



# Itchen Valley Parish Council

Serving the Communities of Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas & Martyr Worthy

## Full Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held electronically on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

November 2020 at 7.00pm.

### Members Attending:

Cllr Appleby, (chairman), Cllr Langford, Cllr Percy, Cllr Riley, Cllr Legat, Cllr Rosewell, Cllr Stirrup, Cllr Moffatt, Cllr Andrews, Cllr Jeffes

### In Attendance:

Michelle Leadbitter-Allen (Clerk), Cllr Margot Power (WCC), Cllr Jackie Porter (HCC), 5 members of the Itchen Valley electorate

### 20.87 Apologies Received:

There were no apologies received.

### 20.88 Public Participation and Declaration of Interest:

Cllr Christopher Langford is a Trustee of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT)

Cllr Jackie Porter is the owner of the land adjoining the field being discussed in Agenda Item: Restoration work at Cow Down discussion (20.94)

Several residents from the Itchen Valley were present and which to comment on the Restoration Project at Cow Down.

Cllr Appleby explained the rules of the meeting and residents were advised to speak during the public participation section, but they would also be given a chance to speak again during Agenda Item 8: Restoration work at Cow Down discussion (20.94)

One of the electorates, an ecologist, was concerned that by closing access to Cow Down the community were losing a local spot as an educational site, not just for younger children but for people of all ages within the Valley. The resident wondered if there wasn't a way of finding another facility to replace this important educational site allowing access in a sustainable way and reinforce the importance of improving the knowledge of the river and its challenges? An example given was Winnall Moors Nature Reserve.

A second member of the electorate explained that she was concerned that the human impact



at Cow Down had been exaggerated and felt that people are were being excluded from this patch at the river which was a shame.

Cllr Appleby explained that members of the council, the landowners and agencies involved had met to gather the facts and a record of the meeting had been produced.

Cllr Langford challenged some of the facts in the minutes, but Cllr Appleby reminded everyone that the minutes had been circulated and agreed by everyone at the meeting.

List of technical corrections:

Aquaphytes should be macrophytes, Ranunculous pseudofluitans should be changed to ranunculus; clerk had omitted her attendance from the minutes. Although technically incorrect it was noted that these errors did not detract from the essence of the meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to send minutes to electorates that have requested the minutes

**Action:** Clerk to add minutes to the website and as an addendum to the full council meeting minutes<sup>1</sup>

A resident of Chilland Lane wished to speak regarding issues they had experienced. He explained that visitors to the site have used their private bins or have left their rubbish next to their bins when full. On occasion they have experienced rubbish thrown over the hedge and wall into their garden. Additionally, there have been occasions where there are so many cars parked at the bottom of Chilland Lane, that their driveway has been blocked. Signs advising that people were trespassing had been put up, only to have been destroyed and thrown into the river. The resident explained that their fencing has also been vandalised.

The electorate wanted to know if the site were to become a village green who would be responsible for tackling parking and litter issues and the prevention of trespass.

Cllr Appleby thanked the resident for his comments and asked if the blocking of driveways had occurred before the first lockdown, to which the resident answered the first time this had occurred was during January or February this year. Cllr Appleby also explained that the 'village green option' for this site, would not be discussed at the meeting.

Another resident from Itchen Abbas added that he agreed that the impact from recreational pressure at Cow Down may have been exaggerated, excluding what had been mentioned

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<sup>1</sup> Appended: [Minutes of Restoration Fact Finding Meeting with agencies and landowners](#)



previously to have occurred at Chilland Lane. The resident asked if the exclusion of residents from Cow Down was a decision made by the Land/River owners or by another agency involved?

Cllr Appleby explained that overall the agreement has been made by the Owners of the river, the neighbouring fields, and their applicable agencies. The agencies involved with the river restoration are the Environment Agency, Natural England and Wessex Rivers Trust; the field is being managed by the tenant, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT).

Cllr Riley clarified that the Environment Agency and Natural England are the sponsors of the river work and Wessex Rivers Trust is the contractor who is doing the work.

