

**Minutes of the Ipsden Parish Council meeting held at Ipsden Memorial Hall
on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 6.00 pm**

1	Present: Members: Nick Miller (Chair) – NM, John Jeffery – JJ, David Coldwell – DC, Lorraine Hillier – LH (SODC) Clerk: Moira Holloway – MH Meeting attended by nine members of public and Mr H Cassells (Ipsden Village Hall Committee)	Action
2	Apologies: Cllr Jo Robb (SODC)	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting of 5 January 2022 were approved.	
4	Casual Vacancy: Following Mr Booth's resignation a Casual Vacancy has arisen. Clerk will post the necessary notices.	
5	<p>SODC Report: Cllr Lorraine Hillier joined the meeting at 7.00pm-7.20pm Cllr Hillier reported news of District Council's of the response to the conflict and humanitarian emergency in Ukraine and readiness to support refugees. Council taxpayers in bands A-D will be eligible for a £150 council tax rebate to help towards energy costs. Rebates will be paid directly to bank accounts of residents who pay council tax by Direct Debit, but those without a direct debit will need to wait receipt of a letter from SODC to confirm bank details. An increase in parking charges at Council car-parks will be implemented from Monday 4th April. Charges will now apply from 8.00am to 6.00pm from Monday to Saturday. As part of SODC's Climate Change Plan, the EV Park and Charge scheme is close to completion with work due to be completed in Henley in March. Holders of parking permits with electric vehicles will see a 50% reduction in the permit charge when renewed. Visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/news for further information and updates.</p> <p>OCC Report: Cllr Bloomfield's report provided prior to the meeting urges all parishes are urged to apply for 20mph zones. Ipsden may have difficulty in meeting the criteria for application but is exploring this further. Highway drain cover thefts in the County are a significant issue at present with some 250 stolen. Missing drain covers should be reported to OCC Highways (tel: 0345 310 1111 or online at https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-highways-team). Cllr Bloomfield also advised that there he still has some councillor priority funding available to community organisations. For details and and to apply, please go to councillorpriorityfunding@oxfordshire.gov.uk.</p>	
6	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>6.1 Playground: Mr Coldwell advised that the annual playground safety inspection undertaken by Wicksteed took place on 2nd March. The inspection identified that the top beam of main swing unit has a split in it. Mr Coldwell has been monitoring this but the report has advised that the beam should be replaced within the next 12 months. Mr Coldwell will investigate replacing the beam but advised if replacement is not possible, the unit will need to be removed. Mr Coldwell is also making enquiries regarding the mowing of the sports field. On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, Mr Cassells advised IPC that the gate post at the Vicarage end needs replacing. IPC to investigate and determine responsibility.</p> <p>6.2 Highways Maintenance:</p> <p>6.2.1 Passing Places: The passing place repairs have not taken place. Mr Miller advised that Mr Jackson is very busy but will approach Mr Paul Atkinson. As ever, residents are encouraged to report highway maintenance issues at https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/my</p> <p>6.2.2 20mph speed restriction application: Clerk has sought further clarification from Mr Bloomfield on how to proceed with application as not all criteria can be met</p> <p>6.3 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022: Mr Cassells advised IPC that the Village Hall Committee is looking to stage a Beacon lighting event on the evening of Thursday 2nd June in the church field. This would be an informal 'bring a picnic and drink' event. Open to all to watch the lighting of the beacon it is possible that other beacons will be visible across the valley. IPC has also been advised that St Mary's Church is holding a special Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 5th June followed by a fund-raising marquee lunch in the church field.</p> <p>6.4 Post Office – Broadband Issues: Clerk reported that whilst work had taken place at the Open Reach box, there are still connectivity problems at the Post Office with several visits from BT and Openreach but no resolution of the problem. IPC have also been advised that a fluctuating power supply and power cuts require a full re-set of the system but a UPS could add stability to the system. Mr Miller to write to his contact to ask for further support on this issue.</p>	<p>DC</p> <p>NM</p> <p>MH</p> <p>NM</p>

9	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>New Clerk: Mr Jeffery was pleased to advise that Jenny Welham has been appointed as the new Clerk to Ipsden Parish Council commencing Monday, 14th March. Mrs Holloway will leave the post on Friday 18th March after handing over to Ms Welham. Councillors thanked Mrs Holloway for her service during her time with IPC. As an experienced Clerk, Ms Welham identified some issues requiring attention at the time of signing her contract. The issue of a salaried employee rather than being paid against invoice was agreed in the contract. Other matters requiring attention will be discussed in full with all Councillors at the May meeting.</p> <p>Ipsden Village Hall refurbishment: Mr Cassells advised that work on the roof of the Village hall had been completed but there is still work to do on the interior to make the building more energy efficient. The possibility of additional grant funding is being explored but no monies have been secured yet and Mr Cassells asked if IPC might be able to assist. Mr Jeffery explained that the 22-23 budget had been set with the aim of maintaining the current precept at a time when households were experiencing rising living costs and as a result there was just a small contingency. It was agreed that IPC would consider Mr Cassells request and respond at the next meeting. Clerk advised that Cllr Bloomfield has mentioned that there are still funds in his Councillor Priority fund and that the Rural Funding Digest was a good source of information for funding and that she would pass details of both to him.</p>	<p>NM/JJ HL/DC</p> <p>MH</p>
10	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting of the Ipsden Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 3rd May at 6.30pm at Ipsden Memorial Hall.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 7.40 pm</p>	

Approved by:

(Chairman)

Date: