Road are now operational.

4.3 Thames Valley Police

305/24 There was no Police representative present.

Item 5: Chair's Announcements: To receive verbal announcements from the Chair of Council

306/24 The Chair of Council gave the following announcements:

- To thank all councillors for their time and dedication over the last month
- A reminder to Councillors that he would be limiting repeated interventions tonight from members to ensure the meeting is run efficiently
- To wish all Councillors and staff a Merry Christmas.

Item 6: Clerk's Report: To note a report of items for information from the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

307/24 The written report from the Clerk & RFO was noted.

Item 7: Committee Minutes: To note the minutes received from the committees

7.1 Planning Committee – 12.11.24

7.2 Open Spaces and Highways Committee – 27.11.24

7.3 Facilities & Events Committee – 06.11.24

308/24 The minutes from the committees were noted.

Item 8: Financial Matters for 2024-2025

8.1 Payments for Approval: To approve the schedule of payments from 1st Nov - 30th Nov 2024

309/24 The payments made between 1st Nov and 30th Nov, totalling £58,838.73 + VAT were approved.

8.2 Budget Monitoring: To note the report showing the Council's current financial position

310/24 The Council noted the current financial position.

8.3 Bank Reconciliations: To receive a verbal report from Cllr Young on the monthly bank reconciliations

311/24 Cllr Young reported he had completed bank reconciliations up until mid-September 2024 and would commence work soon to complete the latest set of reconciliations up to the present day.

8.4 Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2023-24: To receive and accept the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and external auditor's certificate. The notice was displayed on the noticeboard outside the Parish Hub and published on the website in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

312/24 This was received and noted.

8.5 Interim Audit Report for 2024-25: To note the Interim Audit report received from the Internal Auditor and consider any recommendations arising

313/24 The Interim Audit report for 2024-2025 was noted as received. The recommendations of the report were in the process of being actioned.

8.6 Colne Valley Regional Park – Funding Request: To consider increasing the funding provided to CVRP, larger than the usual annual inflation-linked RPI increase

314/24 It was agreed that in addition to the Council's inflationary increase in membership fee as a result of RPI, it would also provide an additional £2,000 to CVRP. This would be funded from the underspend in the 2024/25 budget.

It was also agreed that our dissatisfaction with the decision by Buckinghamshire Council to reduce core funding would be expressed in the form of a formal letter to the Leader of the Council.

Item 9: Budget for 2025-2026

9.1 Review of Fees & Charges: To consider the fees and charges for the 2025/26 financial year

315/24 The fees and charges for 2025-2026 as recommended by the Facilities and Events Committee were approved.

9.2 Budget: To consider the draft budget for the 2025/26 financial year

316/24 The overall net budget requirement for 2025-2026 totalling **£691,326.26** was approved.

9.3 Precept: To agree the precept requirement for the 2025/26 financial year

317/24 The precept for 2025-2026 was set at **£691,326.26**. The Clerk & RFO would notify Buckinghamshire Council accordingly.

Item 10: Council Strategy

10.1 Preparations for 2025-2029 Term: To consider the quotes received for an all-councillor training session and the preparation of a strategic plan

318/24 It was agreed to adopt the recommendations:

- To commission Council HR & Governance Support to assist with the preparation of a Strategic Plan, accepting parts 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the quote, bringing the total cost to £4000
- To not pursue part 4 of the quote (consultation process) and deliver this aspect in-house with the Clerk & RFO facilitating the consultation process
- To commission Mulberry Local Authority Services to deliver an all-councillor training session and mock meeting exercise at a cost of £845
- To create a '2025-29 Council Preparations' earmarked reserve of £5000, to be vired from the Neighbourhood Plan budget which currently totals £20,000

10.2 Civility & Respect Pledge: To consider signing the Civility & Respect pledge, an initiative by SLCC and NALC

319/24 It was agreed that The Ivers Parish Council would sign the Civility & Respect Pledge.

10.3 Action Plan 2024-2025: To consider adopting the draft Action Plan for the remainder of the council term

320/24 The Action Plan was approved subject to one amendment; to ensure the full list of previously agreed projects is included in Action 4 of the plan.

10.3 Biodiversity Policy: To consider adopting the draft Biodiversity Policy

321/24 It was agreed to defer consideration of this item until the January 2025 meeting to enable officers to conduct further work on this document.

10.4 Local Council Award Scheme: To consider making a submission for a Silver award in the January application round at a cost of £150

322/24 It was agreed to make a submission for the Silver award in the January application round at a cost of £150.00.

Item 11: Council Administration

11.1 Wayleave Agreement – Iver Recreation Ground: To consider whether to sign the agreement from CityFibre for the car park at Iver Recreation Ground

323/24 It was agreed that the Council would not sign the wayleave agreement due to concerns around impact on the car park wall, and also due to the poor quality of reinstatement with other CityFibre works outside the Parish Council Hub.

11.2 Health & Safety Support Provider: To consider the report and its recommendations on the appointment of a new outsourced H&S support provider

324/24 It was agreed to adopt the recommendations to:

- To appoint Phoenix Health & Safety as the Council's H&S support provider for an initial twelve-month period at a cost of £995 + VAT per annum
- To commission a Health & Safety Audit for Spring 2025 at a cost of £1395 + VAT from Phoenix Health & Safety
- To agree that H&S audits will be arranged every two years.

11.3 Additional CCTV Coverage – Iver and Iver Heath Recreation Grounds and Parish Council Office: To consider the report and its recommendations on the installation of additional CCTV cameras

325/24 It was agreed to adopt the recommendations to:

- To install 3 additional cameras at the Jubilee Pavilion.
- To install 1 additional camera on the Iver Recreation Ground Workshop.
- To install 1 additional camera to the Iver Heath Recreation Ground car park pole.
- To install 1 additional camera at the Parish Council office to cover the front door.
- To purchase additional hard drive capacity to retain recordings for 30 days

Item 12: Consultation – Buckinghamshire Lane Rental Scheme: To agree the Council's response to the consultation from Buckinghamshire Council on the proposed scheme

326/24 It was agreed to delegate the Council's response to the Clerk & RFO, in consultation with Cllr Stanhope and Cllr Matthews.

Item 13: River Colne Crossing - Revised Agreement: To consider signing the revised agreement with JSM Group to grant an easement for the laying of electric lines and cables

327/24 It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Open Spaces & Highways Committee.

Item 14: Grant Application – Iver Heath Bowls Club: To consider the application received

328/24 It was agreed to fund the purchase of three sets of Drake's Pride Junior bowls and gift these to the Bowls Club.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that due to the confidential nature of the next item, the public and press will be asked to leave the meeting

Item 15: NJC Salary Scales: To ratify the alignment of employee salary scales to the NJC scales to enable the transition of staff to the NALC model contract to be completed

329/24 It was agreed that all council employees be transitioned to the terms of the NALC model contract, and that their existing salaries be aligned to the NJC pay scales, with immediate effect as per the confidential report.

The back-pay (cost-of living payment) will be issued in the December payroll.

It was noted the Council has the option of commissioning salary evaluations for each role from Council HR & Governance Support in the near future.

The meeting closed at 8:06pm