

Minutes of the meeting of Iken Parish Council held on Friday 17th November 2017 at Snape Village Hall commencing at 5pm

PRESENT

Loulou Cooke (Chair), Norman Johnson (Vice Chair), Councillors Colin Chamberlain, Richard Mann, John Hailes, Hugh Waterer, Sir Tom Hughes-Hallett, Clerk Lorraine Lloyd

Members of the public: Lynette Morton, Neville Howe, Annabel Chamberlain, Jonathan and Audrey Power, Chris Keeble, Paul and Nina Davis

APOLOGIES Lady Gieve

The meeting went straight to Matter 1 under Business Raised by Councillors on the Agenda – Broadband in Iken.

COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

River defences, sea walls, coastal paths

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

All agreed a true record and duly signed as such by the Chair.

BUSINESS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

I. *Broadband in Iken (Wil Gibson) – NJ*

Will Gibson took the floor and explained he worked as a consultant to SDCC. He gave an overview of where government funding laid which, he pointed out, to some extent was reasonably successful. When the contract finishes in 2019 everyone should have been upgraded. The District Council has taken the decision that they don't want any property not to benefit from broadband. If they know that any property will not benefit they want to know now so they can look for solutions. They are looking at the data already highlighted to see if there can be shared working. Some phone numbers for properties in Iken who were experiencing difficulties had been lodged so that in the future the ones who will not benefit from the upgrade can be identified. Suffolk Coastal has £250000 put aside to deal with difficult solutions. WG talked about a system to put over the BT system. He will be coming back to the District Council in January 2018 to look to begin process. A tender should be put out during the second half of 2018. The decision for this will actually be made in January. There should be some form of wireless provision with some sort of overlay. Customers will be able to choose which one is appropriate for them.

A number of solutions were discussed. It was asked if we made a contribution whether we might have our own 'box'. If we had a substation then we could address the whole village one scenario. If the community wanted to do some wireless then a contribution could be made to that. The council wants to have nobody left behind. WG said he is happy to work with the community to see how they can assist. It was asked what the broadband speed be when all this work is done. WG answered that there will be potential for 100mb per second. It is currently less than one per second! It was asked how much a "mini" cabinet would cost. WG couldn't give a truthful answer. As for grants for ownership – who pays when it breaks down? The meeting spoke of a self-dig. WG pointed out that there were too many prospective dangers. Thanks were extended to Wil Gibson and he left the meeting at this point.

II. *Website – CC*

Dominic had been doing some tidying up of the website and had suggested that the Iken site be updated to include a page to list local businesses. This was discussed and a vote resulted in favour.

III. *England Coastal Path – CC*

In response to the government's attempt to get the entire coast open CC had written a draft letter which has previously been circulated by email. CC gave an overview and related some of the matters councillors had raised. Roads and verges were discussed covering such matters as to who is going to 'police' the walk. CC is to say we are looking at roads and verges. The path is meant to be four meters wide. HW thought that that a consequence of public involvement in the finance for the river walls could be that more access would be sought for the coastal path. The actual route is not known as yet. The meeting spoke of other possible routes. CC had noted comments and will amend letter accordingly. Letter approved to go.

IV. Precept – CC

The precept is to stay as current.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1 *Potholes and road defects*

Lynette Morton reported that another accident had happened at the crossroads. She had phoned Andrew Reid and advised him of the incident. Nobody had been seriously hurt. It was pointed out that a proper stop sign is required. There was a suggestion of possibility of mirrors. It was generally thought that trees should be cut back. Some of the potholes had been filled in but they reappear. There was a discussion about clay deliveries. It was asked if all the clay delivered by Tippers R US would be for Iken or would it be sent somewhere else. RM advised that it would all be for Iken. CC will feed information back to Andrew Reid.

2 *River Defences*

Fundraising had started. Colin thought a note should be delivered to households in the village advising of situation. At least 1000 people are needed to contribute. A document laying out requirements had been circulated prior to the meeting. Colin had drafted a letter to be sent out. The content of this was discussed. The landowners' contribution had not been included. It was thought there was a real thing about trust – there was no definite structure. People want to know exactly where their money is going. LC explained that it has to be the whole estuary. The most in danger has to be done first – the top of the estuary. It was thought that the letter may detract from people who were prepared to contribute more than stated. Unless the appeal looks to be coordinated it may not work. It was thought that AOEP are doing a good job and that IPC should not be leading. It was suggested that we put this on hold for now. It was suggested that householders should be advised about tax relief and charitable conditions. If the Trust asks the council to send out a letter then the IPC will support. CC go back to Jane Maxim to ask if this was the time to send this letter out and ask whether this should come from AOEP. If every household gets the same figures then the council should be helpful and send out the letter. It was decided to hold off sending the letter until CC has spoken with AOEP.

3 *Iken Village Hall*

CC was authorised to register the village hall at the Land Registry and contact Charity Commission to agree what we can and cannot do. CC has the original deed of gift. He suggested we share the cost of the fee simple.

PUBLIC FORUM

- I There were questions regarding sale of the village hall site. LC explained we will make all considerations when we know what we can do with it.
- ii Audrey Power asked that they be kept up to date with what is happening to village hall. THH suggested that, irrespective of the law, we should consult with the village about what will be done. We could then sort out the legal position so it could be put into ED if the majority of the village was in favour.
- iii It was thought there should be a separate heading on the ED for the community.
- iv THH said that he is complete agreement that we must get on with the pledges quickly and not let anything delay.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Neville Howe said "What a beautiful sunset on the way to the meeting". Thanks were extended for parish representation.

THH and NJ gave apologies for the next IPC meeting on Thursday 4th January 2018. LC asked if people could let the clerk know if they won't be able to attend so that we can be sure of making a quorum. If not we will have to rearrange the date.

Lorraine thanked everyone for the lovely flowers she received after her surgery.

FINISH TIME – 7.05pm