

ILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Ilmington held in the Village Hall on  
Thursday 9th April 2015

Present: Cllr. G. Davies, Cllr R. Hawkins, Cllr J. Sherwood (Chair) and Cllr G. Osborne

Also present: Cllr. C.J. Saint, Gill Bailey (Clerk) and 26 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed the public to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S. Wright, Cllr T. Wilkins and County Cllr Izzy Seccombe.

2. Cllr Sherwood advised that IPC were in the process of submitting responses to SDC for Planning Application: 15/00640/VARY, which would be discussed in greater depth with the Agent for the owners and Cllr Davies. It was unanimously agreed that a response of No Representation be submitted for 15/00881/TREE and 15/00724/FUL.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Sherwood said that it had been an amazing and busy year and she felt that the current IPC had tried to listen to Parishioners and thanked them for their participation at the meetings. Cllr Sherwood made the following points:

- IPC were striving for inclusive and open meetings and improved communications with the creation of a website and updates in the parish magazine
- IPC Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Media Policy were in place
- Thanks to Cllr Davies for his input into planning issues – there had been many applications and issues to address including the emerging Core Strategy, whether to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and Site Allocations. The IPC was disappointed that SDC planners had not adopted their recommendations on planning applications.
- Thanks also to Cllr Davies for his input into housing issues, particularly the contentious housing allocations. Following meetings with SDC & WRCC housing representatives, Cllrs Davies and Sherwood persuaded them to work with Parish Councils early in the process in the future in defining what constituted local occupancy requirements.
- Thanks to Cllr Hawkins for his maintenance work around the village and ~~on~~ the Playing Field as well as his work with the Playing Field Committee
- Thanks also to Cllr's Wilkins and Wright for their knowledge and guidance in respect of highways issues. IPC met with Highways Officer, Jeff Morris, who has arranged to have drains and culverts cleared.
- Thanks to Cllr Osborne for developing the Grass Mowing Contract tender and his input into financial matters.
- IPC had supported and had shares in the Community Shop – thanks to the Shop Committee Sarah and, Mike Tremellen, Tim Allen, Jenny Daniel and Liz Morris.
- Thanks to Fred Edmunds, Jill and Peter Coupland for their valued input, contribution and support at Parish Council meetings and in the village.
- A special thanks to all volunteers and clubs who help around the village and make Ilmington a vibrant and special place to live.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The clerk presented a summary of the Parish Council's accounts for year ending March 2015 (attached as appendix A) and advised that IPC was within the budget for the year.

#### REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS

- a. Village Hall Committee. The Chair of the Committee, Mr Brian Lighthill reported that the hall is well used and continues to be a successful amenity for the Village. He said the VH is regularly used by the WI, Morris Men, Shop Committee and IPC. The Trustees have organised sold out evening events: with cast members of BBC Radio 4's 'Archers' Show, a Big Band Jazz Night and a St George's Night scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> April. He thanked IPC for their continued support during the year.
- b. Community Shop Committee: Tim Allen and Sarah Tremellen provided an overview on the current situation and outlined the work to be done including the predicted opening of the shop in May and the café possibly by September. Mr Allen reported that they had received planning permission for a change of use and extension to the Prebytery and secured funding towards the costs of creating the Shop and Cafe. He reported that a shop manager had been appointed and that village volunteers would be trained. He said that they raised over £186,000 from selling shares. Cllr Sherwood thanked everyone on the Committee and wished them good luck with their proposals.
- c. Ilmington Multi-Sports Club: On behalf of the Club's Chair, Dave Benton reported that it was an extremely successful period of consolidation for the Club. There were 270 members, with over a quarter residing in Ilmington. They are looking into grants for a third tennis court and are liaising with the IPC for the required leases. Club member, David Hall, has offered to help set up the 'limited by guarantee' company and draw up simple leases for all the clubs. They've introduced an on-line court booking system. The coaching, training and scouting links which have been forged with the Wolves Academy. The U13 floorball team are the reigning National Champions and also the 3 Counties Youth Floorball Champions. We are also holding the National Floorball Championships for U13s and U16s in June. They continue to support Ilmington Primary School, via tennis coach Angela Holmes. He thanked the parish council for their continued support and help in resolving car park issues.
- d. Sports and Social Club. No report was submitted.
- e. Playing Fields Committee. Fred Edmunds, a member of the committee, reported on the need to sand the play areas in the near future as it was essential for maintenance and drainage. He also reported that the Committee was carrying out maintenance on an on-going basis, which included the installation of a drain and laying tarmac at the entrance. Mr Michael Dingley agreed with Mr Edmunds regarding the laying of sand and thanked him for all his hard work treating and caring for the grass.
- f. St Mary's Church. No report was submitted.
- g. Ilmington Charities – Irene Sabin reported that plants were given to 13 members of the community and the balances on all the accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> December were £2,912.48.
- h. Ilmington Primary School. Mrs Jill Coupland outlined the recent achievements of the school, such as improvements to the Library and the installation of solar panels. She also reported that the School maintained excellent links with the Church. She thanked the

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vibrant PTA and community involvement. She acknowledged and thanked the committed team of helpers and the new Head Teacher, together with the Deputy Head who had deputised whilst a new Head was appointed.

8. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER CHRIS SAINT

Cllr Saint outlined some issues which had dominated the last year, including the new contractors for SDC's mowing contract, planning challenges, a change to the refuse collection contract and the preparation of the Core Strategy. He advised that SDC had frozen Council Tax for another year. Though he would not be the District Cllr for Ilmington, due to boundary changes, he would continue to support Ilmington preserve its individual character. Cllr Sherwood thanked Cllr Saint for his support and help over the last year.

9. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR IZZY SECCOMBE

Cllr Seccombe tendered her apologies as she had to attend a Planning Meeting regarding a proposed large development.

10. MATTERS RAISED OF PARTICULAR LOCAL IMPORTANCE

- Planning Report

Parishioners raised concerns regarding the amount of development in the Village and that the Core Strategy allocation of new dwellings mentioned 50. If all the proposed developments went ahead, it would equate to more than half in a short period of time. Concern was expressed regarding any potential development on an area of land along Back Street, running from behind the Howard Arms to Pippen Cottage. Parishioners said that infill and loss of orchard land should be avoided and that open spaces in the central strip of the village are an intrinsic part of Ilmington and should be preserved. As there was no planning application in front of Councillors, they could not comment. However, Councillors appreciated their concerns and understood that surface flooding might also need to be reviewed in that area. Cllr Saint said planning issues rested with SDC but shared their concerns that too much development would spoil the character of Ilmington and believed growth should be organic. - He intimated that County Council may wish to develop part of Mabels Farm and realise some of their assets. Cllr Saint mentioned that the application for 11 new dwellings on Armscote Road a recent development had been approved subject to the Environment Agency Officer lifting his objection. Cllr Sherwood said she was surprised and would speak to the Planner as the developer had not submitted a Flood Risk Assessment so the development may be in question.

Cllr Sherwood said that the planning working party discussed whether there was any merit in pursuing a Neighbourhood Plan because of cost and the lengthy process, or pursuing a Supplementary Planning document as an alternative. She is organising a meeting with the Planning Policy Planner to discuss the pros and cons of each.

Cllr Osborne stated that he was disappointed with the results of the planning processes because Planners did not appear to take account of material considerations raised by the parish council. For best effect, villager's views also needed to be articulated directly to the planning authority (Stratford DC). Cllr Osborne thanked Cllrs Sherwood and Davies for taking the time to respond to each application submitted to IPC.

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- **Playing Field – Leases and Car Park**  
Cllr Sherwood said that IPC had applied for two grants to assist with re-surfacing the car park and the central strip would cost approximately £25,000. IPC would continue to look for further grants if they were unsuccessful. She thanked Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Davies and Martin Seymour for the remedial works they carried out.
- **Signage – additional signage and removal of existing street furniture**  
Cllr Davies said that some signs had disappeared and questioned whether so many signs were needed. It was generally agreed that some directional signs to the Village Hall, Sports Field and Community Shop would be useful especially for emergency vehicles but could be incorporated into existing signs. Also agreed was the need to clean the signs and create an overview of the existing signs. Cllr Sherwood suggested organising village volunteers /working parties to tackle projects such as cleaning signs etc.
- **Dog Refuse**  
Cllr Sherwood said that IPC had received several complaints from Parishioners regarding dog refuse. She said that it would be difficult to enforce the £1,000 penalty and she asked everyone if they could think of anything that might help. The following suggestions were received:-
  - Provision of more bins
  - Photographing the perpetrator if caught in the act
  - Bags on the side of dog refuse bins
  - Everyone encouraged to deal with the situation personally
  - The dog refuse bin in the Playing Field is not always accessible – speak to SDC
  - Additional notices in the parish magazine/20:20

Cllr Sherwood asked if there were any additional points Parishioners would like to make:

- Fred Edmunds asked if the Grass Cutting contract had been decided and the Clerk responded by saying that she had instructed the Contractors by post.
- Brian Lighthill requested that the contractor cut the verge outside the VH and it was felt that this area was included in the contract.
- Mr Goldsmith said that he thought the Playing Field was excellent and he would not want to change anything. Cllr Hawkins said that the area was inspected monthly and annually by an independent company and there was always dialogue between IPC and the P/F Committee.
- Cllr Sherwood asked if the skateboard ramp should be replaced and it was agreed to ask the young people in Ilmington if there was a need.
- Mr Dave Benton said that the Multi-Sports Club were considering CCTV as there had been a number of instances where vandals caused damage to the tennis courts and hut and the Sports Pavillion.
- Cllr Davies took the opportunity to thank Cllr Sherwood for all her hard work and support and Cllr Sherwood thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting closed at 21.00.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Date \_\_\_\_\_