Cllr Appleby said that although invited to attend the Fact Finding Meeting, Natural England had not responded.

Cllr Langford explained that the 'policeman' was the Environment Agency, Natural England provided the technical advice, and the landowners were legally responsible for managing the scheme with the help of contractors.

Cllr Porter explained as the adjoining landowner that Footpath 31 was part of a long-distance route from the Church in Martyr Worthy to Chilland, joining other paths running parallel to the B3047. These walks are enjoyed by many. Cllr Porter said as people that live in the countryside she was sure that everyone appreciated the countryside and understood that they were custodians of it. The river quality is the combination of works at many different sites; the Winterbourne Project is an example showing just much work goes into each individual site. The downland quality is important and the chalk downlands in the Itchen Valley are stunning. HIWWT work with cattle on them, have been grazing them very lightly and the land is in good condition. The tree cover along the river has dropped considerably in the last 20 years. When trees fall to the ground it has ecological value and the HCC generally let the trees fall for this reason. The cattle weren't grazing heavily. She was not sure if the value of that was to improve the grazing or generate the meat. Over the last 20 years the management of that has changed slightly because of the cattle owned. Cllr Porter stated that whether the original view was one that Cow Down was a place open to all, or not, is a question that is misplaced as it has been used as such and there is evidence of this. Cllr Porter appreciated the fact that litter may be generated.

Cllr Porter was really disappointed by the work and by the engagement with the public.



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HIWWT have had to take the blame as they put the signs up, which is unfortunate. Cllr Porter said that as an individual family they have enjoyed a good working relationship with the guys, but do understand their problems, but what is left there because of their work will take years to resolve.

20.89 Approve the minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

The [Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020](#) were approved by all as a correct record of events. Minutes to be signed in retrospect. There were no matters arising.

20.90 City and County Councillor Reports

### [County Report – Cllr Jackie Porter \(HCC\)](#)

Cllr Jackie Porter drew the members attention an item raised at the Parish Council Fact Finding Meeting regarding the restoration of footpaths which had been considered as a HCC responsibility. Cllr Porter had met with HCC Footpath Manager and HCC Local Ranger and discussed the challenges of Footpaths 30,31,32 with Footpath 30 and 31 in particular because of how muddy they get. The principle of the HCC being responsible for the maintenance of the footpath is a ‘nuanced’ one. HCC stance is that it will support the landowner to maintain it but will not maintain the surface themselves. They can however offer a 75% grant towards the cost of restoring paths. Although she thought that all would agree a hard surfaced path is not what we would like here.

If we wished to pursue this more, the Parish Council should meet with the Footpath Manager at HCC.

### [Cllr Margot Power - City Councillor Report \(WCC\)](#)

Cllr Power told those present meeting that although a new batch lockdown grants will be made available it is likely that a lot more information will be needed from the applicant. Due to increased administration this is likely to cause delays to the applicant receiving the money.

20.91 Financial Matters: Lead Councillor – Cllr Riley

- i. Council noted the [Draft Minutes of The Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.](#)

Matters Arising:

Budget Setting round: a few proposals were discussed at the Full Council Meeting.



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These will be considered at F&GP and the implications they will have on the precept.

- ii. To approve the [Bills to Pay](#) and note [Income Received](#) and [Other Expenditure paid by Direct Debit](#).

The bills to pay were reviewed and agreed by Cllrs Legat and Andrews.

- iii. Review of September Bank Reconciliations:

Councillor Steve Andrews had emailed Clerk agreeing with the reconciliation for the current and deposit accounts for September 2020.

- iv. Budget Bids 2021-2022 Discussion. Cllr Riley proposed that the review and discussion of the budget bids be discussed at F&GP. All agreed.

## 20.92 Planning Matters: Lead Councillor – Cllr Langford

- i. Members noted the [Draft Minutes of The Planning Committee Meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020](#)

- ii. Update on Planning for the future- the planning white paper consultation

Council agreed that the SDNP and WCC applications views were in line with the Parish Council's own and therefore it was not considered necessary for the Council to submit a comment.

