

Iron Acton Parish Meeting 2015

Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2015 at 7:30pm

Held at Iron Acton Parish Hall

Present: - Councillor Sheppard, Councillor Bellis (Chairman), Councillor Lomas, Councillor Blanchard, Councillor Huish, Councillor Gawler, Councillor Heal (Vice Chairman), South Gloucestershire Councillors Pat & Dave Hockey and Donna Beal (Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

37 members of the public were present.

WELCOME SPEECH

Councillor Bellis the Chairman of Iron Acton Parish Council introduced himself and gave a welcome speech and outlined the procedure and the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

PRESENTATION MERLIN HOUSING SOCIETY

Sarah Durbin from Merlin Housing Society gave a verbal speech relating to information regarding gas connections into the village. Sarah advised of the houses required the approximate cost of £5000 and grants available for the 70+. Forms were made available for interested parishioners to complete and return.

POLICIES, SITES, PLACES PLAN

Councillor Bellis gave a verbal speech and outlined the background relating to the action taken by Iron Acton Parish Council. Councillor Bellis advised of the sites that had been put forward by land owners and stated that Iron Acton Parish Council had opted for a Rural Exceptions Scheme, it was noted that a housing needs survey would be required in the future, the approximate time scale would be 2/3 years. All information was available on the South Gloucestershire website.

01-04-15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Taylor.

02-04-15 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2014 had been previously circulated. Councillor Lomas proposed and Councillor Blanchard seconded that these minutes be adopted and signed as a true record. **All Agreed**

03-05-15 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Councillor Bellis Report - Annual Parish Meeting 30.04.2015

Thanks very much to Merlin for coming to meet us here and for their interest in helping to make Iron Acton a better place to live in. I am going to cover three areas: Who the Parish Council is, what have we done over the last year, and what are we looking ahead to cover the next year, this will take about 10 minutes.

We consist of 9 councillors. As this is an election year, we have people standing down and new councillors joining us. When there are less candidates than seats, as in this year, then those candidates are elected unopposed so we already know who the new Parish Council will be on 7th May. Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing councillors for their input over at least the last 4 years — some have been councillors for longer than that. So thanks to Lynne Blanchard, Howard Gawler, Chris Heal, Peter Huish, Dave Taylor and Andrew Tillotson. I would also like to thank the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Chris Heal for his support to me and the work of the Parish Council. Chris does an enormous amount of work in the parish, not just for the Parish Council, much of it is unseen and that's

how Chris likes it so I apologise if I'm embarrassing him. We also are very grateful for the work carried out by our Clerk, Ms Donna Beal. We councillors are unpaid volunteers — in other words amateurs. We do receive training in how to be a good councillor, but day to day we rely on our clerk to remind us of correct procedure. Another repeat I am afraid, but for good reason: I aim in my work as Chairman to ensure that we do the right thing for the right reasons, which means inevitably that some things are not done 'the way they always have been'. What I can say is from what I have seen every councillor does what they do because they think it's right, so if you think their thought processes are out of kilter, tell them politely and I am sure they will at least consider your input. We also welcome two new councillors, Denise Smith and Marian Lewis. The first meeting of the new Parish Council is on 11th May, and amongst the first things we will consider is co-option volunteers to fill the 4 vacancies, there is a process we will need to go through but I expect that is what will happen, so watch out for the notices.

So, what have been dealing with since last May? These will be roughly in the order they happened. I mentioned the ending of the SGC dog bin service last year, and the re-siting of some general waste bins as a result. For those that aren't aware, the current stance by SGC is that dog waste can go in general bins, there is no need for special bins. We were still reporting to SGC in May about where we wanted bins and we supplied a detailed map to help. However we are not absolutely sure that our plan has been carried out precisely by SGC, this was raised again recently so we are checking that and following it up. One thing I need to say is that I did say publicly at one point that there would be a waste bin everywhere there was a dog bin. That is not perfectly accurate; but there is supposed to be a bin near to where there used to be a dog bin a subtle difference, but none the less I apologise for any confusion caused.

We also have been dealing with subjects with exciting names such as the Policies, Sites & Places plan. This has actually been quite a demanding piece of work in terms of time and energy needed to get it right, and what it affects is future planning considerations in the parish. Broadly speaking it covers two aspects, the anticipation of future housing need over a number of years in the parish based around what are called 'settlement areas', and the identification and protection of green spaces, if there are special reasons for their protection. After very careful consideration we told SGC that we saw no need for additional houses in North Road, basically because any new housing needed in or near that area could be provided from plans for housing in Brimsham Park. In Iron Acton village we said 20 houses after taking into consideration the extra 7 houses that the Merlin redevelopment of Algars Drive will provide. This should include the provision of housing for young families, older people and self-build. We then had to say whether these houses could be achieved by extending the settlement area — in other words deliberately extending the edges of the village to accommodate houses, or whether the use of the Rural Exception scheme was more appropriate, which was what we chose. This means that whether these houses are to be built one at a time or all in one go, there is more control about exactly where they are sited and what they consist of. I will say this is for most of us a complex subject, we rely on detailed input from our SG Councillors and SGC officers as to what the rules mean and what I have just said is my understanding of it, if you want chapter & verse I will happily point you in the direction of our SG Councillors who have much better grasp of it. On the green spaces, we identified a number of places, we had to detail these on maps to SGC and also provide the special reasons for each place. This was a protracted process and it is not yet complete. I can tell you that SGC tell us we have done the whole process much better than many other parishes, all I can say is it was very hard work, am sure it is not perfect but we have done our very best.

One piece of good news was the result of the input we gave to SGC about how to manage the traffic effects of the Church Road, Frampton Cotterell closure in the summer, based on the bad experiences from the earlier closure. Again it was a complex subject where we spent time with SGC. There were many considerations and also many tools used to manage the traffic, not all of them were obvious but they did work much better than the first time.

Continuing the good news theme, we gave a detailed and comprehensive set of objections to the proposed Solar Farm (or Solar Factory as it might better be known), because of the input of parishioners, and SGC refused the application. Not surprisingly the developer has appealed, and we can never predict the outcome of appeals, but we (and others) have made a very reasoned case which we believe should prevail).

We have commissioned and received a report and also a 5-year management plan for Chill Wood. We are now in the process of deciding how to start applying the management plan. What we should end up with is a better managed, better looking and sustainable Chill Wood, with user — friendly, defined but unobtrusive paths through the wood. To put this into context, if we continue to do nothing as we were previously constrained, the holly will take over everything including the bluebells and ultimately even the trees.

Lastly on 'what we have done', following the previous grant from the New Homes Bonus scheme administered by SGC, we carried out consultation about what sort of play equipment was right for older children in the Parish Meadows. The clear answer was an adventure cycle path around the edges of the meadows. Because of the way this would be created, it also made sense to combine this with the installation of a much-called for replacement slide in the younger children's play area. However as ever there are a couple of hiccoughs with this at present. Firstly, it escaped everyone's notice until April this year that we actually have a bye-law, dating back to when we first acquired the meadows, which prohibits bicycles in the meadows. So we are now following the required process of seeking to change the bye-law. The first step is that we must involve SGC Legal Services, right now we are waiting for a response from them which is now outstanding for several working days. Secondly there is a query from one part of SGC as to whether our plan fits with what they gave us the grant for, following a direct approach to that part of SGC by one of our councillors. We will do whatever is properly required to be able to use the grant, and as far as we are concerned that is what we have done all along. The grant application itself did not specify what sort of play equipment we would obtain, we were advised we didn't need to and the grant was awarded on the basis of that application. Once we had decided on what we wanted, we were in continuous contact with SGC about that and the process for receiving the grant money, so it's a surprise to us for SGC to now say they didn't know what we were planning to do. To some extent the grant situation is a red herring — we were absolutely adamant that we needed to do something for older children in the parish meadows, and we were quite prepared to spend Parish Council money on it. The receipt of the grant was a bonus, not a deciding factor. We have suspended work for now, but only until we resolve the bye-law.

