

A INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Annual Parish Council Meeting was held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 6pm at the pavilion

Those attending the meeting were: Dr D Thomas (Chairman presiding), Mr Bates, Mr Cox, Mr Durham, Mr Lester. Mr Corne joined the meeting by Zoom.

1. Apologies: Councillor May, was unable to attend the meeting.
Dr Thomas welcomed all new councillors to the meeting.

2. Chairman: Dr Thomas assumed the Chair until the Election at item 4.

3. Declarations of Office were completed in the presence of the Clerk
Individual copies of the following were distributed to each councillor: Code of Conduct; Register of Interests, and Standing Orders. *Trustee Declaration of Eligibility* was completed and handed to the Clerk as per insurance requirement. Copies of the *Good Councillor Guide* and the *CPRE Introduction to Planning* were issued to the new councillors.

3.1. On-line training dates for new councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting: 6th June for Introduction to Planning; 14th November Local Plans & Local Policy.

4. Election of Officers:

Parish Council Chairman: Nominations received: David Thomas and Mark Bates
Mark Bates was elected nem con and took the chair.

Parish Council Vice Chairman: Nomination received: Brian Cox
Brian Cox was elected nem con

Planning Sub Committee Chairman: Nomination received: John Corne
John Corne was elected nem con

Planning Sub Committee Vice Chairman: Nomination received: Darren Durham
Darren Durham was elected nem con

Councillor Bates paid tribute to Dr Thomas, who had held the post of Chairman on Inkpen Parish Council for some 12 years.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting – the draft minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th March 2023 were approved as a true record and had been displayed on the Parish website.

6. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

7. Declaration of Interest: None recorded

7.1 Councillors are the Corporate and Custodian Trustees of the Inkpen Memorial Playing Field.

3.2 The following declaration is made on all minutes for clarification.

Inkpen Parish Council is the Corporate & Custodian Trustee of the Memorial Playing Field Trust and registered with the Charity Commission as the Corporate and Custodian Trustee. Trust meetings and funds are held separately as required by the Charity Commission and confirmed annually to the External Auditors.

As confirmed by the Charity Commission: “The Charity is simply managed and administered by the Council and is not a public sector organisation and not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.” All information about the Charity can be viewed on the Charity Commission website.

8. Planning Application:

23/00913 Land to South of West Gate House – permission in principle residential development – maximum of two dwellings.

Councillors recorded: Strong Objection.

The concerns raised:

- The proposed site is in open countryside in the NWD AONB.
- This is agricultural land with a barn storage area, it is not a previously developed site.
- The AONB has protected status and there are no exception conditions.
- Contrary to the Inkpen Village Design Statement (VDS) **
- The proposed development would have a detrimental effect on the openness of the landscape, which is directly opposite to Inkpen Common Reserve (SSSI) and the biodiversity and habitat of the area. The adjacent bridleway is a popular area with Ramblers and walkers.
- This is an unsustainable site, with no supporting infrastructure to meet family needs.
- Ref: The NPPF para 176 - 'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and the AONB has the highest status of protection.

23/00913 No.6 Ingles Edge

Councillors' recorded: No objection

Concern was expressed that the plans displayed on the WBC website lacked sufficient details to show the size and volume of the proposed development.

9. Inkpen Conservation Area Appraisal, – inkpenhistory.uk

9.1 Councillor Thomas reported on the work undertaken on the village appraisal, which is an update to the Village Design Statement and must be completed by 2026 and accepted by WBC. Funding has been set aside in the Parish budget, as agreed at the last meeting and a further grant from the Miss Lawrence Trust fund of £2,800 will be paid into the Parish Council account and ringfenced for the History Group to be used for the appraisal. Volunteer residents are involved in the appraisal.

10. To approve the Expenditure & Financial Statement & Expenditure 2023

8.1 A financial statement to 28th April 2023 was tabled at the meeting, showing the income and expenditure since the last meeting and the committed expenditure that was ringfenced for grant funding. A reserve fund is held for anticipated future maintenance requirements. No queries were raised.

8.2 The Statement was approved. Expenditure agreed and approved.

8.3 The Clerk explained the projected budget for 2023/2024 which can be reviewed at the half year stage.

The Date of the Next Meeting will be the on **Wednesday 21st June at 7pm** if Councillors are available in the Inkpen Pavilion for signing off the Annual Return 2022/2023, – holding Tuesday 27th June as a reserve option. The Trustees of the Inkpen Memorial Playing Field Charity will meet on Tuesday 13th June at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 20.10 hrs.

Signed:.....Date:

**For Reference Village Design Statement

Low density of development gives the village a distinctly rural character, characterized by hedges and woodland, which is critically important to retain its open character and seeks to maintain a dispersed settlement plan and that which would materially harm or change its character.

Ref: Section 8 of the VDS – planning guidelines: landscaper and open spaces.