- iii. Southampton Airport Runway Extension Update –

The Council Members agreed the Official Response below:

The flight path into Southampton airport is mainly into the prevailing south westerly wind which takes aircraft over to top of this Parish. The sound made by these aircraft is noticeable and intrusive. This Parish is in the South Downs National Park and the adopted local plan has as a Core Policy not to permit development that does not “enhance” the special tranquil quality of the Park. Development of Southampton Airport should respect this Policy and neighbouring planning authorities should have regard to it in any decisions they make.

**Action:** Clerk to submit to submit the above response.

- iv. Planning Applications for discussion received by 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020.



a) [SDNP/20/03603/PRE](#)

**Location:** Gages Close, Main Road, Itchen Abbas, Winchester, Hampshire  
SO21 1AX

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing detached dwelling and garage and erection of replacement detached dwelling

**Comment:** As the council are not required to consult on a pre-application, all agreed to note it for the records and discuss and comment when the full planning application is submitted.

## 20.93 Portfolio Holders Reports

a) Footpath Matters – Cllr Jeffes

**FOOTPATH 39:**

The farm manager of Newhouse Farm has asked for assistance in designing the permissive footpath signs. Cllr Jeffes will work with Cllr Langford on a laminated sign.

**FOOTPATH 5/12:**

Natural England has not yet responded to HCC Ranger's request made in September. If no reply received by next week, HCC Ranger will start application process with their in-house Habitat Specialist.

**FOOTPATH 8/11:**

Ramblers Association have cleared  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the path near Hampage Farm during the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> October with the rest on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**FOOTPATH 26:**

A request by the landowner for installation of a kissing gate, this has been passed onto the Ramblers Association for action as they may have some spare ones.

**FOOTPATH 504:**

The Railway Line bridge steps handrail at Chillandham Lane requires attention. This has been reported by a local resident on 'Fix My Street'. It was noted that Watercress Way may be able to assist with repairs after lockdown ends.

**FOOTPATH 30/31:**

Cllr Porter met with Footpath Manager and HCC Ranger - 75% grant towards cost of restoring path surface. To be followed up



## **Don't Lose Your Way:**

Ramblers Association making sure that any lost or unclaimed footpaths are registered before 2026. The website is too general, so Cllr Jeffes has asked the Ramblers Association for more details of any unclaimed or lost paths in the Itchen Valley.

Cllr Riley mentioned a long-standing tree that has fallen over a kissing-gate, and Cllr Moffatt has cut a path through the tree. Cllr Riley would like to know if a new kissing gate could be put in place.

Cllr Percy said that Cllr Langford and himself had a meeting with Kiss Tree Management regarding new planting and tidying up some of the old wood at Couch Green. The Environment Committee are expecting a report in the next 2 to 3 weeks reporting on what could potentially be a 10-year project. There is a possibility that the Watercress Way will be integrated in the tree management plan where the two run concurrently with each other.

## b) Highways – Cllr Appleby

Thanked resident of Itchen Abbas for work on sorting out the drains at the bottom of Station Hill to stop them flooding.

Cllr Riley reported the good news that HCC had cleared the drain at the bottom of Bridgetts Lane, rodded under the road and cleared the culvert. Cleared all three drains at bottom of Church Lane.

Cllr Porter said that the drain that runs from garage in Easton towards the river has been cleared but the bit under the road is broken. HCC have spoken to the residents and identified it as a problem that needs to be repaired quickly.

## c) Village Halls – Cllrs Moffat, Langford, Percy

- Martyr Worthy – Nothing to report. WIFI not currently operational
- Itchen Abbas & Avington – Montessori school still operational, part of car park has been let out to industrial unit. It is projected that the Village Hall



will run out of grant money by March 2021.

