

# Ilmington Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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

Also present: Gill Bailey (Clerk) and 28 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Saint and Cllr Seccombe

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No one declared any interests.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- Cllr Sherwood opened up the public session by inviting members of the public to speak about matters of concern. She went on to say that this session was for members of IPC to hear parishioner's views and concerns and that it was not the forum for a debate.
- A representative from the Sports & Social Club asked whether there had been any progress made with regards to the preparation of a constitution and asked IPC if they could consider the drainage issues and the amount of surface water when looking at the re-surfacing of the car park.
- A Parishioner said that she understood the importance of green energy. She said that the amendments to the Blackwell Solar Plant would mitigate some of the impact of the development, however, the installation of solar panels would still be detrimental to the views from the highest points in the Village.
- A Parishioner asked if IPC could clarify their position with regards to the removal of their objections to the amendments in a previous meeting to the Blackwell Solar Plant. She went on to say that the amendments did not take account of the views from Ilmington and that the proposed screening would not take effect for a considerable time. She asked if IPC would consider removing their objections.
- A Parishioner said that he felt that as no one objected to the installation of temporary structures in the countryside and as the solar panels would be temporary, he thought that the panels would not be as intrusive as many people thought.
- A Parishioner said that she felt that the amendments to the Blackwell Solar Plant did not take into consideration the importance of the views from strategic points in Ilmington. She went on to read out a letter from a representative from the Say No to Solar at Blackwell Grange Farm Committee, which had been sent to all the objectors to the Solar Farm on the SDC planning portal. She said that parishioners were not indifferent to the proposals.
- Cllr Sherwood responded by saying that the quote from the letter had been taken out of context and that it had been said at the IPC meeting in November as part of an overall discussion with regard to the Blackwell Solar Plant. She went on to say that whilst IPC had removed their objections to the proposals, it had been made quite clear at the meeting and in the relevant minutes that this did not mean IPC supported the application but was equivalent to a comment of 'no representation'. Cllr Sherwood acknowledged that the letter from the Say No to Solar at Blackwell Grange Farm Committee was correct in saying that there were 86 objections to the Solar Plant from Ilmington on the SDC planning portal but these were from 58 individuals as some parishioners had responded twice or their comments had been repeated. This represented approximately 9% of Ilmington's

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registered voters and an even smaller percentage of Ilmington's overall population. Accordingly, over 90% of Villagers had made no representations to IPC in the meetings where the proposals were discussed, nor to SDC.

- Mr Nigel Dunn advised the meeting that he was a Cllr at Tredington and confirmed that Tredington Parish Council would be holding an extraordinary meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March to discuss the application for the Blackwell Solar Farm and Ilmington parishioners were welcome to attend to make their views known
- A Parishioner asked for clarification on why IPC originally objected to the Solar Farm and then changed their minds following receipt of the amended proposals. Cllr Davies responded by saying that IPC had originally objected to the application for a number of specific reasons. The subsequent amendments to the application had addressed and mitigated a number of them such that the Council considered by a majority that it was appropriate to remove their objection. He said that whilst he had a personal view, he felt that IPC should act as a unified body.
- A Parishioner said that the public did not object to poly tunnels in the countryside and you did not need permissions to install these structures and he felt that the impact of the solar panels may have been exaggerated.
- A Parishioner said that in her opinion the installation of the solar panels would be an innovative and exciting approach to renewable energy and the impact may not be as bad as some people think.
- Cllr Sherwood informed the meeting that the time limit on discussions regarding the Solar Farm had been exceeded and she would have to draw the public participation session to a close. She invited a Parishioner to conclude the discussions.

#### 4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 5. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Cllr Wright suggested that pot holes should be reported to WCC via their web site and the depth of the hole was required. Cllr Wilkins said that you could also report pot holes via the telephone contact centre at WCC.
- B. Cllr Hawkins reported that he had cleared the pathway at the back of the Primary School and the Bus Shelter. He went on to say that the trees overhanging the playing field had been cut back and there was a large hole in the field which was wet in the bottom. Cllr Hawkins also reported that the outside toilets at the pavilion had not been cleaned for some time and needed to be attended to.
- C. Cllr Wright said that as there were no signs directing members of the public to the Playing Field, nor to the toilets, he felt that consideration should be given to the provision of adequate signage.
- D. Cllr Sherwood referred back to correspondence that had been received from a Parishioner articulating his concerns regarding the amount of parking in and around the Playing Field on their Winter Series Run Days. Cllr Sherwood went on to report that she had been in touch with the organisers of the event, Tempo Events, who appeared to be open to suggestions on how to resolve the issue. Following a discussion, it was agreed that

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contact should be made with Temp Events to request and negotiate that they contribute towards the maintenance and upkeep of the car park in return for use of the playing field and pavilion on their Winter Series Run days, which are held five times over the winter months.

- E. Cllr Osborne reported that budget estimates had been received for the re-surfacing of the playing field car park and a specification to a modern and sustainable standard had been prepared. Cllr Osborne indicated that the works would cost a substantial amount of money and that Cllr Sherwood was in the process of pursuing two potential grants. He said that the more the car park was used, the more maintenance would be needed. Following a discussion, it was agreed that members of IPC and the Playing Field Committee needed to liaise together. A Parishioner also noted that various organisations in the Village did contribute towards the maintenance of the car park.
- F. Cllr Davies reported that he and Cllr Sherwood had attended a meeting regarding housing in the Village, which included stakeholders; representatives from WRHA, Orbit, WCC and SDC. He went on to say that he felt that the organisations mentioned should follow a process and involve the Village, particularly in respect of affordable housing and should meet villagers' needs prior to the housing becoming available to all on the Housing Register. Cllr Sherwood added that unbeknownst to IPC, the Council could have influenced the criteria for what constituted Local Occupancy but that the good news was that IPC would be able to in the future. She went on to say that a positive outcome from their previous meeting was that other Parish Councils were now being included and consulted early in the process.
- G. Cllr Sherwood reported that IPC had received correspondence from a concerned parishioner regarding dog fouling in the Village and she confirmed that the Clerk was looking at various ways that IPC could assist with this issue, including placing an article in the parish magazine.

### 6. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted as received.

- i. Email regarding parking on Playing Field on Fun-Run Days
- ii. Email – Ilmington Village Hall Committee
- iii. WALC/NALC – Transparency Code for PC's with an income & expenditure not exceeding £25,000
- iv. Requests for tendering for mowing the open spaces in the Village – 3
- v. Poster – Tackling Crime in Rural Communities
- vi. Provisional Community Forum Dates & Poster about 'The Big Lunch'
- vii. Email – New Superfast Broadband Contract
- viii. WALC – Information re Briefing Day
- ix. Email from SDC Planning re: 15/00033/LDP
- x. Email & Letter from concerned Resident re: Dog Fouling
- xi. Letter from SDC – Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath Development

### 7. PLANNING

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following comments on planning applications received:

Application no.	Proposal	Address	Submitted by	Comments due by / decision

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14/02887/TREE	T1 : Sycamore : Remove bifurcated stem closest to the footpath	The Hill, Back Street, Ilmington	Mr W Nash	Granted
14/02934/TREE	T1 : Cherry : Remove	Puddocks, Frog Lane, Ilmington	Mr W Buckley	Granted
14/03048/TREE	T1 ; Pine : Remove T2 : Red Maple : Remove T3 : Balsam Poplar : Remove	The Bevingtons, Valenders Lane, Ilmington	Mr & Mrs Tustain	Granted
14/01089/FUL	Erection of 11 dwellings & garages – including 4 affordable units and associated access road and full treatment plant (and the proposal requires the diversion of a public right of way)	Land Off, Armscote Road, Ilmington	Mr P Coton – Stratford Homes	Pending - Amendment received removing pedestrian access. IPC re-iterated objections.
14/02934/TREE	T1 : Cherry : Remove	Puddocks, Frog Lane, Ilmington	Mr W Buckley	Pending
14/01732/FUL	Construction of a Solar Farm comprising ground mounted solar panels for electricity production, together with inverters, substation, DNO substation, inward facing CCTV cameras, 1.8 m high deer fencing, permeable stone access tracks, temporary construction compound and landscaping	Land Off, North of Ilmington, Blackwell	Blackwell Grange Solar Farm Ltd	See above comments – IPC <b>resolved</b> to register 'No Representation' regarding the amendments. 3 Cllrs supported this view, 2 abstained and 1 objection.
14/03489/LBC	Proposed replacement roof covering to rear roof pitch	Rivendell, Middle Street, Ilmington	Mrs C Greenwood	Granted
15/00153/FUL	Installation of a free standing air source heat pump within the garden of the dwelling	The Hayloft, Front Street, Ilmington	Mr T Allen	IPC <b>resolved</b> to support with a condition that an absorbent cowl be utilised to cover the unit. 5 Cllrs supported this view and 1 Cllr abstained.
15/00276/TREE	T1 : Leylandii – Remove, T2 : Cypress – Remove, T3 : Yew : Remove	Garden House, Back Street, Ilmington	Mr D Grieve	IPC unanimously <b>resolved</b> to support the proposals.
15/00194/VARY	Application for the variation of condition No. 2 (approved plans) and removal of condition No. 15 (Level 4 Code for Sustainable Homes) imposed on planning application 13/03310/FUL for the erection of two dwellings to include the closure of the existing access and the creation of a new vehicular access	Rowneys Farm, Foxcote Hill, Ilmington	Mr A Gunn	IPC <b>resolved</b> to submit the attached letter (Appendix A) - 5 Cllrs supported this view and 1 Cllr abstained
15/00256/VARY	Variation of Condition 1 (List of approved plans) and 8 (drainage) of planning permission 14/01808/VARY to allow for substitution of rooflight with dormer window to the rear of the attached	Clifford Orchard, Frog Lane, Ilmington	Mr M Blackman	IPC <b>resolved</b> to submit a response of no representation – this view was unanimously agreed. It was also unanimously agreed that IPC would make representations to

