## 

## **IPPLEPEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Meeting held virtually by Webex Meetings**

## **On Tuesday 4th May 2021**

## **In attendance**:

## Coun.Carnell (Chairman) Coun.Farrow

Coun.Mrs.Calland Coun.Palethorpe

Coun.Rattlidge Coun.Mrs.Olding (Vice Chairman)

## Coun.Ranjit Coun.Smith

Coun.Armitage

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## eMiss.C.Freston Parish Clerk

Coun.Dewhirst District/County Councillor

One Member of the public

1) **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**Chairman**

Nominations were requested by the outgoing Chairman for the position of Chairman of the Council. Coun.Carnell was nominated by Coun.Mrs.Olding and seconded by Coun.Rattidge and duly elected unanimously. Coun.Carnell thanked the council for nominating him as Chairman again and was happy to accept.

**Vice-Chairman**

Coun.Mrs.Calland nominated Coun.Mrs.Olding as Vice-Chairman, which was seconded by Coun.Smith and therefore was duly elected unanimously as Vice Chairman.

The Clerk notified the Councillors that Coun.Mrs.Hutchings has handed in her resignation with immediate effect.

## 2) **APOLOGIES** – No apologies

3) **SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORMS, REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS**

All acceptance of office forms are up-to-date.

4) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – No declarations of Interest.

5) **REVIEW OF ADVISORY GROUPS & REPRESENTATIVES**

**Finance Highways Amenities**

Coun.Smith Coun.Smith Coun.Palethorpe

Coun.Mrs.Olding Coun.Mrs.Olding Coun.Carnell

Coun.Mrs.Calland Coun.Rattlidge Coun.Ranjit

Coun.Farrow Coun.Mrs.Calland Coun.Armitage

Coun.Carnell Coun.Carnell Vacancy

**Plans Committee**

All Councillors are members of this Committee with the following as named **Advisors:**

Coun.Calland

Coun.Carnell

Coun.Mrs.Olding

Coun.Farrow

Coun.Rattlidge

Coun.Smith

**Millennium Centre Management Committee Community Fund**

Coun.Farrow Coun.Farrow

Coun.Mrs.Olding Coun.Mrs.Olding

Parish Clerk

**Emergency Team** **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cat Freston & Fay Olding – Co-Ordinators Coun.Rattlidge

Coun.Carnell Coun.Carnell

Coun.Palethorpe

**REPRESENTATIVES:**

Village Hall Coun.Mrs.Calland

Stoneycombe Liaison Group Coun.Smith

TALC Coun.Carnell/Coun.Rattlidge

Parish Magazine Articles Coun.Mrs.Olding

Councillor Advocate Scheme Coun.Rattlidge

6) **REVIEW CODE OF CONDUCT, STANDING ORDERS & FINANCE REGULATIONS**

The Code of Conduct and Standing Orders were reviewed and agreed (unanimously) and signed by Coun.Carnell. The clerk asked if the Chair of Finance could be agreed now due to the Finance Regulations and Risk Assessment needing signing. Coun.Smith nominated Coun.Mrs.Olding, which was seconded by Coun.Carnell. The Finance regulations and risk assessment were signed by Coun.Mrs.Olding.

7) **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING POLICY**

The Memorial Bench Policy was considered and approved (unanimously)

8) **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th April 2021, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

9) **SKATEPARK**

To consider the removal of the ¼ pip at the Skatepark

Coun.Palethorpe proposed that the ¼ pipe is removed as it is beyond repair, Coun.Carnell seconded (all unanimous). **Action –** Coun.Ranjit to arrange the removal with the contractor as soon as possible.

10) **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – No comments

11) **CORRESPONDENCE AND OUTSIDE BODIES** - Parish Clerk

a) Ipplepen Cricket Club have emailed the Parish Council seeking a letter of support in assisting them with their grant application for machinery to cut the square and wicket. **Action –** Clerk to write a letter of support.

b) An email has been received from the Allotment Association Committee informing the Parish Council that a unanimous decision was made to disband the Committee at this time and all members will resign from their posts on 1st May 2021. All allotment members have been informed.

