

**MINUTES of Islip Parish Council Meeting
Islip Village Hall
Tuesday 10th October 2017 at 7.30pm**

187/17 Present: Mr P Collins (Chairman), Mrs F Forbes, Ms N Richardson, Mr M Wilkinson (Clerk).

188/17 Apologies: Mr M Brown, Mr R Venables, Mr N Wiles, Cllr David Hughes (Cherwell District Council).

189/17 Minutes: the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 12th September 2017 were approved and signed.

190/17 Matters arising which will not be raised under subsequent agenda items: none.

191/17 District and County Council Reports: the Chairman is to report on Cllr Tim Hallchurch's report at the November meeting.

192/17 Changes in Members' interests and declarations of personal or prejudicial¹ interest: none.

193/17 Administrative Matters: Council vacancies: the Chairman asked again whether any villager might be interested in joining the Council. The Council was this evening only just quorate. The Clerk or any Councillor will be happy to discuss the operation of the Council with anyone interested.

194/17 Financial Matters: 1. Accounts 2016-17: the signed off annual return and the auditors' certificate were approved and accepted unanimously by the Council. The Clerk noted that in response to a comment from him, the auditors appear to have waived the £30 charge for an amendment of the accounts. **2. Financial Statements to 31.8.17:** the Clerk had prior to the previous meeting circulated financial statements to 31.8.17; receipt of these and of evidence that HMRC had been notified of the June payroll run was acknowledged.

195/17 Environment: 1. Flood Management Plan: the Chairman intends to complete the plan in time for the next meeting of the Council. **2. Dog fouling/dogs off leads:** the Chairman reported that he had replenished the Council's stock of dog-bags, and had himself filled the dispenser. The Council thanked Mrs Stephenson for having looked after the dog-bags for so long after she had retired from the Council. **3. Church Commissioners:** the Clerk reported that trees on Church Commissioners' land farmed by John and Megan Henman (between Jacob's Field and the weir) had been pollarded; the Clerk is to pass the Council's thanks to the local agents of the CCE. The Clerk had been in touch with *Countryside Services* at Oxfordshire County Council. He was now instructed to gather evidence of the putative right of way across the Green (south-east of the Ray Bridge), and to pursue this. The Clerk noted that *Countryside Services* has a long waiting list about such matters.

196/17 Communications: 1. Website: Cllr Forbes has now applied for a grant available for the establishment of the Council's website in relation to the Council's compliance with the Transparency Code; the grant is to include funds for a laptop computer. **2. Village Directory:** Cllr Forbes is to make a recommendation at the next meeting on whether to update the *Islip Directory*.

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"

197/17 Traffic, Highways and Footpaths:

- 1. Pavements:** obstruction of the pavement across from the Old Rectory is understood to have been cleared. The Clerk is to thank Mrs Skinner, who still owns the relevant land.
- 2. Traffic Group:** neither Mr Dennis Price nor Mrs Dee Nudds could attend the meeting.
- 3. Further structural report on the Ray Bridge:** the Clerk is to ask OCC for a copy of the report under FoI.
- 4. Pedestrian safety on the bridge:** the Clerk reported that he had informed the traffic consultants of the traffic surveys previously carried out. Tenders for the consultation are to be issued.
- 5. White Lines:** the Chairman reported that the limited roadworks agreed between OCC and Network Rail appeared to have been completed. Cllr Brown is to be asked to pursue, therefore, the replenishment of the white lines in the village.
- 6. Accident blackspot A34 slip road:** Council David Hughes (CDC) had offered to visit the site once he is back on his feet. This is to be taken up by the Clerk.
- 7. Oxfordshire Way:** the Chairman reported that the residual headland of the field beyond the Lynch had made passable, the brambles and nettles having now been cut back – no doubt in response to the Chairman’s complaint to Countryside Services.
- 8. Parking in North Street and outside the school:** Cllr Richardson reported that parking in North Street and elsewhere in the village of contractors’ vehicles is becoming problematic. Cllr Forbes reported that parking outside the school was again becoming a nuisance. The Clerk is to ask villagers to ask tradesmen to park considerately, and Cllr Forbes reported that she had asked the headmaster to remind parents to park considerately at drop-off and collection times; she noted that the option to call in the police community support officer might have to be exercised once more.

198/17 PC Properties:

- 1. Playing Field:** the Chairman reported that he had replenished the bark under the zip wire at a cost of some £500. The Chairman has sought the advice of one possible supplier of a more permanent safety surface, who confirmed that the work is best done in spring. The Chairman is to seek advice and a quotation from Mr Stewart (who constructed the playground), and, if the cost warranted it, to seek three tenders in total, bringing these to the Council. The Clerk is to let the Chairman have the name of the supplier of the dog notices so that notices can be posted at the entrances to the playground and on the basketball wall warning users not to climb onto the playground equipment where it is not designed for climbing. It was noted that the flat roof at the Village Hall is climbed on from time to time. The Clerk is to contact the Village Hall committee.
- 2. Burial Ground:** the Clerk reported Mr Mickey Franklin had very kindly strimmed the burial ground car park, for which the Council offered Mr Franklin its sincere thanks. The Council is to deter regrowth of the vegetation in spring. Mr Brian Henman is to be asked to cut the New Burial Ground hedge, which he has kindly arranged previously.
- 3. Trees:** the Chairman reported that, as agreed at the previous meeting, he had accepted the tender for a survey of the trees for which the Council is responsible (on the playing field, the Millennium Wood, the allotments, the Village Green). The tender has been received; the Chairman is now to consider what of the potential work the Council would be advised to accept, and to cost this work.

199/17 Planning:

- 1. Planning Applications:** the Clerk reported on planning applications:

| Address | Application number/details | Decision |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mr & Mrs Charles Shaw, Greengage Barn, Mill Street | 17/01529/F single storey extension | CDC approved |

- 2. Strategic Planning:** the Chairman reported that there had been some recalculation of the local housing need. The Clerk had contacted the Neighbourhood Plan Team at Cherwell District Council, and had received the *Protocol for Preparing Neighbourhood Plans*. This is to be circulated to the Chairman and Cllrs Richardson and Venables for their views on feasibility.
- 3. Bare licences:** the bare licences issued to those on Collice Street occupying (at the margin) PC land have yet to be reviewed.

200/17 Network Rail: 1. Railings on the playing field: Cllr Wiles was not present to report on NR's fencing on the playing field and its breach. **2. Network Rail access:** the Clerk reported that Pellman's, Eynsham, are trying to ascertain whether the Parish Council as trustees, or the National Playing Fields Association has the authority to grant the limited access required. **3. Equestrian Bridge Mural:** Cllr Wiles was not present to update the Council on NR's final decision.

201/17 Village Hall: Cllr Venables was not present to report. The Clerk noted that the question as to which plot of land might be exchanged with the Village Hall might be resolved by offering the PC's gravelled carpark in exchange for the VH apron which extends to the west onto the football pitch. A legal right of PC access *via* the metalled apron to the east of the VH and *via* the gravelled parking area would have to be ensured. This would allow the PC to isolate its parking should the need to do so ever arise. This is to be discussed with the VH representatives.

202/17 Education: there was nothing to report.

203/17 Health: there was nothing to report.

204/17 Public Transport: there was nothing to report.

205/17 Security: 1. Neighbourhood Watch: the Chairman is to contact Neighbourhood Watch to try to establish some form of reporting to the Clerk, so that anything of note can be distributed to the village by means of info4islip. **2. Trees, Kidlington Road:** the Clerk had on behalf of the Council offered to buy trees to replace those destroyed by vandals on the green where the Kidlington Road leaves the village. The Clerk is now to offer to reimburse the cost of replacement trees.

206/17 Any Other Business: 1. Overhanging Vegetation: the Clerk is to ask Mr John Henman and Ms Megan Henman to arrange for the Church Lane hedge of the playing field to be cut back, along with the hedge at the Millennium Wood, a service for which the Council is ever grateful. **2. Overweight lorries:** the Clerk reported that Ms Janet Webberley asked whether something can be done about lorries weighing in excess of the 7.5 tonne weight limit, as she has suffered damage to her property and has had to move her vehicle to allow the passage of a large vehicle. The Chairman noted that this seems to be an increasing problem. The Clerk noted that Oxfordshire County Council is the highways authority, and that apparent breaches of the weight limit should be referred to OCC using its website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/weight-restriction-enforcement> It was noted that the 7.5 tonne limit does not apply to use of the road *for access*. The only way to identify illicit use, is to photograph what appear to be the offending vehicles (number plate to be visible) and report these. It was suggested that if the village gains a hand-held speed camera, then those operating it might be asked to photograph vehicles apparently exceeding the weight limit.

207/17 Date of the next meeting: the Parish Council will next meet on **Tuesday 14th November 2017** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

208/17 The Meeting Closed at 8.45pm.