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	garage on Plot 1 & changes to the drainage layout (Application 12/02361/FUL for 'Removal of existing tin shed & timber shed. Construction of 2 No. dwellings with associated works).		SDC regarding the enforcement of the existing conditions which had not been complied with.
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### 8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

As neither District Cllr Saint nor County Cllr Seccombe were present, no reports were received.

### 9. TO DISCUSS THE DATES FOR ILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Clerk confirmed that dates for the future IPC meetings had been finalised and she handed out notifications to members of the public and Cllrs.

### 10. TO RATIFY A REQUEST FROM THE COMMUNITY SHOP COMMITTEE AND THE NEW OWNER OF THE PRESBYTERY TO SITE SKIPS ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND

- a. It was unanimously agreed by all Cllrs that the Community Shop Committee and the owner of the Presbytery could site their skips on a temporary basis on Parish Council owned land.

### 11. FINANCE

- a. To discuss redeeming 4% Consolidated Stock held by Miss I Firkins (former IPC Cllr) –

Cllr Sherwood confirmed that IPC had been able to conclude that Miss Firkins had been an IPC Cllr following research at the County Records Office and that IPC had paid a Researcher a fee of £20 to carry out investigations. She went on to say that the redeemed stock would yield £278.00.

- b. To discuss Neighbourhood Development Plan Application –

Cllr Davies confirmed that a NDP would not prevent development and it was mentioned by a member of the Planning Committee that a NDP would allow for development to be steered in a particular direction as long as it was in accordance with the SDC Core Strategy and would have more weight in planning terms than a Parish Plan or VDS. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Planning Committee would organise a meeting to take this project forward.

- c. **RESOLVED** to approve the payments set out in Annex A

### 12. COUNCILLORS REPORTS OR ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS – exchange of information only

1. Grass Mowing Contract  
Cllr Osborne reported that IPC was in the process of preparing a tender document for the grass mowing contract for the following three years and details would be advertised in the parish magazine.
2. Treating Public Seats in the Village  
The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from a Family in the Village requesting IPC to treat village benches to preserve their longevity.
3. Highways Issues – Surface Water : Featherbed Lane & outside the Primary School

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The Clerk confirmed that she was waiting on a response from WCC following the meeting that she and Cllrs had attended with a representative from Highways and her follow up email. She agreed to chase this matter.

4. Cllr Wright reported that the obstruction to the bridleway in Admington Parish on the Foxcote Estate had been cleared.

## 13. TO CONFIRM THE DATE AND TIME OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Ordinary Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 commencing at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Ilmington.

**Meeting closed at 21.00.**

## ANNEX A

The following payments were approved:

i.	Clerk's salary & expenses, January 2015	£315.61
ii.	HMRC – Tax & NI Clerk, January	£ 97.80
iii.	Ilmington Village Hall – Hire of Rooms 2015	£176.00
iv.	Ilmington Village Hall – Hire of Rooms 2014	£105.45
v.	R Hawkins – P/F Maintenance (5 Hrs X £8.00 ph)	£ 40.00

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

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