*\*\*\*\*Coun.Mrs.Olding lost internet connection and left the meeting at 19.44pm*

c) A letter has been received from the contracted toilet cleaner that from 1st May 2021 the weekly charge will be increasing by £11.00 per week. (All unanimous).

d) An email has been received from a Parishioner regarding the vandalism and anti-social behaviour that is on-going at the toilets at the Recreation Ground. **Action –** Coun.Palethorpe will respond to the resident.

*\*\*\*\*Coun.Mrs.Olding joined back into the meeting at 19.50pm*

Coun.Carnell and Coun.Rattlidge attended ‘The power of a local council and community business partnership’ event online on Thursday 29th April 2021.

12) **TO CONSIDER THE IDEA OF PURCHASING THE POST OFFICE**

The Parish Council are very keen to see the Post Office stay within the Village. Coun.Carnell suggested that the clerk contact a company called Plunkett Foundation, which was mentioned at the online event above and also seek advice from DCT. Coun.Smith will speak to Broadhempston and Ide Parish Council’s as they took over their local shop and Post Office. It was suggested that a working party is set up, and will discuss the information that the clerk receives.

13) **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – Coun.Dewhirst

**County Matters**

The thread running through my County reports for the last year has been our response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We started with our first lockdown, the closing of all non-essential business in the County and how communities could help themselves. We all had to grapple with Zoom, Teams and Webex – “Your muted!” has been the phrase of the year.

Gradually we learnt how to control the virus. Devon has been one of the most successful Authorities in the UK – we have had one of the lowest infection rates, our hospitals have managed successfully, and we have had the fastest roll out of the vaccine in the country.

All through this we have been advised by Devon’s Director of Public Health to remember the mantra - It’s vital to continue:

↔️ Making space

😷 Covering your face

👏 Washing your hands

Devon’s Trading Standards have been passing on the message ‘stay home, stay safe and stay scam aware’. Sadly, the most unscrupulous in our society saw an advantage – there have been too many scams to list here but you can make yourself aware on the Trading Standards website.

Remarkably quickly a new version of normal life came about. Meetings that had been cancelled became virtual meetings and before we knew it the usual busy round of committees had restarted. We held 18 public meetings broadcast live, produced 78 reports and listened to 8 public speakers. My committee looked at 5G and maintained work on problem gambling, lobbying government on both issues.

An issue for the new Council after 7th May will be how to facilitate in person meetings because government has decreed that even though Parliament can meet virtually, local government cannot. I Chair the Climate Emergency Standing Overview Committee and we will be in the ludicrous position of having to drive across the county to meet for an hour and a half. I recently met our MP and I’m pleased that she is lobbying hard on our behalf.

In September Devon’s householders had the chance to help the county become net-zero by joining Devon Climate Emergency’s (DCE) solar panel group-buying scheme. Solar Together and, with group buying experts iChoosr Ltd, they offered homeowners the chance to buy high quality solar PV more cheaply than if they were buying alone.

Research by the University of Exeter shows that 19 per cent of all Devon’s carbon emissions are created by our homes, with more than half of those by grid-supplied electricity. Installing solar panels will reduce the amount of grid-supplied electricity needed for things like hot water, with a transfer to more eco-friendly solar energy.

In November, the County Council sought views on plans for a 5km section of the multi-use trail next to the Teign estuary, starting at the Passage House Inn in Newton Abbot and joining the A381 at La Roche Maurice Walk. From there, a shared use path would link to the junction near Morrisons supermarket, at the western edge of Teignmouth.

As part of the consultation, webinars were held to cover the scheme proposals and provide people with the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback to the project team. The consultation was hugely successful and the Council is now preparing a ‘shovel ready scheme’ and applying for grant funding.