What's coming up? Firstly making sure we have a parish council that can operate. Another repetition from me — although polls cost money, I'd love it if you the parishioners had a choice as to who your councillors are. That needs people to stand up and be prepared to do their bit. This year, and for the next 4 years, you've got 5 people who have done that. So for all those who love to moan about what the parish council does, to some extent, hard luck. By all means give us constructive and polite input about what you want or what you think, and we will listen, but nobody has an excuse now to moan. The first step is hopefully to find some volunteers to be co-opted. Then we will need to re-appoint the committee that we currently have which has done so much to make the parish run better — the Parish Meadows Committee, and any other committees that we need. There is continued work to be done on the Polices, Sites and Places plan, and also the follow up on the management of Chill Wood, and the pursuit of providing amenity for older children i.e. the Parish Meadows. There is the constant threat of what we think is inappropriate planning applications for housing in and around Engine Common. We will carry on looking after the allotments, the greens both in Iron Acton and at Latteridge, and commenting on planning applications. To finish on a good note, we are very fortunate to have so many and varied active organisations in the Parish, we attempt to engage with and support as many of them as we can and on this occasion I will single out the new Local Poyntz magazine (including online) who we are very happy to have given a helping start to, in some respects they are the glue that holds the parish together, combined with the Iron Acton website which is run by members of the Local Poyntz committee.

Councillor Chris Heal Chairman of the Parish Meadows gave a report on the Parish Meadows as follows:

The Parish Meadow continues to be an area which is well maintained and well used by Parishioners and visitors. The area specified for young children is in constant use and is enhanced by the pathway and tunnel which has been supplied by members of Acton Aid.

The tennis courts are beginning to show signs of wear and tear although they are still used especially in the summer months. The seats which were broken have been removed and plans are in hand to replace them. The rubbish bin which was outside the tennis court has been removed and there is also a plan to replace it in the hope that people who don't feel able to take their rubbish home with them will deposit it in the bin.

Acton Aid held their usual highly successful events. In July they again very efficiently organised Mash and Proms in the Meadow both of which were well supported. The Family Firework and Bonfire evening was also well supported and I am pleased to report that the damage caused due to inclement weather was very soon rectified by members of Acton Aid for which I thank them.

The council, with the help of parishioners have kept the hedges maintained and the grass has been regularly cut by Landscape Services.

In March 2014 the Council was awarded a grant of £13,000 by South Gloucestershire Council to be used on "Recreational Equipment". We decided to invite young parishioners, their parents and any other interested parties to a discussion forum where we could get an insight from the 10-16 year old age group as to what they would like as at that time there were in the parish only facilities for younger children. The overall request was for somewhere safe and interesting to ride bicycles. The suggestion was a track around the perimeter of the Meadows with various obstacles along the way. The spoil which would evolve from the construction could be used to build a mound upon which a slide which had also been requested could be mounted. Unfortunately, after 11 months of Parish Council discussion about this project and advice received concerning planning issues the work which was due to begin was halted when a long standing member of the council suddenly remembered that an old byelaw restricted the use of bicycles in the Meadow? and subsequently an old sign stating this was retrieved from the undergrowth. This is a great shame as there is little or no facility within the parish for the young teenage group and having asked their opinion The Parish Meadow committee was hoping to move forward to rectify the situation. The Council is currently investigating the issue of changing the current bye-law to enable the project to proceed.

04-05-14 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

South Gloucestershire Councillor Howard Gawler gave a verbal report points raised:

- Gas connections in North Road.
- Available spaces in North Road School.
- Lorries escape down Engine Common.
- Building site on North Road – Outline permission for 6 houses, building works halted as full permission has not yet been agreed.
- Housing in Engine Common.
- Councillor Gawler advised that he was standing down as a Councillor.

South Gloucestershire Councillor Pat Hockey gave a verbal report points raised:

- Proposals for extra houses.
- Open green space.

- Workshops.
- Housing needs survey for the West of England.
- Lorries usage along Latteridge & Wotton Road, what can be done about it.

05-04-15 AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2013 / 2014

The Audited accounts for 2013/ 2014 had been previously circulated.
No observations were raised.

06-04-15 UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2014 / 2015

The Unaudited accounts for 2014/ 2015 had been previously circulated.
No observations were raised.

07-04-15 QUESTIONS / REPRESENTATIONS SUBMITTED

Acton Aid - Verbal report advising about the organisation and what they do within the Parish.

Parish Hall - Verbal report advising on the plans for an extension to the lobby area.

Cinema Society - Verbal report advising that they had completed the first season which had been a great success.

North Road Ladies – Verbal report advising of the 42 members and what the group involves.

St James the Less – Written report submitted - Appendix A

PSCO - Written report submitted – Appendix B

Iron Acton Primary School - Written report submitted – Appendix C

North Road School – Emailed report submitted – Appendix D

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

A

St James the Less Chairman's Report 2014-15

St James the Less church has been serving the community of Iron Acton since the 14th century and continues today to be a place that welcomes all who come in faith, looking for peace and fellowship. I hope that it will continue to be a place of forgiveness, redemption and friendship.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and volunteers make the church what it is, an active part of the parish community whose aims are to serve the people of the parish through faith. To celebrate the highs and help support those in times of hardship.

