## **IPPLEPEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Meeting held at Ipplepen Millennium Centre**

## **On Tuesday 1st June 2021**

## **In attendance**:

## Coun.Carnell (Chairman) Coun.Farrow

Coun.Mrs.Calland Coun.Palethorpe

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

Coun.Armitage

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## eMiss.C.Freston Absent (Coun.Mrs.Olding took the Minutes)

Coun.Dewhirst District/County Councillor

One Member of the public

**The following minutes will be considered for approval at the next Parish Council Meeting and may be subject to change until that time**.

## 24) **APOLOGIES** – Coun.Ranjit, Coun.Smith, Miss Cat Freston – Parish Clerk

25) **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2021, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

26) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Coun.Farrow declared an interest on planning application ref: 21/00988/HOU – Conversion of Garage and extension to form ancillary accommodation at St.Kilda, Totnes Road, Ipplepen

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

28) **CORRESPONDENCE AND OUTSIDE BODIES** – Coun.Mrs.Olding

a)An email had been received requesting permission to utilise the field for an outdoor performance in the recreation ground as part of the Village in Action project on the 22nd August, 2021. This was thought to be a lovely idea and although there were no objections in principle it was felt best to have a meeting with the people concerned to discuss security, parking etc. **Action:** Coun.Palethorpe agreed to arrange a date to discuss these matters.

b) An email had been received from the Pre-School requesting permission to provide a mud kitchen for the children in the small part of the grass area that is to the left of their park gate. The Council had no objection to this idea provided that the Fire Exit from the rear of the building was not impeded.

c) Commemorative Bench siting at the Playing Field – The design and style of the bench has now been agreed and Coun.Palethorpe will meet to consider options for its siting on the playing field.

d) An email had also been received from a resident in Tremlett Grove concerning the maintenance of the land in front of properties 30 to 32. A reply has been sent to the resident advising that the Parish Council are no longer responsible for maintaining this piece of land.

**Outside Bodies**

Coun.Mrs.Calland confirmed that the Village Hall Committee will be resuming their face to face meetings soon during the month of June.

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

**District**

Teignbridge held their annual Council meeting last week and I am delighted to report that Cllr Colin Parker is our new Chairman and Cllr Lorraine Evans is our new Vice-Chair. Colin joined the Council six months after me and is a well know Newton Abbot Councillor – I wish them all the best for their municipal year. All other committees and appointments essentially remain the same as does the Executive.

You will have seen in the local press that the grant of more than £9 million has been confirmed from the Future High Streets Fund, enabling long planned for work to begin in the very near future. This includes work to bring a new multi-screen cinema to the town, huge improvements to the Market Hall and the Corn Exchange (Alexandra Cinema), work to Queen Street and new cycle links across the town centre. Work on preparing the planning applications has already begun.

This morning I Chaired the Council’s Executive Committee and we passed the Local Plan (Part 2) for consultation by stakeholders and the public. This part of the Local Plan is about sites brought forward by landowners and developers. The Council must ensure that we maintain our 5 year land supply and this is part of that process. You will see that there are a number of sites in our Parish, and I am sure you will wish to comment on them. We hope that this will be as successful as last years consultation on Part 1 of the Local Plan – more comments than ever were received by the council then. This year’s consultation starts on Monday 14th June and ends eight weeks later.

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**County**

After the results of the election on 6th May to the County Council I want to thank everyone who voted, and especially those who voted for me - it is great being back on the County Council and with an increased majority! I will be working for all in our village as I have done for the last eleven years and you can be assured that every issue for the village will be made known to Officers and the Council.

As ever I can be contacted at alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk or by text, WhatsApp or on the phone at 07836 704127 – or just Facebook PM me.

The results were:

Alistair Dewhirst 1822 votes

Conservative Party 1590 votes

Independent 928 votes

Green Party 183 votes

Labour 171 votes

There were 4,718 votes cast and 24 spoilt votes. The turnout was 44.9%.

Out of an electorate of 630,144 in Devon the Conservatives polled 108,702 votes to get 39 councillors (an average of 2,787 votes per councillor) and the Lib Dems polled 45,395 to get 9 councillors (an average of 5,043 votes per councillor). The Lib Dems are once again the official Opposition.

At the Annual Council on the 27th May my name was put forward once again as Chair of Scrutiny and I will be Chairing the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee. I will sit on HATOC and will return to the Farms Estate Committee and the Corporate Parenting Member Group. I will be a County Council representative on the Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA). I have stepped down from the Public Rights of Way Committee.

The recent Covid warning from Devon’s Director of Public Health should not be ignored. Along with, ‘just because we can, doesn’t mean we should’, ‘taking a cautious approach’ to the latest easing of restrictions is the mantra from public health experts up and down the land. So, while the choice to hug our family and friends, or to choose not to just yet, is ours to take, Steve Brown, Director of Public Health advises caution. The latest news is that the Indian Variant is in Torbay and the South Hams rate is now above the national average.

Fourteen thousand randomly selected Devon households have been invited to enter a ‘civic lottery’ to determine who represents the county at this summer’s Devon Climate Assembly. Invitations dropped through letterboxes giving households the chance to help shape and safeguard Devon’s future.

It follows the recent public consultation of the Interim Devon Carbon Plan, the county’s climate roadmap which outlines what every resident, business and organisation will have to do to reduce carbon emissions. The Interim Carbon Plan is being developed by the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) – a partnership of Devon’s councils, emergency services, voluntary organisations, and business groups.

The Involve Foundation and the Sortition Foundation have conducted Citizens’ Assemblies on behalf of the UK Government and Scottish Parliament. Their approach in Devon will ensure that the make-up of the 70-strong Devon Climate Assembly is fair and representative of our population.

From the responses, 70 members will be hand-picked against a criterion that will reflect Devon’s demographic profile. Age, gender, ethnicity, disability, geography, socio economic status, and people’s own attitude towards climate change are all factors that will be used to produce a representative Assembly.

The Assembly itself will be conducted entirely online, and no prior knowledge of climate change or digital skills are needed. Members will meet over a series of weekday evenings and three weekends in June and July to hear from a range of expert speakers to discuss the issues and form recommendations decided on by a vote.

The Devon Climate Emergency partnership, which includes all Devon’s Local Authorities, will respond to each of the Assembly’s recommendations to complete the Devon Carbon Plan.

Finally, Teignbridge and Devon County serving the South West Exeter area have been forced to shelve an innovative district heating system designed to cut carbon emissions and reduce heating costs for future residents because most developers are unwilling to absorb any of the additional costs.

Although house prices have risen by £25,000 per plot in Teignbridge over the past year, the majority of housebuilders involved in the proposed development to the South West of Exeter were not prepared to contemplate an additional £2,000 a plot in potential development costs, despite the scheme benefits of a 70% cut in carbon emissions compared with natural gas fired boilers.

Annual carbon savings of 2,500 tonnes would have been secured by the scheme as well as lower energy costs for those who bought the new homes. The scheme was in line with the Government’s commitment to ending the use of fossil fuel heating systems.

In addition to the £7.3m Council’s contribution, Teignbridge was prepared to make a £50,000 advance payment for preliminary infrastructure.

Teignbridge will continue to apply its approved carbon reduction policies and will need to approve plans prepared by the developers, but the resulting emissions savings will not come close to the benefits of the district heating network.

Alistair Dewhirst –

alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk / Tel 07836 704127

29) **PLANNING** – Coun.Farrow

The Minutes of the Plans meeting held on Friday 21st May 2021, were approved and taken as read

**To consider the following planning applications:**

**21/00970/HOU -**  Two Storey extension at Higher Lillisford Farm, Littlehempston

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

**21/00988/HOU –** Conversion of garage and extension to form ancillary accommodation to be used in association with host property at St.Kilda, Totnes Road. Coun.Mrs.Calland proposed no objection with the proviso that the accommodation remains ancillary to the existing dwelling in perpetuity. Coun.Carnell seconded (All unanimous, 1 abstention) (Coun.Farrow had declared an interest and therefore did not vote).

**21/01173/HOU –** Single storey side extension and enlargement of existing driveway at 4 Ledgrove, Ipplepen. Coun.Farrow proposed Ipplepen Parish Council have no objection to the application provided the accommodation remains ancillary to the existing dwelling in perpetuity. Coun.Carnell seconded (All unanimous)

 **Ross Park**  - Coun.Farrow informed the Councillors that although the Two Certificates of Lawfulness had been refused a License was granted on the 12th April 2021 which is now displayed outside Ross Park and which the Parish Council were totally unaware of. The Parish Council have therefore written to the Head of Teignbridge District Council stating they are greatly concerned that such a license has been issued as planning permission has never been granted for “residential caravans” on any part of the site and therefore the licenses should be revoked. Our letter has been acknowledged, but no further information as yet. Coun.Dewhirst confirmed that he was having a meeting concerning this matter at TDC on the 2nd June.

30) **AMENITIES** - Coun.Palethorpe

The Minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 11th May 2021, were approved and taken as read.

 **Recreation Ground Toilet Block External Cladding**

A number of the external boards are coming away from their battens due to shrinkage in the wood which needs securing and the whole of toilet block externally needs to be protected -

A quote of £480 to repair toilet block cladding was formerly agreed by the Parish Council

**Skatepark Update (Standing Agenda Item)**

Our standing orders allows for the setting up of an advisory group, whose role would be to advise the council on specific issues/projects.

The amenity committee discussed the benefits of setting up this group and agreed that it should be progressed. Cllr Palethorpe to provide a terms of reference for a skatepark advisory group which will be considered by the Parish Council at the July meeting.

**Allotment bank fence**–

The stock fencing along the top of the allotment bank that runs parallel to the tennis court needs replacing due to post having rotted away.

Quotes for a replacement fence are being sought and will be considered by the Parish Council on receipt.

**Toddler play area fence (Recreation Ground)**

The fence replacement would also require two gates, one to allow vehicle access and the other for pedestrians/users which will have to conform to safety standards for play areas.

Quotes for a replacement fence, including gates are being sought and will be considered by the Parish Council on receipt.

**Tremlett Grove Play Area Swing**

The 2.2m swing, towards the back of the play area, is the same age as the one that council recently agreed to replace and is likely to need to be changed in the near future. Options were discussed at the amenity group meeting as to benefits of being proactive and getting replacement costs for the 2.2m swing now. Quotes are being sought and will be considered by the Parish Council on receipt.

**Village Noticeboards**

A quote of £200 for refurbishing the Village noticeboards was accepted and agreed by the Parish Council at the meeting on 1 July 2021

**Power Cable Culverts**

The covers on the two culverts either side of the tennis courts were loose and unsafe. The covers have now been repaired and secured.

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

**Balance No. £ 78,670.16**

Mill Centre – Rent £ 55.00

Football Club – Fee for amendment for Planning App £ 145.00

Allotment Tenants – Rent £ 570.00

ICC – Rent £ 112.50

Western Power – Waye Leave £ 2.90

**Balance £ 79,555.56**

**Invoices Received and Approved: £ 29,965.48**

**Balance £ 49,590.08**

**Reserve Account Balance £134,027.77**

**Overall Total £183,617.85**

**Items discussed:**

a)To discuss whether the internal accountant (Abacus) should continue to check the accounts at the end of each financial year and prepare for the External Audit. Coun.Mrs.Olding proposed, that we continue with Abacus as our Internal Auditor, this was seconded by Coun.Palethorpe and unanimously agreed.

32) **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE YEAR END ACCOUNTS ETC. FOR 2020/21**

**RESOLUTION:**  - Coun.Mrs.Olding proposed, seconded by Coun.Farrow that the Chairman sign the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year 2020/21

(Unanimous).

33) **HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY** – Coun.Mrs.Calland

The Highways Group met on Thursday 27th May and the Minutes from this meeting were approved and taken as read.

a)**Signage -** Quotations are being sought for the Finger Post signage required in the Village.

b) **Totnes Road Project** – This was discussed and it was agreed that Phase 1 would be to obtasin prices for various surfaces and agreements would be sought by Coun.Smith

c) **Urban Speed Limiters –** Coun.Rattlidge proposed and seconded by Coun.Calland that this be item be investigated further and a financial limit in the region of £10,000 be spent. Coun.Dewhirst advised that he would be prepared to contribute a grant towards this initiative. **Action:**  The Group to meet to progress this further and to ascertain the best sites etc.

d) Coun.Mrs.Calland has informed DCC that the wall running alongside the highway along Foredown Road is crumbling.

e) The Hedge at the top of Foredown Road by the bench/bin is becoming very overgrown. Coun.Palethorpe will request our contractor to give it a trim after checking with Coun.Smith who was absent from the meeting, for the go ahead.

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

An Advisory Group within the Parish Council, was formed comprising of Coun.Carnell, Coun.Farrow, Coun.Smith, Coun.Armitage, and Coun.Palethorpe, Terms of reference would need to be adopted. It was then propsed by Coun.Palethorpe, Seconded by Coun.Farrow that The Group should first of all investigate the various options, including a request to see the accounts of the Post Office etc. where to obtain loans from, and consult with the Community. It was also felt that a Business Plan would need to be drawn up and possibly by a professional body. It was also accepted that this venture is not part of the Parish Clerk’s Job Description, although she and the other members of the Parish Council should be kept in the loop of what is happening. **Action:** For members of the Group to meet and first of all formulate their Draft Terms of Reference for approval.

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

Due to COVID requirement we now need to ensure WCAG compliant Coun.Rattlidge is still having problems accessing help with the WCAG compliant. Also he still hasn’t been able to obtain the costs of printing 30 hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan from TDC. Coun.Dewhirst advised a different name/contact for Coun.Rattlidge to persue.

**WAR MEMORIAL ENHANCEMENT**

Responses from the community following the flyer in the June magazine were beginning to filter in and will be scrutinised after the closing date of the 24th June. So far it has been a very mixed response.

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

No further comments this month.

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

Two meetings have now been organised:

**Beating of the Bounds** – 10th June 2021 at 7pm Millennium Centre

Comprising of:

Coun.Mrs.Olding

Coun.Carnell

Coun.Palethorpe

Community Members:

Rob Vallance, Chris Popham. (Other members of the Community are also willing to lend a hand i.e. Roy Olding, Chris Bishop and Kev Mortimore)

**Platinum Picnic in the Park** – 17th June, 2021 at 7pm Millennium Centre

Comprising of:

Coun.Mrs.Olding

Coun.Carnell

Coun.Mrs.Calland

Jack Wood

Rob Vallance

Shirley Northwood

Gina Heathman

(Other Community members will be brought on board nearer the date)

It was also agreed unanimously that the date of the Beating the Bounds would be better held on **Thursday 2nd June** as many people involved in setting up the Picnic in the Park on the Saturday would need the Friday and therefore wouldn’t be able to do the Beating of the Bounds.

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

39) To note the date of the next PC meeting: **Tuesday 6th July, 2021**

**Amenities: 8th June, 2021**

**Plans: 16th June, 2021**

**Highways: 21st July, 2021**

**Post Office – tba**

**B.Bounds 10th June, 2021**

**Platinum 17th June, 2021**

Meeting Closed at 9.25pm