

# Iken Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November at Snape Village Hall commencing at 5pm

## PRESENT

Cllrs Dr Norman Johnson, Loulou Cook, Sir Thomas Hughes Hallett, Colin Chamberlain, Clerk Lorraine Lloyd

**In attendance:** Karen Thomas, Partnership and Strategy Manager, East Suffolk IDB, Alison Andrews AOEP, David Kemp, Environment Agency

David and Sue Spindler, Jill Cadzow, Jonathan Rutherford, Annabel Chamberlain, Lynnette Morton Christine Ridsdale,

## APOLOGIES

Hugh Waterer, Kate Kilburn, Shaun Fitzgerald, Lady Katherine Gieve, Richard and Sue Ash, Andrew and Celia Bell, Chris Keeble, Robert Gillespie, Jane Marsden and Jane Maxim.

The Chairman reminded the council that in two days' time it was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War and that it would be appropriate to stand whilst he read out the names of Iken's fallen in Remembrance:

Reginald Button

Sidney Button

William Button

Henry Hill

Frederick Miller

William Markham

De Lacey Parrett

Frederick Tricker

Frank Whayman

Lionel Wilkinson

## COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All have an interest in the river walls.

## MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes had been previously distributed and it was agreed they were a true record. They were duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

## CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Katharine Kilburn had responded to the request for the co-option of a Councillor caused by the resignation of Richard Mann. Colin Chamberlain proposed and Sir Tom Hughes-Hallett seconded that Katharine be elected to the Parish Council. She was duly elected.

## CURRENT POSITION ON WORK TO RIVER WALLS

Karen Thomas of East Suffolk IDB took the floor to explain the position of the river wall improvements that are being planned. We were advised that the estuary modelling had set out the order in which the walls need to be improved. If walls are improved first at Snape village and Aldeburgh then that might put some properties in Iken at a temporary increased flood risk while the work was going on.

In order to avoid increasing anyone in Iken's flood risk - even temporarily - the IDB had explored doing the work across the whole of the Upper Estuary defences simultaneously over three years so everybody's flood risk would stay the same. Iken would now have work being started sooner at the same time as Snape and Aldeburgh.

Karen went on to say that they were now hoping to proceed on that basis with a business plan for the upper estuary first then the lower estuary. They were working on a business case to share more fully with the AOEP before Christmas.

Working with Risk and Policy Analysts the IDB have identified significant wider economic benefits in the estuary which can support grant applications for greater government funding. It is possible wall improvement costs might be greater than originally forecast but it is hoped to have more funding available so the local partnership funding doesn't change too much.

In addition, in order to properly involve communities in the plans and works proposed, individual engagement plans would be needed; Iken will be done first. A template of that plan should be available next time we meet in February

and Karen is keen to involve local people in the engagement planning so it's fit for their needs. The fundamentals are around clay, timings, designs, what it is going to look like etc. A program will be available then and we will be able to see the timeline.

The property surveys in Iken undertaken by the IDB will not now be needed, but will be shared with the relevant home owners for their information. Karen advised that surveys had been done and paid for so those property owners may as well have them. Properties will get two sides of an A4 sheet of paper which will explain the risk – this will be sent only to the owners of the properties surveyed. No one is now facing any negative changes to flood risk.

It was agreed that this was all good news for the village.

It was asked how long the next meeting would be and whether we needed to look at a larger venue. It will be known by Christmas when the business plan will be ready.

Clay wise not a great deal has changed. The IDB are still being investigated by the EA. Everything the EA has asked for had been provided and the plan had gone through the local team up to a national review team.

Different waste license specialists had been approached and IDB were working with the most likely company. Permits and licensing will be discussed with EA to ensure future applications meet their requirements under the Waste Regulations.

Nothing is going to happen in 2019 (re movement of clay). It has to go through quite a detailed review. The earliest clay work is likely to be 2020 if sanctioned by EA. A variety of ways to minimise clay coming into Iken had been researched. It was thought they can use less clay than initially thought needed. Next time we meet we can talk about that.

It was asked if there had been a survey to see whether we had enough clay already on the landowners' farms. Karen explained that they might need to take clay out of farms who already had clay. Discussions were on-going.

Permits – once you have a plan to improve the walls where does the delivery change from waste management licencing to building materials? Karen explained re the donor and recipient sites and what is needed to transfer materials between the two. If it is waste it is always going to be slightly more expensive. There were a lot of factors to be considered in the waste process. They were exploring all the different options.

On the Business Case application for FDGIA - the partnership funding element of the costs has to be pledged so that all the money is available before work starts. What is done in the upper estuary doesn't affect the lower estuary. Everything can't be done at once. They had moved away from flood cell by flood cell approach to maximise transfer of FDGIA between flood cells and have had agreement in principle from EA and NE that they can proceed with the upper estuary.

A question raised was that we keep being told by large donors that they are not going to give until they see a plan. Karen said they are going to talk to people to ask what they want and were considering an abbreviated summary – a compelling narrative - to give investors some clarity. There will be an Estuary Partnership meeting in the New Year with the slimmed down version.

David Kemp explained that they were originally looking at a cell by cell approach but now they are looking at something much larger. It means they only have to apply twice (upper and lower estuary business cases) rather than 10 times so approval should in theory come sooner, but these are complex business cases which may need longer review periods before funding can be approved.

Thanks were extended to Karen for her excellent explanation. Sue Spindler handed Karen her ASIS strategy and this was discussed.

Alison Andrews of AOET had thought they had raised enough funding to start. The Maltings had done quite a lot of work already so could probably start sooner. It was asked if there a plan to relaunch the funding. Alison responded that there were a series of waves to get to groups of people. There was a discussion as to how funding was getting on.

### **PRECEPT INCREASE TO AID RIVER WALL FUNDING**

Colin Chamberlain explained that he had written to Hilary Slater to ask if the Parish Council may increase the Parish Precept without reliance on the Statutory Power of Competence in Part 1 of the Localism Act 2001. He had received an email from her that evening saying that we would be breaching the Act if we did so. It was asked if we going to try to obtain Part 1 Localism Act 2011 and, following discussion, it was decided we were not. We cannot therefore impose a rise in precept.

It was proposed by Sir Tom Hughes-Hallett and seconded by Loulou Cook that Colin should put in an application for £1350 precept the same as last year.

### **Items for information**

1. Norman Johnson apologised that the defibrillator training didn't take place. It will be rearranged.
2. A verbal estimate of £200 had been received to remove the vegetation around and on the village hall. This was unanimously approved
3. There had been no further news on the Broadband. Loulou said Frambroadband had visited the church to investigate the use of the tower but she had heard no more. She also said that BT had laid a conduit around the village. Loulou phoned and was told that they were just laying casing. Norman Johnson will contact Frambroadband again.
4. Roads/Potholes – Colin said that Andrew Reid had said the roads were quite good. It was agreed no further action was required at present.
5. Leiston Citizens Advice had written requesting a donation. It was agreed that we could not specifically give to them.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Annabel Chamberlain was thanked for helping with a problem with water main.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - 6pm 7th February 2019 at Snape Village Hall Committee Room.

### **FINISH TIME**

6.10pm