- Easton - Closed during lockdown.

d) Website – Cllr Legat

Some work has been done on making the Martyr Worthy Village Hall page visible on Google Search. Website figures for last month: 388, but most clicks to Martyr Worthy Village Hall Page

e) Open Spaces – Cllr Riley

Government has advised that playgrounds are to remain open during the lockdown so current signage must stay.

The playground equipment consultation must take place electronically within the next month.

Grass-cutting contract is up for renewal.

**Action: Cllr Riley and Clerk to work on this.**

The barrier at Couch Green has been temporarily repaired, we are waiting on costing for full repair. There is a worry that if the post is damaged at the concrete join, a repair will not be possible.

## 20.94 Restoration Work at Cow Down Discussion/Update

Cllr Appleby explained the location of the SSSI to those present and that the two main issues as he saw it were the need for restoration and conservation of the river and SSSI at this site and the fact that there had been a short section of the river to which the public have previously had access.

Cllr Riley advised everyone that the Parish Council had commissioned and approved a Parish Plan some time ago which specifically mentioned the importance to maintain the quality of the river and the high amenity value that the residents had placed on footpaths and green spaces.

Councillors were concerned about the building of the fence and its position and why the trees in question could not be managed by a tree management scheme. There was particular concern that the fence would cause the walkers to be 'coralled' and the path would be very muddy through the wetter months.



The field landowner present explained the fence was being erected for tree safety and site management reasons. The path currently when trodden down is about 4m and the path proposed will be 5m wide and the legal requirement is just 1.5m. He went to say that the path would be muddy during winter regardless of the fence, but unlike the Martyr Worthy to Chilland path, the rest of the land is free-draining, and the path will be wider.

The public and members of the council were concerned about the potential of this path to become muddy and impassable and there was confusion over who would be responsible for maintaining it.

Concerns were raised by Cllr Power regarding the lack of quantifiable data available. As public money has been spent improvements should be recorded and justified by collecting quantifiable data.

There was a general feeling that the communication by the landowners and the agencies involved had been poor, leading to some ill feeling among the residents especially regarding the erection of the fence and the loss of access to the beach area at Cow Down.

Cllr Riley found the Fact Finding meeting with the agencies and landowners informative and the information learnt valuable. The ideal would have been for the public to have received such information. Some form of communication strategy is required.

It is believed that there may be a lack of awareness of the sanctity of the river and the SSSI and that it is the legal responsibility of the owners to maintain them. It was suggested that the Parish Council hold a series of seminars with invited speakers to increase local awareness of how valuable the Itchen River is in environmental terms. By increasing awareness, the public may feel more sympathetic to the way the river is being managed.

The Councillors agreed that minutes from the Fact Finding meeting should be shared with the public and placed on the website.

**Action: Clerk to upload minutes to the IVPC website.**



The members agreed that some organised education and recreational access to the riverbank was in the best interest of the public.

The members were aware that restoring and protecting the river and its environment was important. It was understood that the landowners and agencies have a legal responsibility especially in the SSSI and SAC area.

Cllr Jeffes reminded the members that the Parish Council have a voice on the Upper Itchen Forum through whom the Council could put questions directly to Natural England and HIWWT.

Concerns were raised regarding the damage caused to the area by the workman in performing the conservation measures. Cllr Appleby, with experience of such matters on another river, expected the bank to recover quickly if the correct measures were put in place at the appropriate time.

It was decided, based on the concerns raised by Councillors and received from members of the public, that IVPC should send a letter to the land and river owners addressing our views, concerns and suggesting ways in which we might be able to assist.

Cllr Riley mentioned that the Winterbourne Project had produced some informative project documentation which included a section on the importance of public engagement with wildlife and public consultation.

**Action:** Cllr Stirrup to write a first draft and report back to council for consideration

**Action:** Cllr Riley to send link to HIWWT Winterbourne Project to Cllr Stirrup

## 20.95 Footpaths & Cycleways Update

Deferred to next meeting.

## 20.96 Covid-19 Update

Cllr Appleby reiterated that playgrounds would remain open during the lockdown and the football goals will stay up.

The Parish Council has sent a letter to the Village Champions thanking them for their contribution and asking them to be on standby.



## 20.97 Environment Committee Update

Deferred to next meeting. Cllr Appleby asked Cllr Percy to produce a written report going forward.

## 20.98 Note [October](#) Correspondence received.

Councillors noted the correspondence received; there were no questions.

## 20.99 Items for Consideration at next meeting

There were no items for consideration for the next meeting.

General discussion about the M3 Junction 9 Improvements Project especially the proposed locations of the spoil dump sites. Cllr Porter to consult with Cllr Rosewell.

## 20.100 Date and Time of following meeting:

**Date:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.00 pm.

**Location:** Electronic – public welcome, please contact clerk for entry.

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm



# Itchen Valley Parish Council

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List of Payments for Council Approval 051120

## Itchen Valley Parish Council Expenditure transactions - payments approval list Start of year 01/04/20

Tn no	Cheque	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Cheque Total
92		£360.00	1140/2	05/05/20	Hampshire Bird and Pest Solutions - Ferreting at KGVth Field, Couch Green	
93		£193.69	1010	05/11/20	HMRC - PAYE/NI - October 2020	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<u>£553.69</u>				
<b>Total</b>		<u>£553.69</u>				

Signature _____	Signature _____
Date _____	Date _____

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# Itchen Valley Parish Council

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## Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Current Account	20299862	60-83-01
Statement Number	20	Bank Statement No. 20
Statement Opening Balance	£24,865.81	Opening Date 01/10/20
Statement Closing Balance	£18,933.34	Closing Date 31/10/20
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£18,933.34	

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
02/10/20	DD201002NEST	Nest Pensions	55.02	0.00	24,810.79
05/10/20	BACS201005APP	TheAppOffice	200.00	0.00	24,610.79
05/10/20	BACS201005EMW	Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club	648.00	0.00	23,962.79
05/10/20	BACS201005GRN	Greensmile	60.00	0.00	23,902.79
05/10/20	BACS201005TVG	The Valley Gardeners	300.00	0.00	23,602.79
05/10/20	BACS20105RPG	RP Gardening	1,200.00	0.00	22,402.79
08/10/20	BACS201008RPG	RP Gardening	1,200.00	0.00	21,202.79
15/10/20	BACS201015HMRC	HMRC	139.29	0.00	21,063.50
20/10/20	BACS201020EKS	EKS Accounting	24.00	0.00	21,039.50
20/10/20	BACS201020FIAS	Friends of Itchen Abbas School	1,852.00	0.00	19,187.50
20/10/20	BACS201020GRN	Greensmile	398.03	0.00	18,789.47
20/10/20	BACS201020MLA	Michelle Leadbitter-Allen	15.17	0.00	18,774.30
20/10/20	BACS201020SYD	Sydenhams	130.08	0.00	18,644.22
20/10/20	BACS201020VITA	Vitalplay	230.40	0.00	18,413.82
21/10/20	BACS201021VAT	HMRC	0.00	1,741.85	20,155.67
23/10/20	BACS201023LLDS	Lloyds Bank	27.39	0.00	20,128.28
29/10/20	BACS201029JEFF	Cllr Chris Jeffes	34.80	0.00	20,093.48
30/10/20	BACS201030MLA	Michelle Leadbitter-Allen	1,160.14	0.00	18,933.34

Uncleared and unrepresented effects

Total

Reconciled by Michelle Leadbitter-Allen

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair



## Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Deposit Account	20374444	60-83-01
Statement Number	21	Bank Statement No. 21
Statement Opening Balance	£44,883.04	Opening Date 01/10/20
Statement Closing Balance	£44,883.04	Closing Date 31/10/20
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£44,883.04	

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
	No activity		0.00	0.00	44,883.04
<b>Uncleared and unrepresented effects</b>					
31/10/20		No activity		0.00	44,883.04
		<b>Total</b>		0.00	

Reconciled by Michelle Leadbitter-Allen

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair