



Itchen Valley Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 25th April 2019 at Martyr Worthy Village Hall

Attending: Cllrs Appleby (Chair), Langford, Riley, Andrews, Legat, Ward and Moffat

In Attendance: Michelle Leadbitter-Allen (Clerk) and approximately thirty members of the public.

Prior to the meeting an illustrated talk was given by Charles Winchester (South Downs National Park Ranger) on Dark Skies in the South Downs National Park.

Item	Content	Action
19.012	Apologies: Cllrs Stoodley, Griffiths (WCC), Porter (HCC) Some apologies received from members of the public that were unable to attend.	
19.013	Minutes of Meeting of 26th April 2018 and Matters Arising Minutes were approved and Chairman, Cllr Appleby signed the minutes as accurate.	
19.014	Reports a) <u>Chairman's Report</u> Chairman Cllr Appleby thanked the 3 members of the council who were leaving for their efforts over the last 4 years, with special thanks to Cllr Ward who was the youngest councilor and responsible for the Litter Pick. Cllr Appleby welcomed the new clerk Michelle Leadbitter-Allen. Cllr Appleby expressed his disappointment that Easton was not represented on the council. <u>Q. Can the bus stop in Itchen Abbas be made fit for purpose as currently if you use the bus stop you cannot see if the bus approaching?</u> Cllr Appleby empathised with the resident and explained that the council are looking to refurbish (as the cost to install a new one is too much) the bus stop to the same standard as the refurbished bus stop in Martyr Worthy b) <u>Financial Report</u> Cllr Riley ran through the Financial Report for 2018/2019, explaining the AGAR requirements for Variances of over 15% <u>Q. Cllr Riley was asked to explain the reserve policy as there is a large reserve balance.</u> Cllr Riley explained that it is a Statutory Requirement for the Council to hold ½ the precept back as a Strategic Reserve, however the rest of the reserve amount was earmarked for several projects that will be finished within the new financial year. Cllr Appleby added that some projects needed to be saved up for more than one year, which increases the reserve amount.	



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	<p><u>Q. It was noted by a member of the public that the Income for Lengthsman was more than the expense.</u></p> <p>Cllr Riley explained that that IVPC administrates the cluster of 13 councils and the monies received and spent overlaps the financial year end creating a difference in the end of the year accounts. In addition, IVPC charges 10% of the monies received for administration. Cllr Moffat added that some money is used to pay for any extra days as requested.</p> <p>It was noted by a member of the public that they were happy to see that the clerk costs had increased as this shows a commitment from the parish council in investing in a clerk is important to the running and efficiency of the council.</p>	
19.015	City/County Councillor Reports None Received	
19.016	Questions & Discussions: <p><u>Q. Is it possible to improve mobile signal in the centre of Itchen Abbas?</u></p> <p>Cllr Appleby explained that this had been followed up a few years ago, and that two new Vodafone booster boxes had been installed in Easton and Itchen Abbas. Cllr Legat suggested that the member change the network they used. The member concerned mentioned that it might be time to upgrade his mobile phone too.</p> <p><u>Q. There is concern regarding the various Diversion signs in the parish that seemed to be there without reason.</u></p> <p>The Council were unable to explain in detail why the Diversion signs were there, but empathised with the resident. Cllr Legat said that there had been some pothole repairs and resurfacing work in the area. Cllr Riley commented that some of the diversions have been long. Cllr Appleby said that the problem has been compounded by several contractors working at once.</p> <p><u>Q. Could the Chairman please comment on the planning issues the particularly the comment from the Chairman's' Report' It is unfortunate that the response if any, can often be disappointing.'</u></p> <p>Cllr Appleby explained the planning process to the residents including the pre-application which the council does not receive as it is not a legal requirement. The planning authority encourages applicants to discuss their plans with the Parish Council but this does not always happen. Cllr Appleby encouraged all residents that do complete a pre-planning application to</p>	



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	<p>approach the PC as it may help us when making our comments on the Planning Application once it has been submitted.</p> <p>Cllr Appleby explained that when we comment on planning applications, we do our best to take in account the Parish Plan, Village Design Statement and the Dark Skies Policy.</p> <p>Cllr Langford also explained that the council does not receive any feedback from the Planning Authority as to why decisions are made, which is frustrating.</p> <p>A member of the public commented that as people are choosing to extend properties and not move, this has caused the number of applications to increase and has caused a backlog.</p> <p>One member of the public was concerned about comments made on their proposed extension by the Historical Building Conservation Department. Cllr Riley said it seems that it is completely dependent on the Officer and the Planning Officer takes his lead from him.</p> <p>Cllr Langford told the residents that there is an appeal process should they need it. Normally a 1/3 or appeals are successful.</p> <p>A member of the public suggested that the parish council should seek to raise their influence with planners at WCC and over the coming year.</p> <p><u>Q. It appears that our Village Design Statement and our Parish Plan which were asked for have not been taken any notice of.</u></p> <p>Cllr Appleby totally agreed with the member and although we could do a Neighbourhood Development Plan which we are told has more influence, it would take over a year and involve significant expenditure by the Parish.</p> <p>Cllr Riley flagged that currently our planning applications are determined under the Winchester City Council Local Plan, however within the next 6 months the new SDNP Local Plan would be coming to fruition, which is significantly different so there will be changes to what can and can't happen and how things happen, but still our planning applications will be reviewed by a WCC planning officer on behalf of SDNP, so they will be working to 2 different sets of regulations. So, it may be worth acquainting yourself with the SDNP Local Plan if you are planning to apply.</p> <p><u>Q. Please can we make sure that the M3/A34 link is made as safe as possible?</u></p> <p>Cllr Appleby said that the some of the link falls into Itchen Valley PC boundary and we have asked the roads to be swapped around thus having</p>	



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	<p>the busy road below and the quieter road above. The Parish Council have also requested Highways England that the initial proposed plans be modified to improve safety for vehicles coming from Winnall and having to cross the fast-moving traffic to reach the A33. Answered from Highways England are awaited.</p> <p>The residents thanked the Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Appleby thanked all for attending.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.35pm.</p>	