

INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 21st June 2022 at 7.30pm

Those attending the meeting were: Dr D Thomas (Chairman), Councillors: Bates, Edwards, Hanna, Jones, Marriott, May and Mrs. G Keene (Parish Clerk). Also attending: District Councillor Benneyworth and Mrs. Bushnell.

1. **Apologies:** None recorded.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – *to remind members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable, pecuniary or other interests on the agenda in accordance with the Code of Conduct.*

None recorded

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2022 were approved as a true record and had been displayed on the Parish website. There were no issues arising.

4. **Matters Arising:** None recorded

5. Wayleave Agreement

5.1 The initial understanding had been that an agreement between the IMPFT and Gigaclear would be held in perpetuity rather than an annual agreement re-negotiated on usage and need. The Chairman explained that the previous chair of the council had signed off on a wayleave agreement without linking the wayleave to the supply of free broadband for the pavilion. A new annual agreement has had to be signed with Gigaclear PLC in order that the broadband service be maintained.

No further action.

6. The Conservation Area Appraisal

6.1 The chairman explained that the appraisal, covering the Parish of Inkpen, to update and identify special and historic interest of the conservation area as required by the Planning Act of 1990, would be delayed, waiting for the relevant staff to be recruited at West Berkshire Council.

The survey will be undertaken by both Parish Council and residents.

Action: Chairman

7. Kintbury Parish Council Meeting held on 9th June 2022

7.1 The Chairman had attended the Parish Council meeting in Kintbury and reported on items covered:

- a) it appeared that in a similar way to Inkpen, Kintbury struggle to get volunteers to undertake village issues, despite Kintbury having a much larger amount of funding available.
- b) *Notrees*, was due for closure due to a reduction in occupancy. Kintbury Parish Council have objected to the closure.
- c) *Community Speedwatch* - this is being supported by Thames Valley Police and training for those involved would be starting shortly. Volunteers will be wearing high visibility jackets and have speed identifying equipment. Despite the lower speed notices positioned throughout the Kintbury, and the illuminated signage, speeding vehicles remained a concern for Kintbury Parish Council.

Further discussion at the meeting, focussed on the speeding issues in Inkpen – there is a similar pattern represented in the rural villages in West Berkshire. Three Inkpen roads in particular experience high speeding vehicles: Folly Rd, Craven Rd. and Great Common Rd. and overgrown vegetation adds to the danger, at the junctions. The Clerk reported that WBC had undertaken a monitoring of speed in Inkpen recently and apart from the isolated cases of speeding there was no further action recorded. The Police notices in Inkpen were effective as are the new Highway Code regulations in respect of walkers using the roadway where there are no pavements and a clear regard for cyclists and horses.

Standing Orders were suspended by the Chairman to allow those attending to contribute to the discussion. Standing Orders resumed and the Chairman recorded that the Council would investigate forms of speed control in the village.

d) *Councillor Vacancies* – there are two vacancies in Kintbury.

e) *Neighbourhood Development Plan* – the preparation and adoption of a Neighbour Development Plan is extremely time consuming and the aim of the Plan is to say where further development can take place in villages. Not applicable to Inkpen.

8. Electricity costs – the chairman explained that this was a problem for the general village facilities in Inkpen and a problem for many low-income residents. Everyone should think carefully about usage especially at the Playing Field where costs had risen to an unexpectedly high level.

9. To approve the Expenditure and Financial Statement 2022/2023

9.1 *Financial Statement*: The Clerk had circulated a Financial Statement to 30th May 2022 prior to the meeting. The statement showed receipts and payments made since the last meeting and the ringfenced committed expenditure. There was one outstanding invoice for payment: Self Accounting, end of year statement for payroll - £48, which had been paid following the last meeting. Following discussion, the accounts were approved. No questions were raised for discussion– all cheques require two signatures to maintain the propriety and financial control. No extraordinary items of expenditure were included.

9.2 The AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Report 2021/2022) had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting:

Certificate of Exemption – approved and signed: Annual Internal Audit Report – approved

Annual Governance Statement – signed and approved

Accounting Statements 2021/2022 – signed and approved

Action: All for display on the website – Certificate of Exemption to be sent to the External Auditor.

10. Communications Policy

10.1 As discussed at the previous meeting, Social Media is not a requirement for Parish Councils but the publication of legal notices is, by regulation, and display is required on notice boards and the PC website, thus making it available for everyone.

10.2 The Clerk had circulated a draft social media policy, following the last meeting, as used by another Parish Council, which is showed regulation and safeguard against comments which may be inaccurate, misleading and contain abusive information. Following discussion, it was noted that 4 Councillors do not use social media, for information and 3 Councillors are users.

10.3 Following discussion it was agreed that Inkpen Parish Council notices should be displayed on an Inkpen PC Facebook page and residents encouraged to attend council meetings if they had any issues to raise. Debate of council issues via Facebook should not be encouraged or promoted.

11. Date of next meeting: – the date for the next meeting is Tuesday 26th July 2022 at 7.30pm depending on the availability of Councillors.

Councillors are asked to note that all items for discussion and decision must be recorded on the Agenda, to allow due consideration to be given prior to the meeting and to inform residents. **Residents** are requested to limit comments or questions for the public question time interval when Standing Orders are suspended. Written questions are requested by 2pm on the day prior to the meeting and forwarded to the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 2030pm

Signed:.....Date: