

IPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017

The work of the parish council has been dominated this year by its efforts to seek improvement on the dangerous stretch of the A4074 as it passes the village. IPC have budgeted for and are negotiating with OCC and Thames Valley Police over a speed reduction as well as the painting of double white lines to prohibit over-taking at junctions. Cllr Mark Gray who is now an OCC cabinet member has been extremely supportive and we are hopeful that these measures will eventually come to fruition.

The perennial pothole problem was finally attended to by OCC's 'dragon patcher' in the spring and, whilst not perfect, has improved the worst culprits for the time being at least. On the other hand, passing place maintenance has had to be commissioned by IPC directly meaning that only the worst areas have been affordable for repair. Cutting of grass verges is another area which used to be paid for by OCC but which has now become the responsibility of the parish council. We are pleased to have negotiated a joint deal with Cholsey, Moulsoford and Brightwell councils in order to keep these costs down. With regard to maintenance of the ditches, we are grateful to Mr Vernon for his work in keeping these clear.

Maintenance of the playground and its equipment is taken very seriously and IPC members were extremely disheartened recently to see that the new goal posts (less than a year old) had been damaged. One of these has been repaired as much as possible but funds are limited and will not stretch to replacing the second. Furthermore, instances of dog fouling in the area have necessitated the purchase of more signs to remind dog owners to keep their dogs out of the play area which is used by many small children.

IPC have been approached by BT with regard to adoption of the telephone kiosk which is not used enough to warrant its continued use as a payphone. The parish council have agreed to purchase it for £1 and are discussing its future use... possibly to house a mini-library and/or tourist information.

Perennial expenditure has included mowing of the churchyard, purchase of the annual poppy wreath, playground maintenance, litter-picking and dogbin emptying. At the AGM on the 11th May, the clerk presented the statement of accounts for the year 2016-17 showing a current account balance of £3314.51 and a deposit account balance of £5574.26.

Agendas and minutes are available at www.ipsdenvillage.co.uk. The website contains far more than just parish council business; it contains a host of other village information and links. Whilst it is managed, maintained and paid for by IPC, it is also available free of charge for information and links to be provided for all village bodies. We are grateful to John Jeffery for his continued upkeep of the website which is a time-consuming job that he carries out on a voluntary basis. Recently, we have successfully managed to obtain funding to produce a new website to replace the outdated version with contemporary and up-to-date functionality.

Councillors, Nick Miller (Chairman), John Jeffery, Heather Llewellyn and Wendy Clark, continue to work on your behalf on a voluntary basis and have met for formal minuted meetings bi-monthly and informally on management tasks most weeks. In addition to working with the parish clerk to commission tasks and deal with enquiries, councillors have dealt with numerous planning applications and recommendations.

Should residents wish to see more detail regarding parish council activities, full minutes of meetings can be found on the village website and on the noticeboard at the village shop. Parishioners are also invited to join the village group email in order to receive occasional notices regarding county, district and parish council information; please email ipsdenpc@gmail.com stating Village Group Email in the subject line. All addresses will be held in confidence by the clerk and outgoing emails will not show any other addresses.

Councillors thank all in the village for their support. Do remember that all residents are welcome to attend parish council meetings or can use website links to raise any relevant matter for discussion at meetings.