After huge lobbying led by Marcus Rashford more than 15,000 children across Devon received food vouchers over Christmas, as the county council combated holiday hunger. The children were receiving free school meals and their families were able to buy food with the vouchers over the festive holiday.

The £1 million scheme involved vouchers which were redeemable in major supermarkets across Devon (but not the Co-op). After I raised the issue privately and at the County Council arrangements were put in place for families who could not get to a supermarket. Eligible children in pre-school and young people in sixth form colleges also received the vouchers. Another £1 million was spent to cover half-term and the Easter holidays.

In January I reported about another possible pandemic – avian flu. People who kept just a few birds as pets or thousands, were legally required to keep birds indoors or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

Poultry and captive bird keepers were advised to be vigilant for any signs of disease in their birds and any wild birds and seek prompt advice from their vet if they have any concerns. They could help prevent bird flu (avian flu) by maintaining good biosecurity on their premises. Keepers were encouraged to register their birds with DEFRA so they could be contacted quickly if there was an outbreak in their area and action required. Owners of more than 50 birds were legally required to register their flock but those with fewer than this number were still encouraged to do so.

I also reported that three companies had been selected to roll-out full fibre broadband networks on behalf of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme.

Airband, Truespeed and Wessex Internet will be installing full fibre broadband across Devon and Somerset to more than 56,000 rural homes and businesses over the next four years. The combined public and private sector investment of around £80million will be in the vanguard of the Government’s ambitions to build a Gigabit capable network across the UK.

In the new roll-out, Airband will be expanding its full fibre coverage into rural areas of Somerset, East Devon, as well as areas of Mid Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge.

We had a tough winter – freezing temperatures cause havoc on our highways. Snow showers and freezing conditions swept across Devon in February. Devon’s fleet of gritters were working around the clock to treat the salting network and the authority urged people to avoid all but essential travel.

With road surface temperatures dropping to as low as -8C across Devon conditions were hazardous for anyone travelling in the county. During operations, a Devon County Council gritter over-turned near Holne on Dartmoor, highlighting the treacherous conditions. The driver was shaken by the incident but was unharmed.

This spring climate conscious Devon residents were urged to reduce their carbon footprint by cutting down on the clothes they buy and instead get the most out of what they have.

The ‘fast fashion’ industry is the second highest carbon-creating industry in the world and emissions from textile production outweigh the total carbon footprint of international flights and shipping combined. Producing the clothes we wear creates 1.2 billion tonnes of CO2e each year, accounting for over 10 per cent of all global carbon emissions.

The production of a single t-shirt creates the same amount of emissions as driving from Exeter to Plymouth, and in Devon around 6,500 tonnes of textiles are still ending up in waste bins each year.

If re-used instead of binned, this would save 33,800 tonnes of CO2. If residents avoided buying new clothes for a whole year, it would save a staggering 132,860 tonnes of CO2.

Chart, pie chart

Description automatically generated

Monday 1st March started the UK’s first Food Waste Action Week and highlighted the link between food waste and climate change. The Food Waste Survey 2019 estimates that, on average, almost one in four potatoes (22.8 per cent) are thrown away uneaten, compared to around a fifth of bread (21.5 per cent), chicken (20.5 per cent) and milk (18.4 per cent).

In March residents were invited to have their say on the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay.

The new document presented how the 10 councils responsible for waste collection or disposal in Devon, will continue to work with residents to try to reduce the amount of household waste created and continue to ensure that waste is managed in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner.

Finally, I reported on Devon’s £578.5 million Budget process. Although almost every budget line had increased – the first time since the introduction of ‘Austerity’ we were staggered to see that the budget for highways had been cut – these cuts falling on winter operations and Highway management.

Following representations made by my Party and the recommendations made by me as Chair of Scrutiny, the Leader announced an extra £600,000 would be added to the county council’s roads budget under a new plan announced later at Cabinet.

The Lib Dem Budget amendment which comprised investing £3.4 million on fixing Devon’s roads (filling potholes, routine maintenance, repainting white lines and investing in cycling and walking); £1/2 million on supporting communities who want 20 mph zones; £1/2 million on Green Devon schemes (Bee corridors, wildflower verges); £1 million supporting “Made in Devon” and “Bought in Devon” schemes and £3/4 million for mental health support for children. This all to be paid for by a draw down from the £64.4 million Budget Management Reserve set up to support this very type of thing.

Finally, this amendment sought to end the tax loophole whereby second homeowners can switch from Council Tax to Business rates and then claiming small business exemptions.

You won’t be surprised to know that many Conservative Councillors echoed the North Devon MP’s call for Highway improvements but failed to vote for the amendment that would have actually given them those improvements!

After 4 hours of debate the Council voted for a 4.99% increase in Council tax which comes down to £1,511.28 per Council Tax band D property for 2021/22. We all received our Council tax bills a few weeks ago.

**District Matters**

It has been a momentous year for the District Council – we started the year with the Local Plan consultation and the scrapping of GESP. The consultation, even though it was done on line was the most successful ever - we received 264 formal responses compared with 144 for the whole of the ‘Issues Consultation’ in 2018; TDC web page was viewed by more than 2,000 people; over 50,000 had been reached by social media and the online videos were watched by more than 3,500 people.

We successfully fought off the government’s plans for a ludicrous 1,532 houses a year in the District but now still have to deal with the reduction to 760.

We have introduced a Carbon Calculator and made great strides in our path to Carbon Neutrality – even today at full Council we agreed to measures to massively reduce the Council’s carbon usage – new air source heat pumps, insulation and draught exclusions will make a massive difference.

In September Cllr Hook stood down as Leader and Cllr Alan Connett became our new Leader – he outlined his three priorities in a speech last September as being Climate Change, Jobs and Homes. To ensure that there is a cross-Party view on the Council Cllr Stephen Purser, a Conservative, joined the Executive. His experience in financial matters has been invaluable to us in getting through the most difficult of years.

Finally, on District matters I want to note the amazing work done by our Waste and Cleansing teams. Teignbridge is the only District to have kept all their services running throughout the pandemic. Our toilets remained open, we saw a huge uplift in recycled waste along with a commensurate increase in residual waste. We dealt with Covid infections, kept our streets clean and did it all in a safe manner.

Alistair Dewhirst

[alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk](mailto:alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk)

14) **PLANNING** – Coun.Farrow

The Minutes of the Plans meeting held on Friday 23rd April 2021, were approved and taken as read

**To consider the following planning applications:**

**21/00361/FUL -**  Erection of bungalow and erection of a double garage to serve existing dwelling at Old Grand, Bridge Street, Ipplepen.

Coun.Farrow proposed Ipplepen Parish Council have no objection to the application, Coun.Carnell seconded (All unanimous).

Coun.Farrow informed the Councillors that no decision has yet been made by TDC on the two Certificate of Lawfulness Applications at at Park Hill Caravan Park, Moor Road.

15) **AMENITIES** - Coun.Palethorpe

The Minutes of the Amenities meeting held on Tuesday 13th April 2021, were approved and taken as read.

a) **Football Club Inspection.**

The football club has started work on the redevelopment of the club so the half yearly inspection of football club has been deferred until July.

b) **Allotment Inspection**.

The allotment inspection was carried out on Tuesday 20th April 2021. A further allotment has been marked out and the Parish Clerk is allocating allotments to Ipplepen Residents as they come available. The annual letter has been sent to all allotment holders along with a copy of the General Conditions and Agreement under which Allotments are to be Leased which is to be signed and returned with payment to the Parish Clerk.

c) The Parish Clerk has received notification that the Allotment Association has been disbanded as of 1 May 2021.

d) A letter received from an Allotment Holder has been answered to the Residents satisfaction.

e) **Benches/Seating**

The new bench (Provided by Alistair Dewhirst) has been fitted and the replaced bench has been relocated to the Recreation Ground.

A replacement plaque for the Fletcher-Robinson bench has been ordered and will be fitted when received.

The new galvanised bench ends have been received and stored for future use in replacing the bench at Biltor Road damaged during the winter.

The two full size and two smaller size picnic benches have been sited in the toddler play area.

There are four freestanding unfixed benches at the Recreation Ground (2 in the toddler play area and 2 in the main field) that have deteriorated and the fixings have become loose. The fixings have been tightened as far as possible however it will be necessary to replace them in the near future.

Options are to replace them with similar benches or with ‘fixed’ benches for which sets of galvanised bench ends would be required.

The supports of the bench sited at the skatepark have deteriorated and in the interest of safety the bench will be removed. A second bench has previously been removed.

The replacement bench for Beech Trees Lane has been ordered and will be fitted when it has been delivered.

f) **Skatepark**

The Council Chairman, Chair of the Amenity Committee and Coun.Ranjit met with a contractor on-site on the 18th April 2021, to investigate the removal of the quarter pipe subject to the outcome of a decision by full council on 4 May 2021.

We continue to investigate how the Council can progress the replacement for the skatepark.

g)**Recreation Litter Bins**

The damaged litter bin has been repaired and relocated in the toddler play area of the Recreation Ground. An additional bin has also been fitted due to the increased level of litter being left behind by visitors.

h) **Toilet Redecoration/Refurbishment**

A number of sections of the outer wood covering of the Recreation Ground Toilet Block have now started to come free and need to be secured and the outer woodwork walls should be treated to prevent further damage. This is an issue that requires attention as priority.

i) To consider and approve the tenders received for the replacement swings at Tremlett Grove Play Park – Three companies have tendered as follows:

Tender A - £1,800.00 + VAT Total **£2,160.00**

Tender B - £3,347.00 + VAT Total **£4,016.40**

Tender C - **£1,350.00**

Coun.Palethorpe explained that Tender A had quoted for the frame in timber not steel which is what was specified. Tender C was just for the framework and no safety surface underneath and didn’t include the removal of the existing swings.

**RESOLUTION:** Coun.Palethorpe proposed that we accept Tender B, seconded by Coun.Smith (all unanimous). The clerk advised that the successful tender was Rhino Play. **Action –** The clerk to contact Rhino to let them know they were successful.

j) To consider and approve the tenders received for the replacement Gazebo in the Under 8’s play area at the Recreation Ground – Two companies have tendered as follows:

Tender A - £6,676.00 + VAT Total **£8,011.20**

Tender B - £3,850.00 + VAT Total **£4,620.00**

**RESOLUTION:** Coun.Palethorpe proposed that we defer this to a later date as the cost is high and there is still play equipment that needs repairs/replacing. (All unanimous)

k) Repairs have been carried out on the Recreation Ground Toddler Play area fence which continues to deteriorate. This has been identified in past inspection reports and will be an item for the 11th May 2021, Amenity Committee Agenda.

l)The twin swing in the Tremlett Grove Play Area is of the same design and age as that to be replaced and will need to be replaced in due course.

Finally this has as we all know been a challenging year so I would like to thank the Parish Clerk and members of the Amenity Committee -much of it in the background- for their commitment and the  work they have carried out across the Parish.

m) Coun.Carnell has been contacted by Ipplepen Football Club seeking permission to replace a window with a doorway. The work would come under permitted development and should be in accordance with Building Regulations.(All unanimous) **Action –** Clerk to reply to Football Club.

16) **FINANCE & PERSONNEL** – Coun.Mrs.Olding

**Balance No. £ 65,054.63**

**Received:**

Mill Centre – Rent £ 55.00

Football Club – Rent £ 150.00

Wollen Michelmore – Sale of land overage at Tremlett Grove £ 25,850.00

Parishioner – Donation for memorial (oak) tree £ 60.00

Parishioner – Donation for Memorial Bench £ 600.00

TDC - Precept Payment for first half of 2021/2022 £ 35,345.26

Allotment Tenants – Rent £ 250.00

TDC – CIL Payment £ 1,327.65

**Balance £ 128,692.54**

**Invoices Received and Approved: £ 50,022.38**

**Balance £ 78,670.16**

**Reserve Account Balance £ 108,177.77**

**Overall Total £ 186,847.93**

**Items discussed:**

a) To discuss and approve the transfer of £25,850.00 to Reserve Account (£20,000 in new Skatepark project and £5,850.00 to Play Equipment and Skate Park Maintenance).

It was unanimously agreed for the clerk to transfer as above.

17) **HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY** – Coun.Smith

a) Coun.Smith has reported the broken Biltor Road street sign to TDC.

b) Coun.Farrow reported that stone wall at the cross roads of Dornafield Road and Moor Road had been hit by a vehicle.

c) The next Highways meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20th May 2021.

18) **TO AGREE THE FORMAT OF MEETINGS FROM 7TH MAY 2021 – RISK ASSESSMENT, CLEANING**

The clerk has contacted the Pre-School and is waiting for a reply from the Head Teacher at Ipplepen Primary School with further guidance on using the Millennium Centre for future meetings.

19) **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** – Coun.Rattlidge

Due to COVID requirement we now need to ensure WCAG compliant (web content accessibility guidelines). Coun.Rattlidge has been in touch with clerk at Bovey Tracey who is understood to be slightly ahead of Ipplepen Parish Council with their Neighbourhood Plan completion. They commissioned a designer to produce an accessible plan.

Coun.Rattlidge Proposed - To contact designer and obtain quote for work involved .

It has been confirmed with TDC that Ipplepen Parish Council are happy to go for June publication and have been asked to quote for printing 30/50 hard copies of Neighbourhood Plan. Awaiting a reply which should progress after local elections.

Anticipated costs ...designer 500/750...printing 250/500 ..

To date we have received grants to cover all costs for the Neighbourhood Plan, but we may wish take this expenditure ourselves in order to finally complete. Councillors agreed for Coun.Rattlidge to obtain quotes for this.

**WAR MEMORIAL ENHANCEMENT**

Due to Coun.Rattlidge being unavailable for 12 days in May, it has been decided to send out circular with June edition of the Parish Magazine. This should allow for responses to be catalogued regularly throughout the month and then plan to analyse these replies for the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 6th July 2021.

This is likely to be quite a divisive issue and following reaction we will then need to discuss further action. Suggest letter also advertised on spotted Ipplepen and placed on notice boards as the more parishioners commenting the better.

20) **COUNCILLOR ADVOCATE SCHEME** – Coun.Rattlidge

Following last month’s Parish Council meeting regarding the VAS (visually active signs), Coun.Rattlidge has obtained quotation for:

-solar powered  speed indicator device having 7 segment amber LED showing exact speed of oncoming vehicle along with “slow down “ message when travelling above programmed speed . For 2 signs approx £2,800 plus vat each ( 10% disc for 4) Solar powered models seem approx 600 more than mains/ battery ones )

If the Parish Council would like to progress with this, then it was suggested that it is passed to the Highways Committee for further recommendation and follow up. Highways dept/ police would need to be consulted regarding potential placements.

*\*\*\*\*Coun.Dewhirst left the meeting at 21.02pm.*

21) **PLATINUM JUBILEE – 2nd – 5th June 2022**

Coun.Mrs.Olding suggested that the Beating of the Bounds is held on Friday 3rd June 2022 followed by a party in the Park on Saturday 4th June 2022. Coun.Mrs.Olding will arrange for a steering group to get together at the end of June 2021. **Action –** Clerk to look at booking St Johns Ambulance for Friday 3rd June 2022 from 9am to 6pm.

22) **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – No comments.

23) To note the date of the next meeting: **Tuesday 1st June 2021**

Meeting Closed at 21.12pm