This year St James the Less has become part of the Fromeside Churches Benefice which comprises All Saints, Winterbourne Down; St James the Less, Iron Acton; St Michael's, Winterbourne and St Peter's in Frampton Cottrell. This means that we are part of a larger local community and we work with the other churches sharing each other's resources, sometimes worshiping together and helping each other where we can.

These positive changes have meant that we now have a Holy Communion every Sunday at 9:15 except the second Sunday of each month where we have a family service at 9:30.

We also meet at 11:00 every Wednesday in the Marshall Rooms with either Morning Praise or Holy Communion.

Over the last year we have run a number of social events with the joint goal of reaching out into the community and also raising funds. These have included Summer and Christmas Fayres as well as a concert and Harvest festival.

So thank you to everyone, everyone's contribution should be recognised and is valued – it is your efforts that have enabled the Church to continue to be an active part of the community and relevant to Iron Acton and its parishioners.

As we move into a new year I am delighted to hear that we will be welcoming new members and ideas to the PCC. I am convinced that we can continue to make our Church the centre of the community with a non judgemental and active role in supporting, guiding and serving everyone in the Parish.

B

- I have no update on PCSO RADNEDGE'S replacement – I am still awaiting confirmation on when a replacement will arrive.
- There are no significant crime trends at the moment.
- Recorded incidents (includes crime related matters for F/Cotterell, C/Pit Heath, Iron Acton, Westerleigh & trading estates around Yate) for the last quarter and equivalent times in 2014 and 2013 on my beat are:

01/01/2015 to 22/03/2015	reported incidents 92	includes 6 dwelling burglaries
9 theft from MV.		
01/01/2014 to 22/03/2014	reported incidents 114	includes 7 dwelling burglaries
6 theft from MV.		
01/01/2013 to 22/03/2013	reported incidents 103	includes 8 dwelling burglaries
4 theft from MV.		

7 of the 2015 theft from MVs occurred as part of the crime spate in January. A male has been arrested admitting the offence at Bristol Crown Court. He was remanded on 19th February 2015 and is currently awaiting full sentencing.

- You can keep track of crime figures using <http://www.police.uk/>.

Finally, with the onset of spring, longer evenings and fairer weather people tend to get outdoors a bit more, investing time in their gardens and the outside of their properties. Can you please make people aware of rogue traders who will become increasingly active at this time of the year. Here are some tips:

Top Tips on staying safe from rogue traders and distraction burglars:

- Check the identity of the caller by telephoning the company they claim to be from. Use the telephone numbers listed in your local directory or provided independently by your service provider.
- Genuine callers won't mind making an appointment for a date when you can have someone with you. This gives you time to check their identity too.
- Never use companies who make unsolicited calls, who don't provide contracts, or who offer to do work for cash.
- Call a neighbour or friend nearby to come along and check out the caller before you open the door to them.
- Many service providers provide password schemes and it can be helpful to sign up to these. When unannounced callers knock at your door they should know the password if they are genuine.
- Keep doors locked and windows secure at all times.
- Where possible, have a safety chain fitted and always attach the chain before opening the door to strangers.
- Remember it's your doorstep, your decision.
- Check whether traders are members of the Local Authority Assured Trader Schemes (www.offt.gov.uk) or the government Trust Mark scheme (www.trustmark.org.uk).
- The key message is: 'Not sure? Don't open the door'
- If you suspect a rogue trader is at your door dial 999

Iron Acton C of E VC Primary School April 2015

We welcome Mrs Lyall back after her maternity leave and a new teacher Mrs Detzler. They share responsibility for the middle class.

Our numbers remain high and we are pleased to hear that we have a full intake for September.

This year has been a very successful year for the school. Our year 6 pupils achieved the best exam results we have ever had. We were one of the top three achieving schools in South Gloucestershire and received a letter from Minister of Education praising our achievement.

However, academic excellence is only one aspect of school life. We are also proud of our performances in areas such as singing, acting, drumming and sporting events.

Staff and governors are steadily working through the recommendations from Ofsted, particularly raising Maths achievement in the middle of the school. Education is currently undergoing significant change as schools prepare to introduce a new curriculum and new assessment procedures from September 2015. Although this involves a considerable amount of work, it does enable us to design a curriculum that meets their particular needs of our pupils.

