

MINUTES of Islip Parish Council Meeting

The Council met remotely [by Zoom] Tuesday 12th May 2020 at 7.30pm

I certify that these minutes are a true reflection
of the events that took place
date: signed:

88/20 Present [by Zoom or telephone]: Mr M Brown, Dr P Collins, Mrs F Forbes, Mr D Price, Mr N Wiles (Chairman), Cllr D Sames (OCC), Mr M Wilkinson (Clerk)

89/20 Apologies: Mrs D Chapman, Ms N Richardson

90/20 Minutes: the minutes of the meetings of **Tuesday 14th April 2020** were approved.

91/20 Matters arising which will not be raised under subsequent agenda items: none.

92/20 District and County Council Reports: Cllr Sames (OCC) asked that the Clerk keep him informed as to progress with Thames Water in relation to the contamination by raw sewage of the recent flooding in Mill Street. The Clerk is to remind TW. Cllr Sames also noted that county and district councillors are holding funds available on claim by parish councils in the light of Covid-19, and that recycling centres are to reopen from 18th May.

93/20 Changes in Members' interests and declarations of personal or prejudicial¹ interest: none.

94/20 Administrative matters: Position of Clerk: the Clerk is to pursue possible approaches to the recruitment of a replacement Clerk in the light of the coronavirus epidemic.

95/20 Financial Matters: 1. Draft year-end accounts 2019-20; Internal Audit; Governance Statement: the Clerk reported that the draft accounts and the governance statement have been signed off by the internal auditor and the Chairman, and submitted to the external auditors in accordance with statutory requirements. **2. CDC Covid-19 fund:** it was noted that the Clerk had passed information on Covid funds available from SSEB, etc, to those operating the *Islip Emergency Fund*, and to the Village Hall. **3. Cheques and electronic payment:** the Clerk had investigated the possibility of remote approval of payment of creditors (two councillors to approve any given payment), as a result of which the proposed signatories now had in their possession secure devices which should facilitate funds transfers; Cllr Collins is to let the Clerk have copies of correspondence received with these so that Council correspondence is complete, and so that the Clerk is informed as to how payment is to be managed.

96/20 Environment: 1. Flood Management Plan: Cllr Collins had nothing to report. **2. Parking on verges:** the Clerk reported that he had reported the matter to Oxfordshire County Council (the Highways Authority), and let villagers know that he has done so; he had heard nothing further from OCC. The matter is to be allowed to take its course. **3. Smoke pollution:** the Clerk reported for information that he had received a complaint about smoke pollution which appeared to have emanated from outside the boundary of the parish. The Council noted that such a matter is outside its competence.

97/20 Communications: Facebook: Cllr Forbes confirmed that the Council would not have opened a facebook page because of the potential difficulty of constant monitoring for factual

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”

content, and the arbitration of sometimes radically and divisive divergent material. The Council agreed that the possibility had been overtaken in the event by a third party's having opened a page accessible to villagers: the Council will neither control nor monitor this.

98/20 Traffic, Highways, and Footpaths: 1. Speed limit zone: Cllr Price asked Cllr Sames whether work is suspended given the coronavirus epidemic; Cllr Sames is to enquire if no progress is made.

99/20 PC Properties: 1. Playground: Cllr Collins reported that some of the repair work needed has been done, but that the work is as yet incomplete. **2. Anti-social behaviour on the playing field:** the Clerk had received a report of antisocial behaviour on the playing field by the cricket nets. The Clerk had asked the cricket club whether the players are associated with the club, but they are not. The cost of moving the nets is estimated at £10K; the Council considered this too high a price, especially, it was pointed out, that as access to the recreation ground is in general unlimited, the deterrence of gatherings of young people anywhere on the recreation ground, *independently of the siting of the nets*, is beyond the competence of the Council. The only recourse open to the Council is to post a notice asking for restraint on the part of users (this was agreed), and for anyone witnessing any actual statutory offence to report this to the community police officer or to the police proper. **3. Swan Inn carpark:** the Clerk reported that he had sought a quotation for work limited to the replacement of two lengths of timbering in the south-eastern corner of the carpark, and the re-proofing of all the timbering. He has heard nothing. Cllr Collins suggested that this might be done on a volunteer basis once Covid-19 had passed. **4. Lower Street fenceposts:** Cllr Price asked whether the replacement of the missing posts is in hand. The Clerk reported that although the three parties responsible had accepted responsibility, work had not gone ahead. The constant flooding was largely to blame. The Clerk is to remind those who have until now agreed to carry out the work to proceed, and in the light of reply is to ask for a quotation to replace those posts not to be replaced directly by those responsible. **5. Playing field deeds:** the Clerk reported that the deeds had been collected in person by Ian Pellman, solicitor. **6. Parish Council trees:** the Council last arranged a survey of those trees for which it is responsible in 2018. The Clerk reported that certain other councils appeared to carry out such surveys every two years; he noted that CDC or OCC lists surveyors who might carry out such work. Cllr Collins referred the Council to his correspondence with potential agents in 2018.

100/20 Planning: Planning Applications: the Clerk reported that he had received no potentially contentious applications.

101/20 Strategic Planning: Greater Islip – Church Commissioners' and the Oxford/Cambridge Expressway: Cllr Sames (OCC) had nothing to report.

102/20 Village Hall: Function and funding: the Clerk noted that parking bays are to be marked out in front of the Village Hall.

103/20 Health: Cllr Forbes noted that the Village Shop volunteers are carrying out an invaluable service, and that Sally McQuillan of the *Three Parishes Good Neighbour Scheme (TPGNS)*, and volunteers are active. The Council warmly thanked all those volunteering in the village.

104/20 Security - Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Forbes had nothing to report

105/20 Any other business: none.

106/20 Date of next meeting: the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held remotely [by *Zoom*] on **Tuesday 9th June 2020 at approximately 7.30pm**

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