

Minutes of Iken Annual Parish Meeting

held on Friday 21st May 2021 at Hardy's Barns commencing at 6pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Jeremy Hinves chaired the meeting. There were 16 members of the public present

1. Chairman's Welcome

JH welcomed everybody and gave instructions in the event of a fire. Thanks were extended to Kate and Neville for getting venue in good order and to County Councillor Reid for coming to the meeting. Thanks to Lorraine for getting us this far. The Chairman explained he would not be making a chairman's review as he had only been in the post two months.

2. To approve the Minutes of the last APM held on Thursday 21st May 2020 via Zoom

Approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Report from County Councillor Andrew Reid

CLlr Reid wished good evening to the meeting and said it was nice to be back in a physical meeting. Hard copy of his report is attached.

3.1 Questions:

3.1.1. It was thought Iken roads were unsuitable for large vehicles. Cllr Reid advised that you cannot stop vehicles from using roads, only advise of suitability. He explained that he is happy to consider what could be done.

3.1.2. Potholes – have been the subject of constant repair. Only four reports have been made in the last year. There needs to be a proper inspection. Spoke of weather. More repairs will be done on the roads. Cllr Chamberlain reported that she had reported the pothole situation and had been advised they would be repaired.

3.1.3. It was thought the road collapses every year and should have major corrections. Cllr Reid said that there may be drainage implications – cost being a consideration.

3.1.4. It was asked if SCC liaise with environmental agency on delivery of clay. Cllr Reid answered that if there are no restrictions then they cannot dictate what travels on the road. He said the clay deliveries were a separate matter.

4. Report from District Councillor Ray Herring

Ray Herring explained the work of East Suffolk Council. East Suffolk District Council set a 0% increase for 2021/22 which reflected its strong finances and also that Government had financially supported the additional workload that ESDC incurred administering the Covid Business Rate Support Grants across the district. All businesses and community venues that met the criteria had the benefit of business grants to assist them during a period of very difficult trading and to assist them in re-starting.

No Council Services have been cut, other than temporary changes to services due to Covid. Leisure Centres now are in the process of re-opening. Only a skeleton staff were based in the two Council Offices at Melton and Lowestoft over the last 12 months with technology systems fully supporting homeworking .

Brexit brought an additional workload to the Felixstowe Port Health Authority which checks all food imports coming in to Felixstowe Port in containers. There is more food brought into the country at Felixstowe by container than any other UK port and new systems and additional staffing was required. All costs are recouped through charges and at no cost to the Council Taxpayer.

Most of Ray Herring’s Local Member Community Enabling Budget (£7500) has been allocated to the District wide funding to provide support for organisations such as food banks operating in East Suffolk and local Good Neighbour Schemes which again support those most vulnerable people who faced difficulty during the Covid lockdowns and restrictions.

The new Local Plan has been fully adopted and provides a comprehensive plan for the District by which all planning applications can be measured. It protects small villages and the countryside such as Iken from unwarranted development with East Suffolk’s market towns, Felixstowe & Lowestoft and the Ipswich fringe taking the vast majority of new housing.

4.1 Iken waste update - if there were an alternative material the works should go ahead. It was thought that people should write in to request works proceed in all haste. Cllr Herring said it was unfortunate that the Environmental Agency had got into the legal tangle. Emphasis had been made to the government. Cllr Herring explained that the Environmental Agency has been complicit in what has happened. It has been there as an advisory and everyone has been aware. It was not thought that the Waste Management Agency has been turning up to meetings. Iken Parish Council were requested to write in now to prevent a long drawn out matter. The parish council will discuss it. It was asked if the environmental agency had decided if the clay was toxic. Councillor Herring said it has been tested and it had been decided that it is recyclable. It is embroiled in the bigger issue. It clearly did not want to contaminate water. Chairman of the IDB has not released details of their testing. It is all part of a legal investigation.

5. Reports from village organisations

- 5.1 Sir Tom Hughes Hallett had advised the clerk that he will be happy to fund a summer party.
- 5.2 Chris Keeble had sent his best wishes
- 5.3 Church AGM had been held and will report in the future.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 6.50pm

Approved and signed on 19.8.21

.....sign and date

Jeremy Hives

..... print name

Chairman

Signed as confirmation of a true record