The learning environment of the youngest pupils has been transformed by the installation of an outdoor canopy. It provides much needed additional space and daily opportunities to play with sand, water and large toys.

The proverb "many hands make light work" is certainly true at Iron Acton School. We continue to receive support from a variety of people from the school, local and wider community. These are too numerous to mention but include Acton Aid, parents, Friends of Iron Acton, governors and members of the local church community. Together everyone helps the school to maintain our beautiful Victorian building and grounds and provide an exciting curriculum for pupils.

However, we also want pupils to develop their responsibilities as citizens and consider what they can do to make a difference. Pupils enjoy making Christmas cards for the village; they deliver local magazines and support church services. Currently pupils are practising hard for May Day. Parents and pupils run a variety of charity events in school such as bake sales, Harvest auctions and National appeals. We sponsor a boy in the Philippines so pupils understand how fortunate they are and how they can transform another child's life.

As you are probably aware, I am retiring in July. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as head teacher and would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me in any way over the last ten years. I leave the school in the very capable hands of Mr, Riches who is currently acting head of a Bristol school. I am sure the school will

continue to thrive and provide a rich, challenging, supportive learning experience for the pupils.

Jill Bendeaux 28.4.15

D

Clerk

From: Jo Williams [jo-marie.williams@sgmail.org.uk]
Sent: 20 April 2015 13:44
To: 'Donna Beal'
Subject: parish council

North Road Primary may be small in number but it is certainly large on big ideas! As usual our terms have been jam packed with exciting opportunities for all our pupils. This has included our fortnightly big write. This is where we have a whole school stimulus for the children to write about. Before the Easter holidays the school was visited by the Easter bunny! A basket of eggs was found on the playground and neighbours reported hearing noises in the night! We all had to write a report for the local magazine and midway through the sharing of the evidence the Easter Bunny appeared in the hall scattering eggs! Luckily he/she left enough for us all to have one! Thank you Easter Bunny!!

Our sporting achievements have continued with our swimming team who represented the school in the South Glos swimming gala. They all took part sensibly and tried their very best and this led to the school being awarded the fair play award 2015!

Our dance club represented our school at the Festival of Youth Dance. They danced two dances and friends and family could all come and watch in the evening. Hair and make-up were brilliant and photos can be seen on the school website. They have also performed at Yate Heritage Centre St. George's day celebrations as well as the annual 6th former tutor group charity event at Brimsham Green secondary school.

Some of our KS2 children have taken part in a South Glos cross country tournament. They run at KLB school every few weeks and points over the weeks have been added together. Martha in year 6 came first over the whole tournament in the senior girls' competition, and the boys came 3rd in the junior small schools' boys' team.

After a fantastic fundraising effort, which included a teacher ice bucket challenge, discos, pig races, sponsored walks and film night, since September we have raised £3,750 and have been able to install a new trim trail on the playground. After speaking to all the children the vast majority wanted things to climb and swing on. We were able to get started straight away and Steve Webb MP came to the official opening in April. It is very popular and great fun.

We are currently looking for a new Head Teacher for September. Jo Williams is moving to Barley Close Primary in Mangotsfield. The advert has gone out. We are also looking for new governors, following the retirement of 4 very supportive governors we are looking for more people from the local community to come and be part of the school if you are interested please call the school office on 01454 867788.

North Road continues to go from strength to strength with pupil progress growing and being maintained and the happy culture, which we pride ourselves on, being identified by all visitors to our school. Our intake for reception sept 2015 will see us being full again and this year saw us with even more families putting us down as either their 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice school. A testament in itself.

After the success of our family treasure hunt last summer we are going to be holding another orienteering afternoon, Sunday 5th July at 2pm. Edison Ford are proud to sponsor the Family

20/04/2015

Orienteering Challenge 2015. We would like to invite all local families, friends of the school and the residents of South Gloucestershire to join in the fun! Followed by a cream tea. This year will be bigger and better, with prizes for the top 3 finishers and medals for all participants. To enter, all you need to do is register at the school office. Entry fee is £5.00 per family of four in advance, £7 on the day. (Under 4's are free, the route is not suitable for pushchairs or wheel chairs). We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Jo Williams
Head Teacher
North Road Primary School
01454 867788