

Ivychurch Parish Council - Minutes of Meeting

19th January 2023

Present: Rick Bailey (RB), Julie Bailey (JB), Alan Martin (AM), Jan Robertson (JR), Andy Daburn (AD), Julie Devenish (Jools)

Apologies: John Goldsmith (JG)

Members of the Public: 2

Meeting Opening

Declarations of Interest : none.

Previous Minutes : November minutes approved with a minor wording change to AOB – fire extinguishers need “servicing” not “replacing”.

New Items for Discussion

Progress reviews of Warm Bank Initiative and Winter Grant Scheme

Nobody has taken up the **Warm Bank** offer yet. The weather has grown much colder. Jools will put a reminder on WhatsApp, and a reminder will be attached to February’s Marsh Message for both this and the Grant scheme.

In response to the entry in December’s Marsh Message an approach was received from a non-resident asking if the **Winter Warmth Grant** support could be offered to a person who is also outside our parish. Jools has emailed details to the administrators of our grant scheme to pass on, about the Community Hub and F&HDC’s financial support initiative and a visit may also be made.

KALC Community Award Scheme 2023

Councillors were asked to bring any suggestions for this to February’s meeting. The deadline for nominations is February 28th. ALL

Worn notices on Village Green

A number of “No Dogs” signs have been obtained and will be installed. Rick

SWARCO entity change on electric vehicle charging points contract

When these points were installed in 2020 the agreement included payment by SWARCO to the council of £1,250pa for 7 years. Only one payment can be traced, from October 2021. The council decided this needed to be sorted out before a Novation agreement could be signed and returned. Jools will convey this decision to SWARCO to be dealt with, after which Rick will sign the agreement and Jools will send a scanned copy to SWARCO as well as the hard copy to be posted.

Hall Heating

A villager had complained that the hall had been too cold to warm up in time for the Children’s Christmas Party, despite the heaters being switched on at least half an hour early. It had also been noted on the coin meter that 20p had been used in only 15 minutes despite no heaters or lights being on in that time. The hall administrator will investigate.

Andy will ask Paines to check the radiant wall heaters to ensure the elements are working correctly, and will ask them for further suggestions, such as improving their positions for maximum effectiveness.

It was agreed that the thermostat for the main heaters could be set to 10 degrees for a month, and costs monitored. If that was insufficient a third heater may be considered for the far end of the hall, and possibly an adjustment to hall hire fees during winter months. It was suggested councillors could take a look at www.villagehallheating.co.uk.

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Actions from Previous Meetings

Precept 2023/24

Decision passed to F&HDC. **complete**

Mowers Christmas Dinner **complete**

Coronation commemorative item

The price of earthenware (£4.40) or china mugs (£9.70) was compared. An estimated 37 mugs will be required, so an order will be placed for approximately 40 earthenware mugs. **Jools** will pass the official coronation logo to **Julie** if one becomes available.

The possibility of organising an event similar to the Jubilee Fete was also discussed, it was agreed the IAA will arrange, with fundraising being the probable means of financing this, as the council has some large financial outlays coming up soon.

Permanent siting of picnic and memorial benches

Rick / Jools will liaise with the resident who has provided the memorial bench as to its best positioning. – ongoing.

Gardening services

No-one has been identified yet. The vacancy will be advertised initially via WhatsApp and the village Facebook page.

