

**MINUTES of Islip Parish Council Meeting
Islip Village Hall
Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7.30pm**

- 1/18 Present:** Mr M Brown, Mr P Collins (Chairman), Mrs F Forbes, Ms N Richardson, Mr R Venables, Mr N Wiles, Mr M Wilkinson (Clerk).
- 2/18 Apologies:** none. Messrs Venables and Wiles left the meeting before its conclusion, having other commitments.
- 3/18 Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 21st November 2017 were approved and signed.
- 4/18 Matters arising which will not be raised under subsequent agenda items:** the Chairman announced that Mr Venables had decided, reluctantly, to stand down from the Council for the time being, in the light of his other growing commitments, particularly his appointment as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire for 2018-19. Mr Venables was thanked for his eleven years of service, a particular example of which being his having gained charitable funding for the entire cost of the current children's playground – and during part of which he served as Chairman. He was assured that when commitment permitted, he would no doubt be welcomed back onto the Council. Mr Venables in his turn thanked the Chairman and councillors, and noted that he would be more than happy to retain an advisory rôle in the matter of strategic planning.
- 5/18 District and County Council Reports:** Cllr Dan Sames (OCC) and Cllr David Hughes attended the meeting. Cllr Sames reported on the junction of the Kidlington Road and the A34 slip road that the white lines are to be repainted as a priority in the new financial year from 1 April. He confirmed that the rigorous criteria governing the introduction of stop signs meant that these are precluded on the Kidlington Road at the junction. He is to ask OCC officers to provide details of the accidents which occur, according to Council opinion, at least once fortnightly, and is to try to discover what is planned by way of road repairs attributed to NR damage. Cllr Hughes asked the Council for guidance on the introduction of the 20 mph zone, and this was provided largely from the floor by Mr Hopper.
- 6/18 Changes in Members' interests and declarations of personal or prejudicial¹ interest:** Cllr Wiles and Cllr Robertson declared an interest in the planning application relating to Cllr Wiles' property on Kidlington Road.
- 7/18 Administrative Matters: 1. Council vacancies:** the Chairman, the Clerk, or any Councillor will be happy to discuss the operation of the Council with anyone interested in becoming a parish councillor. **2. Dinner for Previous Chairman:** the Chairman is to negotiate with the previous Chairman and with Mr Venables.
- 8/18 Financial Matters: 1. Financial statement 2017-18 and draft budget for 2018-19:** the financial statement and the draft budget were accepted by the Council, and the precept set by unanimous vote at £18,813 exclusive of the grant supplementary to precept estimated at £413: the Clerk is to notify CDC. **2. List of payments >£100:** the Council approved the list of payments greater than £100 to be posted on the website under the Transparency Code, together with certain other financial documents. **3. Clerk's salary:** the Chairman noted that the Clerk, having resumed the rôle of finance officer, has been asked to record his hours for a period of three months so that the Council can be assured that his salary is appropriate.

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”

9/18 Environment: **1. Flood Management Plan:** the Chairman reported that the plan is not yet complete. **2. Dog fouling/dogs off leads:** no new complaints had been received. The Chairman reported that responsibility for the dog bags dispenser might kindly be taken on by Mrs Stephenson, for which she was thanked by the Council. **3. Church Commissioners:** the Clerk reported that he now had contact details for Mr Kevin Sherrell, whose family had farmed Hillside Farm for three generations: the Clerk is to ask Mr Sherrell to provide details of the use of the footpath[s] across the Green (south-east of the Ray Bridge), and to submit this evidence, once received, to *Countryside Services*.

10/18 Communications: **1. Village Directory:** Cllr Forbes reported that as soon as little outstanding information is provided, the updated *Islip Directory* will be posted on the website in downloadable and printable format. [Villagers without the internet might apply to the Clerk for a printed copy, of which a limited number only will be available.]

11/18 Traffic, Highways and Footpaths: **1. Pavements:** the Clerk had written to Mr Walsey at OCC and the Church Commissioners about a pavement or a footpath to the New Burial ground. There had been no response from the former (whom the Clerk is to remind), but the local agents of the CC had replied to say that the Council's request for a simple footpath inside the hedge from the Kidlington road to Mill Lane, will be taken up with the CC. The Clerk had noted that the provision of such a footpath would not harm CC relations with the village. **2. Traffic Group:** the Clerk had emailed OCC to confirm a contribution of some £1K to the electronic speed sign at the southern end of the bridge, but Cllr Brown (OCC) reported that OCC is still awaiting confirmation that the Council is prepared to contribute. Cllr Sames explained that confirmation should be passed to streetlighting@oxfordshire.gov.uk: this will be done. The Traffic Group is to firm up its proposals for the speed camera, particularly in the matter of sharing use and costs; the Chairman noted that although the Council is in favour of the purchase of the camera, funds have not yet been formally committed. **3. Structural report on the Ray Bridge:** the Clerk reported that the latest engineer[Skanska]'s report on the structure of the bridge had been obtained under FoI, and that this had been followed up with OCC's acting bridge engineer. It seems very likely that action will have to be taken by OCC, because the structural weakness of the bridge must on simple engineering grounds be addressed; the sides of the bridge appear to be most affected. Likely proposals (to be put out, as far as the Council understands) to public consultation, are either the imposition of an absolute weight limit on the bridge of 13 tonnes [i.e. covering *all* traffic, *including* traffic for access], or the restriction of traffic to the centre of the bridge, i.e. restriction of traffic to one-way only (with physical barriers preventing traffic from approaching the edges of the bridge), with traffic lights. On a medium-term time scale, the bridge would be monitored for further deterioration, and works to the surface likely to be carried out. In the longer term, more major strengthening of the bridge is a possibility. The Council noted that the decisions on the bridge are for the Highways Authority (OCC), and that further developments are awaited. The Council expressed the hope that the Traffic Advisory Group would not approach the bridge engineer, as his assistance to the Council had been full, generous and under considerable time-pressure. **4. Pedestrian safety on the bridge:** the Clerk reported that the traffic consultants asked to quote for recommendations on safety on the bridge have been notified that new information has come to hand, and that the Council is not currently to proceed with consultation. Both consultants had noted their acceptance of this. **5. Accident blackspot A34 slip road:** it was noted that despite the improvements to the junction of the Kidlington Road and the A34 slip road, accidents continued to happen as frequently as before [see minute 5/18 above]. **6. Fingerpost, The Walk:** Cllr Brown is to arrange for the fingerpost at the bottom of The Walk is to be repaired.

