

Iken Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Friday 15th November 2019 at Snape Village Hall commencing at 5.30pm

PRESENT

Cllrs Neville Howe, Sir Tom Hughes-Hallett, Colin Chamberlain, Katherine Kilburn, Loulou Cooke, Norman Johnson Clerk
Lorraine Lloyd

Paul and Nina Davis, Sue and David Spindler

APOLOGIES

Chris Keeble, Audrey Power

COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All have an interest in the river walls

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Signed as a true record

Items for discussion

1. *Chairman/Vice Chairman change - NH*

Neville Howe explained that he and Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett will be swapping positions of office until the end of the term. Proposed Colin Chamberlain seconded Loulou Cooke, all agreed.

2. *Financial update including charities - CC*

Barclays account balance as at 27th September - £2795

Charity a/c Monmouthshire Building Society - £7576

The Village Hall charity has now been closed.

Iken Parish Council now holds the village hall in trust for the village. Colin explained town and village hall charities.

There was a discussion about advantages of charitable status.

2.2 *20/21 Precept - CC*

An expected expenditure record was circulated. Allowing for £300 for mowing church, clerks fees and expenses £350, insurance £290 and hall hire of £12 it was estimated that the balance would be £1843. Colin proposed that the precept be reduced from £1500 to £1000. Loulou asked if the fee for mowing the churchyard could be raised to £400. All were in favour of this. After discussion about other possible costs it was decided to leave the decision as to whether to lower the precept until later on in the meeting.

2.3 *Change of RFO from 1st April next year – NH*

The Chairman explained that the clerk is to take over as RFO at the end of the financial year with the Chair signing off accounts. A vote of thanks was extended to Colin for undertaking this role over past three years and to Lorraine for taking it on next year. There were no objections.

2.4 *Internal Auditor - volunteer required (not necessarily an accountant or bookkeeper) to check over the accounts each year – NH*

Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett agreed he will be the internal auditor until he takes up the position of Chair.

3. *SALC - NH*

The clerk had requested that IPC join SALC next year to enable her to quickly and easily source information. In view of the low cost, it was considered that IPC should apply for membership immediately. **LL**

4. *Village Hall – next steps – NH*

A questionnaire had been drafted by Lorraine for discussion. It was suggested that an appraisal by an expert should be sourced.

Annabel Chamberlain suggested using church for PC meetings. The negatives to this were that there was no parking and no toilets. It was wondered whether use of the village hall might just be short term interest. There followed a discussion about what to do with hall and land. Colin Chamberlain advised that if we suddenly had a big bill then there would be no money to pay for it. It was thought it was not viable to renovate the village hall.

Option 1 - keep as is

Option 2 - pull it down

Option 3 - sell it

Points debated were selling village hall and some of the land and how do we protect neighbours. David Spindler thought that by selling it we would be losing an asset and incurring costs. Loulou Cooke stated that the land was a gift and we don't want to offend people. After great discussion it was decided that we explore the option to get in an expert to advise. Also get a friendly builder in to give a ball park figure to renovate. Neville will get a builder to give a cost to renovate and to also to take it away. The site must be secured. Loulou Cooke volunteered to liaise with Clarke and Simpson.

Action NH/LC

FIRST PUBLIC FORUM

Jumbos Cottage planning application was discussed. Clerk to reflect everyone's comments in the response - impact on reed beds; ownership of path and jetty area; referral to Natural England.

AOB

1. Iken-Ho community app

It was thought it wasn't used very much. It was decided to leave for a year to see if it improved.

2. River Defences

Colin Chamberlain addressed the meeting with a report on flood defences:

- i) AOEP were in the process of restructure wef December 2019; Alde and Ore Estuary Trust (AOET); New Alde and Ore Community Partnership
- ii) New Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOCP) replaced AOEP which is disbanding; inaugural meeting January 2019; 13 Parish Councilors, 1xSCC, 2xESC, 1xA&OA, 1xEDB, 1xBusiness Representative – non voting advisers: IDB, EA, NE etc
- iii) AOET (info@aoetrust.org) – financial report for y/e 31 December 2019. Since 2018 y/e the AOET has raised over [£600K] of which £400K is from Garfield Weston Foundation. This means the AOET has raised over £1.2M to date. Funding Newsletter 7th November 2019.
- iv) Business Case for the Upper Estuary. Draft submitted end of August proposing holding the line. EA making economic and ecological assessments, RPA handling enquiries, possibly approved in December 2019 by EA's Large Payment Review Group, work starting in January 2020.
- v) Iken 6 month forward work timetable. Nov-Dec 2019 – Environmental assessment. Jan-Mar 2020 – detailed design assessment. Jan-Feb 2020 – NE consents. Feb-June 2020 – Environmental mitigation. Feb-March 2020 – Engineering assessment. April-June 2020 – Enabling construction, access routes, bridging ditches.
- vi) Shoreline Management Plan (coastalmanagement@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) - East Suffolk consultation on whether to change from no active intervention to Managed Realignment after 2025 (hold the line in the meantime), A&OA supports the change of policy.
- vii) Colin Chamberlain was appointed Iken Parish Council's representative.

3. Coastal Path

Coastal Path are negotiating with all land owners. There doesn't seem to be joined up thinking as regards river walls. It was wondered whether Jonathan Clark should come to the next meeting. They will be building it with least damage to wildlife etc. There were worries about biosecurity of animals.

4. Broadband

Loulou advised that the church had put in for aerial on the church which would enhance Fram Broadband users.

5. Telephone box

Had been used a couple of times. It is being kept until we can get good broadband.

6. Iken cliff picnic site – tarmac now tidy.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7th February 5.30

FINISH TIME. 7.25pm

Following closure of the meeting it was remembered that we had not agreed the precept. Norman had earlier made the point that now might not be the time to reduce it as we may need some funds in relation to the village hall. It was therefore concluded and agreed we would leave the precept as it is.