

MINUTES of Islip Parish Council Meeting
Islip Village Hall
Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.30pm

- 1/19 Present:** Mrs D Chapman, Mr P Collins (Chairman), Mrs F Forbes, Mr D Price, Ms N Richardson, Mr M Wilkinson (Clerk).
- 2/19 Apologies:** Mr M Brown, Mr N Wiles.
- 3/19 Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 13th November 2018 were approved and signed.
- 4/19 Matters arising which will not be raised under subsequent agenda items:** none.
- 5/19 District and County Council Reports: Cllr Dan Sames (OCC)** reported that in collaboration with Cllr Price the planned work on potholes and on white-lining is to proceed in the near future. In response to questions, he noted that until specific routes for the Oxford/Cambridge Expressway are proposed, neither OCC nor CDC has adopted a fixed view on the Expressway. He also noted that OCC's record on recycling is cumulatively the best in the UK. The Chairman thanked Cllr Sames on behalf of the village, for the grant of £1K towards the cost of the refurbishment of the play area.
- 6/19 Changes in Members' interests and declarations of personal or prejudicial¹ interest:** none.
- 7/19 Administrative Matters: 1. Agenda for public meeting Oxford/Cambridge Expressway Wednesday 9th January:** the Chairman outlined the agenda for the meeting; his objective, to inform villagers and to seek their views rather than to express a particular line, was agreed by the Council.
- 8/19 Financial Matters: 1. Draft budget and precept for '19-20:** the Chairman thanked the Clerk for having prepared the draft budget. The Clerk noted that the budget is an *existing commitments budget*, i.e. it is based on the previous year's income and expenditure. It is adjusted to reflect extraordinary items arising in '18-19, and for anticipated extraordinary items in '19-20. The inflation factor used is based on the *retail price index*. The Chairman noted that Cllr Price might ask for supplementary expenditure on traffic control; that the Council is committed to the installation of a defibrillator and cabinet, at a cost of the order of £1,400 (agreed unanimously by the Council); and that the proposed expenditure on resurfacing parts of the playground has been reduced in line with a reduced specification, which should restore the playground to its original condition. The Clerk noted that budgeted expenditure might be reviewed at any time by the Council. The Council unanimously approved the precept at £19,434; the Clerk is to communicate this to CDC.
- 9/19 Environment: 1. Flood Management Plan:** nothing to report. **2. Council funding for village projects:** the Chairman noted, in response to a question from the floor, that the Council's current position is that any grant application received by the Council *at any time* would be dealt with on its merits. **3. Weeding day:** Cllr Chapman reported that pavement weeds had been removed, to some extent at least, by OCC.

¹"one in which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest"

10/19 Communications: 1. Islip Directory: Cllr Forbes had nothing to report.

11/19 Traffic, Highways and Footpaths: 1. Pavements/footpaths (a): the Clerk reported that he had again emailed Mr Matthew Scott of Strutt and Parker, the local agents for the Church Commissioners [CC], proposing to contact the Church Commissioners direct should no response be received. Mr Scott's line manager, Louise Spain, replied the next day, and then only some days later confirmed that the CC had agreed in principle to the proposal:

subject to various conditions, which would include (but not limited to):

- Both the Commissioners and their tenant are content with all stages of the proposal;
- That it is agreed that the path will be a permissive path only;
- The path being of a temporary nature, so that if ever it is necessary, to 'move' the path, it can be [moved]; and
- All works, negotiations etc. are at nil cost to the Church Commissioners.

She had "cc'd Matthew Scott in on this email, as he will be taking this forward when he returns to the office in the new year."

The Council authorised the Clerk to seek specifications and estimates for the work, and to confer with Anthony and Brian Henman (tenants), and Strutt and Parker once these are to hand.

2. Structural report on the Ray Bridge: it had previously been reported that Councillor Dan Sames (CDC, OCC), continues to pursue the expected report subsequent to the bridge survey. Cllr Price asked that the Clerk try to discover what work is proposed on the bridge, and when the fingerpost sign might be restored; this was agreed. **3. Speed limit enforcement:** Cllr Price reported that the Ray Bridge approach to the village was the site of much recorded speeding, but that the distance from the 20 mph limit to any site for the camera is insufficient for speed measurement which would satisfy a court. Cllr Price suggested that the 20mph limit be moved back to the top of the hill; this would have police approval, but would cost some £2.4K to cover the cost of the legal requirements and the movement or change of signage. The Council is to consider this further. A proposal by Cllr Price that two police-approved signs be purchased at £300 each was approved unanimously. Cllr Price reported that the speed camera had, in the meantime, malfunctioned, and had been collected by the supplier for examination and repair.

4. White lines: it was suggested from the floor that a white line at the end of Mill Street [by the Causey] would improve safety as those turning into Mill Street from the bridge appeared not to realise that two-way traffic operated there. This was agreed, and is to be taken up by Cllr Price.

12/19 PC Properties: 1. Playing Field: (i) Safety, etc: the Chairman had noted under **minute 8/19/ 1** that an estimate of some £3K had been received from Trevor Stewart (who built the playground) to restore the surfacing to the level of the playground's introduction. A grant of £1K towards the cost had been made by Cllr Sames from his discretionary fund. The Chairman proposed that this might be a more cost-effective use of Council funds than to upgrade the surfacing at a gross cost of some £16K: this was agreed unanimously. A request from the floor that the zipwire be taken down was qualified by an appreciation that the Council must act in accordance with the best interests, as it understands them, of the whole village: the zipwire is to stay, but the Chairman is to investigate noise mitigation.

13/19 Planning: 1. Planning Applications: the Clerk reported that notice of the withdrawal of a planning application had been received.

Address	Application number/details	Decision
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Mr and Mrs Pauling, 66, Kidlington Road	18/01815/F Extension to rear of house	CDC: proposal withdrawn
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2. Strategic Planning: 1. The Oxford/Cambridge Expressway: see **minute 7/19 1** above.
2. Neighbourhood Plan: the Chairman suggested that should sufficient support from within the village present itself, then the Council might wish to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan. He noted that the advice given him suggested that the usefulness of such a plan might be limited, and that the cost would be significant; Cllr Richardson noted that such a plan might designate an area for *required* development, but could not rule out *imposed* development: neighbourhood plans can be and *are* overridden – particularly if a planning authority has not sufficient provision for housing within its own plans. It was agreed that the best protection Islip has from undesired development is the Green Belt. Should the Green Belt be overridden in, say, North Oxford, then it is possible that the Green Belt surrounding Islip might become vulnerable; it was suggested from the floor that the reverse might be the case: that if the Green Belt be breached in North Oxford, the remaining Green Belt might be the more strongly defended and protected.

14/19 Network Rail: 1. Mural on the pedestrian bridge: Cllr Wiles had reported to the Clerk that NR had asked for information on materials, etc, for the possible mural on the pedestrian bridge; Cllr Wiles has asked NR for advice. **2. Chiltern Railways contribution towards the cost of hedge planting on the playing field:** Cllr Wiles was not present to report.

15/19 Village Hall: 1. Carpark extension: Cllr Chapman, the Council’s representative on the Village Hall Committee, had previously reported that the Village Hall understood that the Parish Council had offered to meet the cost of the re-siting of the basketball equipment. The Clerk had now checked the Council’s minutes and correspondence, and the Chairman had conferred with the previous chairman. The Clerk noted that the Council had agreed to meet only the costs of any legal fees to be incurred for the land swap to be agreed with the Village Hall, expected to be of the order of some £600.

16/19 Education: Cllr Forbes was not present to report.

17/19 Health: Defibrillator: see **minute 8/19 1** above.

18/19 Public Transport: Cllr Forbes is to report on the notice of a putative bus.

19/19 Security: nothing to report.

20/19 Action Points: nothing to report.

21/19 Any Other Business: 1. Cost of public meeting leaflet: the Council approved the expenditure of £12.50 unanimously. **2. Child struck by passing vehicle:** it was reported that a child had been struck by a passing vehicle whilst on the pavement at the junction of Church Lane and Church Close. It was agreed that Cllr Forbes ask the school to report to the Clerk any similar incidents. **3. Middle Way sign:** Cllr Chapman reported that Thames Water had been seen to damage the street sign at the north end of Middle Way, and had left a pallet by the side of the road. The Clerk is to contact Thames Water.

22/19 Date of the next meeting: the Parish Council will next meet on **Tuesday 12th February 2019** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

23/19 The Meeting Closed at 9.30pm.