

Ivychurch Parish Council - Minutes of Meeting

29th September 2022

(postponed from 15th September following the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II)

Present: Rick Bailey (RB), Julie Bailey (JB), John Goldsmith (JG), Alan Martin (AM), Julie Devenish (Jools), Jan Robertson (JR)

Apologies: Andy Daburn (AD)

Members of the Public: 6

Meeting Opening

A minutes' silence was observed to reflect on the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II .

Declarations of Interest : None ;

Previous Minutes : July minutes approved and signed off after minor amendment to current and previous balance dates.

New Items for Discussion

Permanent siting of picnic and memorial benches

Councillors agreed the two picnic benches permanent (fixed) positions – one on the tarmac next to the basket swing and the other near the fence on the other side of the swing where it will provide best wheelchair access. The memorial bench will be fixed by the fence to the south side of the gate (ie near the frog seats). Rick / Jools

Gardening services

Councillors agreed for a final tidy-up visit from the current gardener, and asked Jools to convey their thanks for keeping the planted areas looking good during her time with us. Also Jools will ask if she has any suggestions for a successor. If no-one is identified, the vacancy will be advertised initially via WhatsApp and the village Facebook page.

Jools

Extra clause in hall hire terms&conditions

It was agreed to add a clause requiring the hirer to ensure the electric vehicle charge points are kept clear and available when the hirer reserves the hall carpark for an event. Jools

Jools also agreed to tidy up and update the IAA website, moving the hall hire terms&conditions to the parish council website for ease of maintenance. For technical reasons the calendar will remain on the IAA website, appropriate links will be placed where needed. Jools

“Warm Banks” initiative

Contingency plans are being drawn up in the area to address the potential problems of soaring energy costs and a harsh winter. Jools reported that the Romney Marsh Community Hub in New Romney are preparing to offer a warm place in which to spend time, charge mobiles, fill flasks and hot water bottles, etc. Cllr Hills had advised Alan that volunteer drivers were being brought in to enable residents of outlying villages, such as ours, to take advantage of these services. Teams of knitters are already busy making hats, gloves, scarves etc. RMCH will be issuing details around mid-October.

Councillors and members of the IAA present agreed that a village grant scheme should be set up, administered by the IAA and funded by various means (including the parish council, the mowers, and fundraising efforts among the more affluent villagers) – this scheme could provide a sum of money (say £100) to Ivychurch households suffering hardship because of the cost of living and energy crises. This will be revisited next month to determine how this scheme will be run. ALL

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Highways Improvement Plan

Councillors agreed for Julie to give the go-ahead for the measures indicated in our HIP – costs identified so far are £500 for design £2,500 for traffic regulation order, plus an unspecified amount for the signage (anticipated to be around £2,000) – fundraising and possible district council funding to cover this when known. The north 40mph limit is expected to extend to beyond Chapel Farm.

Julie has also been advised that KCC Highways are proposing a 40mph limit to be imposed from the end of the 30mph limit in New Romney up to Echo Engineering. As there is already a 40mph stretch from Ivychurch past the Business Park, this would mean several changes of speed limit between New Romney and Ivychurch. Julie will convey the parish council's view that a single 40mph limit between New Romney and Ivychurch would be far less confusing to motorists and would have the added benefit of influencing SatNav algorithms when calculating fastest route, which should then bias them towards using the A2070 instead of the Ashford Road.

Actions from Previous Meetings

Ivychurch Interpretation Hub and Heritage Exhibition

The frog seats have been installed, the information board will be installed some time in October. After installation, both the seats and information board will become council property and will need to be added to the hall insurance. Jools - ongoing

Victim Support Donation Request

In view of the anticipated call on the council's funds for a Winter Grant Scheme for residents of the village, it was decided not to proceed further with the above request at this time.

Play Area Cleanup

The play area was tidied up as planned, the inspection will have taken place some time during summer. Report awaited.

Public Rights of Way

- No further action will be taken.

Hall Refurbishment / Internal Decoration

- **Hall soffits and fascias** –ongoing. Rick will obtain a quote to repair the rot.
- **Internal decoration** – The hall is reserved for 2 weeks from 3/10 for the redecoration. Colours will be like-for-like.
- **Door security** – ongoing - Andy will ask his contact to review security of the hall's UPVC door.
- **Toilet lights** – it was noted that the timer needs adjusting.
- **Outside lights** – an enquiry was made about the outside lights which were only coming on for exaggerated movement on exiting the hall. It was pointed out that there is a timer button located in the kitchen which switches the outside lights on for a set period to enable safe exit from the hall. The PIR on the footpath side may need checking. (Rick)

Hall and Green

Hall cleaning :: It was agreed that the rate for hall cleaning would be £15/hour.

Playground Inspection Report : Rick and John will look at what else is needed. Rick/John - ongoing

Outside water options: the intended pump is unfortunately too dilapidated, but it was agreed a diaphragm pump would be sourced by Andy. - ongoing

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Indoor notice board – ready to instal once the internal decoration is completed.

Telephone kiosk - included in the quote for internal decoration.

Highways Improvement Plan :

See under “New Items”.

Community Speed Watch

- **Rick** has been arranging sessions by email to operatives.
 - **Jools** will sort out a fresh recruitment campaign.
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Treasurer's Reports

July 2022:

Current Balance 29/09/22 12836.85

Previous Balance 27/07/22 12884.84

Debits

28/07/22 75.00 bac R Bailey- mop

04/08/22 80.00 chq marsh Magazine 000802

19/08/22 22.99 bac Tony- tissues

22/09/22 30.00 bac wsl gardening

23/09/22 60.00 bac wsl gardening

Credits

29/07/22 20.00 bac Hall Hire Grogin

04/08/22 140.00 ac Hall hire Kent wildlife trust

22/08/22 20.00 ac Hall Hire Grogin

06/09/22 20.00 ac Hall Hire Bader

06/09/22 20.00 ac Hall Hire Grogin

Not Represented

Tbc payment for hall cleaning and kettle etc via tony

Notes:

Section 137 Spend (total available for 2022/23 = £1,682) – running total for period 1st April 2022- 31st August - £0

Pipeline

Hall Decoration 2865 internal 1680 external
Highways 3000 and 1500
IAA (Jubilee) 500-600

Planning -

- **Ref: 22/1478/FH - 2022-09-12** *Fielders Farm Nursery, Narrowbush Lane, Brookland, Romney Marsh, TN29 9FE* - Lawful development certificate (existing) for continued use of property as residential
Council agreed no action was needed in response to this application.
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Diarised / Correspondence / Any Other Business

- **Electricity supply:** the council expressed its thanks to Alan for arranging the new fixed tariff for the electricity supply – with the feed-in from the new solar panels we are currently in credit which will help with the coming winter's usage costs.

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- Diary: **grit**: no action required.
- Diary: **web provision**: no action required.
- **VAT**: Alan advised the council that we can sign up for a “gateway code” and claim back VAT on transactions over the past 3 years – all agreed that the VAT on recent large transactions would be worth recovering. Alan will apply for this and liaise with Jan for details.
- **Goal mouths**: the ground at the goal mouths is very worn. Rick will arrange for a quote for tough turf.
- **Road signs**: some road signs have been knocked askew or blown down. Jan will report the one in Ivychurch Road and Julie will report the blown-down 40mph sign to the south of the village.
- **Homeless man**: residents expressed serious concern that the man living on Wenhams Lane appears to be in great distress at times, screaming during the night. It was acknowledged that help has been offered by appropriate bodies but this has been declined. Julie will make our PCSO aware of the latest situation. Residents have been unnerved and are avoiding walking in Wenhams Lane because of this man’s presence.

Energy usage - Summaries of energy usage (KWH) as billed from the Smart Meter are shown here as they become available; please note billing dates and periods vary from month to month, so standing charge periods will also vary.

1st April – 27th May £40.24

Standing Charge £21.39 (57 days) Rate1 65.2kWh @ 18.77p = £12.23 Rate2 32.5kWh @ 14.44p = £4.70

28th May – 21st June £13.87

Standing Charge £9.38 (25 days) Rate1 14.4kWh @ 18.77p = £2.70 Rate2 7.9kWh @ 14.44p = £1.13

22nd June – 31st July £18.25

Standing Charge £13.51 (36 days) Rate1 14.3kWh @ 18.77p = £2.69 Rate2 8.2 @ 14.44 = £1.18

Credit Note – issued 20th September 2022

Net credits	CCL	VAT	Total
Reversed account charge -£42.65	£0.00	£0.00	-£42.65
Reversed account charge -£25.42	£0.00	£0.00	-£25.42
Reversed account charge -£65.28	£0.00	£0.00	-£65.28
Reversed account charge -£8.85	£0.00	£0.00	-£8.85
Reversed account charge -£9.92	£0.00	£0.00	-£9.92
Total credits for bill			-£152.12

Next Parish Council meeting : Next meeting will be :

Thursday 20th October 2022, 7.30pm in Village Hall. Meeting closed at 9 pm.