

INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th December 2015 at 7.30 pm at Inkpen Sports Club.

Those present were: Dr D Thomas (Chairman), Mr K Evans, Mrs C Jones, Mr R May, Mrs V Tomlinson, and Mrs. G Keene (Clerk). Also attending the meeting were: Mr J Bryant and Mr R Weeks.

1. Apologies were received from: Councillor Stansfeld, Mrs L Wild, Mr D Wilson and PCSO Joanna King, who were unable to attend the meeting.

2. Hungerford Neighbourhood Police Report: No report had been received.

3. Planning Sub Committee – see separate minutes.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. The Draft minutes had been displayed on the Inkpen website as required. No comments were recorded.

5. Matters Arising:

5.1 Devolution – would be taken later on the Agenda.

5.2 Pot holes – there was no update given. Current highway work would be recorded later on the agenda.

5.3 The Clerk had submitted a response to WBC on the proposed ‘budget cuts’ to the Public Bus Service serving Inkpen.

6. Declarations of Interest:

a) Councillors are the sole Trustees of the Memorial Playing Field Trust and registered with the Charity Commission as the Corporate and Custodian Trustees. Trust meetings and funds are held separately as required by the Charity Commission and as confirmed annually to the External Auditors.

b) Dr Thomas declared a ‘Personal Interest’ as the Grant Application Form requesting funding had been sent to him by Mr Bates, Friends of Inkpen Village Pond, instead of directly to the Clerk of the Council as requested in the Bulletin and on the website.

7. Devolution – Cities and Local government Devolution Bill.

7.1 A recent publication by NALC on devolution of power supported the Powerhouse Minister- James Wharton MP, and gave endorsement to the Parish Council role. The clerk had reported at the last meeting that the Bill involved plans to devolve powers from Whitehall into the hands of local people and businesses for a wide range of spending areas – i.e education, transport, healthcare, housing and business support. The Berkshire unitary authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership (TVLEP) were alone in not submitting a bid – 38 Local Authorities had submitted a bid to run local services.

7.2 Councillor Stansfeld and James Cole had forwarded a reply to the Clerk arising from a discussion with WBC Chief Executive to clarify the ‘no bid’ from Berkshire Local Authorities. The reply had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

8. Works Issues to be carried out:

8.1 The Clerk outlined the information received from WBC which had been circulated:

a) Drainage works in Post Office Rd. would take place on 21st December to 23rd December.

b) The fallen tree on footpath 47 – WBC had confirmed that the responsibility lay with the landowner of the adjacent land and would make contact for the removal.

c) Flooding in Craven Rd. – the work had already been carried out as it had represented a risk to drivers and cyclists on a dangerous bend.

9. Financial update:

a) The clerk gave a financial report to the end of November 2015 in line with the bank statements. A list of items of expenditure were tabled at the meeting and agreed by those present. New items of expenditure were agreed and cheques had been raised: Hire of the sports pavilion for official meetings (6 meetings) - £72; Grass maintenance (October) - £294; Grass maintenance at The Green (Oct.) - £75.

b) Grant Application Forms and the Notes covering eligibility for S137 funding had been placed on the Inkpen website:

Grant applications were considered from Inkpen Charities, Groups and Organisations for public funding (S137) and others would be referred to the Greenham Common Community Trust funding if more appropriate for community grants.

Following discussion the S137 awards were agreed: Inkpen & Combe Bulletin - £688; Inkpen Website would now be considered an administrative expenditure and not appropriate to S137; Inkpen Pools Allotment Trust – a decision was postponed pending further information. (NB – it was later agreed to make an award £150); Daisy Chains Playgroup - £100; 92 Group - £200; IRWC – provision of £500 had already been allocated in the budget, for improvements to footpaths; Children’s Play Area, new swing - £500 (for matched funding with Greenham Common Community Trust); Inkpen Table Tennis Group - £150; Inkpen Sports Pavilion and Friends of Inkpen Village Pond – both applications were referred to a Greenham Common Community Grant as required.

12. Next Parish Council Meeting is arranged for Monday 25th January 2016 at 7.30pm at Inkpen Sports Club, subject to availability of Councillors and issues for discussion.

Councillors are asked to note that all items for discussion and decision should be recorded on the Agenda to allow due consideration to be given prior to the meeting and to inform residents. Meeting closed at 20.50 hrs.

Residents attending the Council meeting are requested to limit comments or questions to the public question time interval when Standing Orders are suspended.

Signed:.....Date:
