

Minutes of the Ivychurch Parish Council

23rd April 2015

Present: Rick Bailey (Chairperson)(**RB**), Andy Daburn(**AD**), Chris Jones(**CJ**), Julie Devenish(**Jools**)

Members of the Public: 9

1		Apologies	
		John Goldsmith(JG), Julie Diplock(JD)	
2		Declarations of Interest	
		None	
3		Previous Minutes	
	3.1	Approved	
4		Special Items for Discussion	
	4.1	<p>Speeding: We were pleased to welcome our local PCSO, John Gorham to the Parish Meeting. Some useful discussions took place, general subjects covered are noted below. (Click here)</p> <p>Jools will let Margaret Blackwell of SDC Highways know John is happy to speak to her about the issue.</p> <p>Free Stickers: Please also note that Rick has a supply of "30mph" and "speed kills" stickers which residents are welcome to put on wheelie bins. As these may only be visible on bin collection days, someone suggested that perhaps a prominent position in a front garden by the road might be a good place for them.</p> <p>Poaching : before leaving, PCSO John mentioned that this is on the rise across the Marsh, and asked that if anyone sees a vehicle in a field that is believed should not be there, please pass the registration on to the Police.</p>	Jools
5		Actions from Previous Meeting	
	5.1	<p>(5.2) Bus Shelter –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> concrete plinth may need extending at front 	Ongoing
	5.2	<p>(5.3) Bank Account – <i>Judy has rung Caroline who is not free this week, seeing next week to get form signed.</i> Judy was not present – item left ongoing.</p>	JS Ongoing
	5.3	<p>(5.4) Wish List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play surface 	CJ/JG Ongoing
	5.4	<p>(5.5) Postbox – now installed. As correspondence is received using old address, Jools will notify the new one.</p>	COMPLETE
	5.5	<p>(5.6) Village Hall Sign</p>	Ongoing
	5.6	<p>(5.7) Broadband Callflow gave a presentation to the IAA on 20th April – Rick summarised their package details for the meeting. Additionally, Jools had written some notes up for a friend who could not attend, and these are attached to these minutes (click here) – it is pointed out that these may not be completely</p>	

		accurate as they were written afterwards from memory.	
5.7		(5.8) Grit Bin	Ongoing
5.8		Asbestos Roof Tiles – storage bags	AD Ongoing
5.9		(5.10) Mural – ideas are invited for subjects.	ongoing
5.10		(5.11) Windows & Painting – volunteers will be sought soon to help with this.	CJ Ongoing
5.11		(5.12) Marsh Forum / Flood Warden initiative	Ongoing
5.12		(5.13) Dog Fouling Notices – these have been put up. Chris will put one on the telegraph pole by his house.	CJ
5.13		(5.14) Dehumidifier – done	COMPLETE
5.14		(5.15) Radiant Heaters and Roof Solar Panels – still being looked into	Ongoing
5.15		(5.16) Disabled Access – Rubber mat is down, Rick has staple gun to fix down. This will be finished before Polling Day.	RB/CJ Ongoing
5.16		(5.17) Water Bills – these are up to date.	COMPLETE
5.17		(5.18) Hall Insurance – diarised to be reviewed October.	
5.18		(5.19) Website and Emergency Plan	Ongoing
5.19		(5.21) Highways – see Special Discussion Item (4.1)	Ongoing
5.20		(5.22) Treasurer Vacancy – we have had no response and the situation is getting very serious, affecting the future of the Parish Council.	Ongoing
5.21		(5.25/26) Bus Shelter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaque – ongoing • Resiting of timetable – Vanda has phoned Stagecoach a few times, they expressed concern not to be held responsible for wall damage on removal. Promised a week ago but this has not happened. 	Ongoing Ongoing
5.22		(5.27) Fly Tipping – Chris has noted some more fly tipping in Wenham Lane which has been reported.	ongoing
5.23		(7.1) Playground – this is being brightened up. Full notes in March minutes.	Ongoing
5.24		(7.2) Dehumidifier – a long 10mm drill bit was needed for the vent. A member of the public offered the loan of one for the job.	RB/JG
6		Treasurer's Report	
6.1		Accounts / signatories - Judy was not present.	JS ongoing
7		Village Hall and Green	
7.1		Hedges – there is a hole in the hedge after being damaged by a tractor. This needs blocking.	RB
8		Planning	
8.1		Nothing new noted on SDC site. There has been an update on the website for Old Romney turbines indicating that, as it is now over two years since this application was submitted, an appeal will be made for non-determination (i.e. requesting a decision from SDC). A member of the public enquired whether the Lydd 4 turbines were separate from 4 at Agney Farm (if so this means 8 in total). It was suggested a search of SDC's website would show whether these have different planning reference numbers.	
9		Correspondence	
9.1		Total Gas and Power have requested another meter reading as they had some confusion of the last one.	AD
9.2		A Poster has been received from SDC offering Grounds Services. This will be displayed once the polling notices have come off the Hall Noticeboard.	Jools

10		Any Other Business	
	10.1	Heart – CPR course was mentioned, two more people offered to attend the next one in mid-May, they will contact Margaret Waite direct.	
	10.2	Council Nomination Forms – these need to be submitted to SDC on/around 7 th May by anyone hoping to be elected / re-elected to the Parish Council for the coming Term.	ALL
11		Next Meetings	
	11.1	Next meeting Thursday 21 st May at 19.30 in Village Hall.	
	11.2	Meeting closed at 8.35pm.	

Parish Council Meeting 23rd April 2015 : Discussion Item - Speeding

John has had plenty of contact from residents over the 8 years he has covered this area. He is not aware of any serious incidents; some incidents were mentioned by members of the public.

Q: have any prosecutions ever been made - and could we have feedback of tickets issued?

A: prosecutions can only be done by the Police for whom John couldn't speak, but several speed checks have been made at drive-time by PCSOs. Letters have been sent where speeds of 35+mph have been noted. It was also appreciated that the Police have a very heavy workload which is only getting worse over time.

Q: What parking restrictions exist on the main road?

A: John had not noticed any yellow lines so it was assumed none.

Q: What Traffic Calming Methods are suitable?

It was mentioned that occasionally when traffic is heavier coming through owing to an accident on the A259, residents have resorted to chicane parking to slow it down. John replied that Lympne does have some success with chicane-style traffic calming.

Speed cameras and calming measures are usually only put in after incidents have occurred - and it can be difficult in Ivychurch to find somewhere to park a speed check van so that it doesn't obstruct the highway - a member of the public suggested a bollard could be placed in the church/pub parking area.

Q: what actions can residents take?

A: Under the Parish Speedwatch scheme in partnership with the Police residents are lent speed guns and note registration/date/time/speed and pass details to the Co-ordinator who can send a note to the drivers. John can find us some information on this for us.

When the Police do speed checks they have to be very visible - so drivers slow down, and will flash other motorists to warn them in advance... Additionally, only one direction can be checked. The first time generates a note which is classed a "verbal warning" - 2nd time prompts a written warning and 3rd time a summons. It is worth noting that it is Highways/Government who make speed limits, the Police enforce them.

Q: what about a big digital speed board?

A: These are now solar-powered, and prices may have come down a lot since this was last looked at by the village.

Lack of Footpaths on Main Road

A member of the public suggested that for any new large development planning applications a condition might be imposed for a footpath to be provided - but the question was raised whether the road is wide enough for this. It appears that Ivychurch is unusual that there are no footpaths so residents are forced to walk in the road. John recommended that we stress this to Shepway, plus the parking at the busy pub and church means that patrons are either backing out or backing in. Additional factors are that the road is heavily used by agricultural vehicles and some HGVs.

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Jools' Notes from Callflow presentation to IAA 20/4/2015

I typed this up after the meeting for a friend who could not attend - can't guarantee I have remembered it all perfectly!

Jools

Technical:

Typically speeds in village are currently 1.8-2 maximum. Callflow is fast but not super fast, offer 15-17 MPs - super fast would be around 25. Trees will affect signal, esp leylandii, and moisture, icy rain is bad. A good signal test while leaves are off trees won't be an indication of signal once trees are in full leaf, if they affect line-of-sight. Power of the signal is very low, but the frequency used means good line-of-sight range.

Many users online at any one time means degradation of speeds - like evenings when parents go online assuming the kids are in bed when they are actually up there on their tablets too! Usage limits should be more than enough for average household use which he said was around 30Gb (the premium package supplies 100Gb) but new 4K tellies will be sucking it up - a typical HD film might be 4-8Gb, should be able to get this sort of info from Netflix, etc. Once someone's consumption exceeds their allotted limits, a charge of 17p per Gb is applied, which goes towards financing the next mast, around £20,000....

Admin / Service issues:

One person challenged him on staffing and support, and another person cited a friend's experience of poor customer service, not being called back, etc. In reply to how many engineers, breaks in service etc, Callflow has 16 engineers - as opposed to around 3,000 (?) BT engineers! But apart from two "teething problems" he suggested that service disruption was minimal. Their flagship development seems to be in Hampshire, so it might be worth Googling about this.

Supply queries:

One mast can supply 20 and when number of customers exceeds that they may put up additional masts - one station can serve up to 80 households in an area - Bilsington and another place were mentioned that pick up from St George.

The only way to get a signal check is to sign up for 18 month contract, if the signal is below their definition of a "perfect" signal (minimum 15mps) then you don't have to take it - else you do have to pay for the 18 month contract - plus the initial installation charge.

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