Jools

Highways Improvement Plan

- Highways improvement plan: A plan has been produced for substantial speed limits. This is greater in scope than the original £3,000 proposal and will cost around £14,000. Many of these proposed limits will actually be within other parish boundaries – New Romney, Brenzett, St. Mary in the Marsh, Old Romney. **Alan** will ask for a breakdown by parish and by stages; **Julie** will establish whether she or Highways should be identifying sources of funding for the changes outside our own boundary, and she will also check if the district councillors still have any funds. IPC anticipate further income this year from VAT refunds, together with the precept and annual payment from SWARCO. Another £4,000-£5,000 was agreed for IPC to commit along with the existing £3,000 towards the total of £14,000, making IPC's planned total contribution up to £8,000. Additional fundraising will be pursued once the proposal is clarified, with a brunch and appeal for contributions. **ACTION: all** to look out invoices going back to 2020 for **Jan** to claim the refundable VAT, especially for the larger outlays such as new roof, solar panels, floor refurbishment etc.
- The downed sign just before Newchurch turning has been reported. Sign also still down on Ivychurch Road. **Alan** will log on website. **Jools** to put out reminder on WhatsApp that people can log these issues also themselves.

Ivychurch Interpretation Hub and Heritage Exhibition

The information board and seats have been included in the 2023 insurance renewal. **complete**

Hall Refurbishment / Internal Decoration

- **Hall soffits and fascias** - Estimate of £460 was agreed. **Rick**
- **Door security** – ongoing - **Andy** will ask his contact to review security of the hall's UPVC door. ongoing
- **External decoration** - Agreed that we will paint the outside of the Hall in the spring.
- **Telephone Kiosk** likely to be done at the same time (still need a quote for this) – **Alan** ongoing
- **Privacy frosting** – ready to instal.

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- **Outside lights** – The PIR on the footpath side may need checking. (Rick)

Hall and Green

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

Outside water options : Andy and Rick will check what pipework etc are needed. - ongoing

Indoor notice board – ready to instal. Rick - ongoing

Community Speed Watch

- Currently waiting for longer days and warmer weather.
- Rick will check with our trainees for convenient times to come as observers. Alan is now trained.
- Jools will sort out a fresh recruitment campaign.

Treasurer's Report

January 2023:

Current Balance 6614.57 19/01/23

Previous Balance 6195.81 17/11/22

Debits

13/12/22 50.00 bac Alan mowers xmas

13/12/22 36.00 bac Aubergine web hosting

13/12/22 84.04 bac EK Fire

13/12/22 129.19 Serious graphics signs

13/12/22 31.92 dd Castle water

Credits

29/11/22 20.00 bac Hall Hire Grogin

13/12/22 669.95 bac HMRC vat refund

04/01/23 20.00 bac Hall hire Grogin

06/01/23 20.00 bac Hall Hire Grogin

17/01/23 20.00 bac Hall hire Ivychurch Croquet

Outstanding

Hall Ins 1051.79

Business Stream 3.87

Notes:

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

Pipeline

Ext Decorating 1680.00 delayed till spring

Highways 5000 tbc

Warm Hub 200.00 per month till march

Warm support 1000.00

Guttering repair 460.00

Swarco 1250 annual payment overdue

Planning - Ref: 22/1933/FH Proposal: To extend existing garage building for use as an additional garage storage/workshop Location: Moat House, Ashford Road, Ivychurch, Romney Marsh, TN29 0AZ. Council agreed no issues.

Diarised / Correspondence / Any Other Business

- **Diarised : 5-yearly Electrical Condition Report NIC/EIC cost approx. £250** - council To-Do list suggested this was overdue, Andy has checked and the last report was May 2022. Re-diarised for 2027.
- **Church vandalism** : the 17th century panel and door screening off the tower has been badly damaged, preventing access to the tower meaning the church clock cannot be wound. Repairs will need to be carried out by specialists to comply with insurance conditions.

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- **JAM programme** : a request has been received for parking arrangements on the village green. It was suggested that a donation could be requested from them.
- **Heart Start** : an offer of a CPR course will be publicised in the coming month's Marsh Message newsletter.

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.*

TBC.

Coin meter : £100.50 taken by Hall Administrator for banking.

Andy asked Alan for 3 months figures so he can compare the new heaters. It was noted that the length of time £1 inserted for the meeting ran out, showed cost is 20p /kWh.

Next Parish Council meeting : Next meeting will be : **Thursday 16th February 2023, 7.30pm in Village Hall.**

Meeting closed 9.10pm.