12/18 PC Properties: **1. Playing Field:** the Chairman has yet to seek advice and a quotation from Mr Stewart (who constructed the playground), about a safety surface under the zip wire. The Chairman is, however, in the process of obtaining a quote from the company that recently

provided the surface for the school playground. Notices have yet to be commissioned warning users not to climb onto the playground equipment where it is not designed for climbing.

2. Burial Ground: the Clerk reported that Mr Brian Henman had very kindly arranged for the hedge around the New Burial Ground to be cut as far as is possible from the road. The Council thanked Mr Henman for this service to the village. **3. Trees:** the Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had reviewed the report on the Council's trees, and that the surveyors are to be asked to have a look at certain trees so far overlooked. **4. Trees, Kidlington Road:** the Clerk had contacted OCC and had explained the situation, noting that the Council had hoped to offer the trees to OCC itself. The OCC officer thanked the Council, and explained that once planted, the trees would be monitored for their first five years to ensure their proper establishment. The trees will hence become public property – bought by the Parish Council, and maintained by OCC.

13/18 Planning: 1. Planning Applications: the Clerk reported on planning applications.

Councillors were consulted prior to the meeting (excepting Cllr Wiles and Cllr Richardson, who had an interest in the application), because the deadline for comment preceded the January meeting.

Address	Application number/details	Decision
Mr Nathan Wiles, Kidlington Road	17/12418/F extension	No objection, neighbours' submissions to be taken into account

2. Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Richardson had researched neighbourhood plans in depth, and recommended that the Council not commit to Neighbourhood Plan because

1. neighbourhood Plans are constrained by district council local plans;
2. the CDC local plan currently excludes to date any development in the Green Belt (despite the proposals for Kidlington/north Oxford);
3. Islip is entirely within the Green Belt;
4. development of even brownfield sites (such as the Oil Dump) within the Green Belt is not permissible under the current local plan;
5. neighbourhood plans are extraordinarily time and energy consuming, costly, and not long-lasting – five to ten years being the optimal life of a plan;
6. the documented backing of the village for limited development of the Oil Dump is sufficient to allow the Council to continue to support this limited development.

Cllr Venables suggested that planning law and CDC's local plan itself are currently subject to change, and endorsed Cllr Richardson's recommendation: the Council accepted Cllr Richardson's recommendation unanimously, and thanked Cllrs Richardson and Venables for their contributions. The Council resolved to review the matter of neighbourhood plans annually. Cllr Hughes (CDC) noted that Bob Duxbury would be pleased to address the Council on neighbourhood plans. The Clerk is to contact Mr Duxbury once Cllr Venables has established the availability of Hugo Llewellyn (Oil Dump).

14/18 Network Rail: 1. Railings on the playing field and mural on the pedestrian bridge: Cllr

Wiles reported that he has contacted Mr Wheeler at NR on the matter of the fencing on the playing field, and about the mural. NR is to come back to him. **2. Network Rail access:** the Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mr Gilman junior about possible leads to the deeds to the playing field, that Mr Gilman had been very helpful indeed, but that he, too, had drawn a blank. The Clerk has now discovered receipts for legal work relating to the conveyancing of the parcels of land making up the playing field so is to pursue this new line of enquiry. **3. Chiltern Railways:** it was noted from the floor that the ticket machine at the station is not to date fully functioning, at times not issuing tickets. This can lead to problems in, for example, attempting

an onward journey from Paddington using other than Chiltern Railways. CR are aware of the problem, which is long-standing, but seem incapable of its resolution.

15/18 Village Hall: Cllr Venables reported that the matter of the extension of car parking is to be taken up by Mr Chris Rippon.

16/18 Education: Cllr Forbes reported that inconsiderate parking outside the school is still endangering schoolchildren and parents. She is to gather support for a parental group to monitor those posing a danger, calling on the Community Policing Officer for assistance.

17/18 Health: there was nothing to report.

18/18 Public Transport: there was nothing to report.

19/18 Security: there was nothing to report.

20/18 Any Other Business: **1. Overhanging Vegetation:** the overhanging vegetation in Middle Street has been cut back. The higher overhanging vegetation in King's Head Lane has, reportedly, not been cut back. The Clerk will look into this, and remind the property owners if there is still a problem. **2. Planting on the playing field:** Cllr Wiles is to pursue payment of the Network Rail support for hedge planting.

21/18 Date of the next meeting: the Parish Council will next meet on **Tuesday 13th February 2018** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

22/18 The Meeting Closed at 9.15pm.