

Annual Parish Meeting of Iron Acton 2017

**Minutes of Iron Acton Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2017 at 8:00pm
Held at Iron Acton Parish Hall**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

19 members of the public were present.

WELCOME SPEECH

Councillor Bellis the Vice 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.

01-05-17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Lomas, Sheppard, Smith, Kavanagh.

02-05-17 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2016 had been previously circulated. Councillor Bellis proposed and Councillor Noble seconded that these minutes be adopted and signed as a true record. **All Agreed**

03-05-17 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Councillor Lomas Report - Annual Parish Meeting 11.05.2017 read out by Councillor Bellis – Appendix A

04-05-17 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

South Gloucestershire Councillor Pat Hockey provided a written report – Appendix B

05-05-17 AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2015 / 2016

The Audited accounts for 2015/ 2016 had been previously circulated.
No observations were raised.

06-05-17 UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2016 / 2017

The Unaudited accounts for 2016/ 2017 had been previously circulated.
No observations were raised.

07-05-17 QUESTIONS / REPRESENTATIONS SUBMITTED

Acton Aid report – Appendix C

Cinema Society report – Appendix – D

Parish Hall - Verbal report advising on the extension to the lobby area, thanks were given for the donation received from the Parish Council. It was reported that the Parish Hall was extremely busy with a high level of bookings.

Thanks, was given to the Parish Hall members for their work and the upkeep of the Parish Hall.

Iron Acton School report – Appendix E

Sonia Grubb gave a verbal report in regards to the adoption of the phone box on the high street.

Mrs C Bellis advised that share and prayer sessions were held on a Saturday morning every other month, further details would be available from Councillor Bellis.

North Road Ladies report – Appendix F

Iron Acton Charities report – Appendix G

Further representation was given on the below points:

- Dyers Pond looked choked up – Cllr Bellis advised that the pond is cleared each year in accordance with recommendations received from the appropriate environmental departments.
- A further bus shelter by The White Heart.
- Street lighting being switched off – Cllr Hockey provided an update.
- Closure of Nibley Lane was there any plans.
- Any plans for houses behind the White Heart – Cllr Hockey advised that the process for the Local plan and call for sites had taken place.
- Road Closure at Frampton End Road.
- Call for a consultation with both points for and against 20mph through Nibley Lane – Cllr Hockey advised it would be looked at if a petition was raised.
- Historic minutes – Cllr Bellis advised that further investigation was taking place.
- Look into cycle racks.
- Floral friends starting in Iron Acton.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:14

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

Chairman Report

My apologies for not being here, I was caught out by a clash with a foreign trip, that date of which I didn't choose.

In the year Councillor Peter Bellis stood down from being Chairman due to work pressure, and I was elected to fill the position. Peter was elected to fill the Vice Chairman position.

This year's issues that I would like to highlight are:

The resignation and replacement of three Councillors.

Maintenance work in Chill Wood.

Completed and planned Enhancement of the Meadows children play areas

Housing development planning proposals

And, budget setting

Councillor resignation: Three Councillors resigned for various reasons including health, and workload.

Following the first resignation a petition of 10 residents was submitted to the Electoral Returning Officer at South Gloucestershire Council demanding an election to fill the vacancy. That meant legally a full election was mandatory. Unfortunately when the election was called by South Glos, initially no-one put in nomination papers. Eventually on the third attempt two candidates took up the challenge and an election was held. After this we were able to co-opt to fill the remaining vacancies. The election resulted in the winner John Wright joining the council. This allowed us to co-opt to fill the remaining vacancies. Richard Hunter and Mark Kavanagh accepted co-option and have taking up the responsibility of being parish councillors. Now we are fully up to compliment after a long period of vacancies.

Chill Wood: Previously we had commissioned an arboreal report on Chill Wood. This said; amongst other things, that the wood was being overgrown by holly. We agreed a plan of work and engaged a contractor to clear holly and improve the pathways through the wood over two years. Hopefully the improvements are now becoming evident. The whole wood is covered by a tree preservation order so we had to apply for permission from South Gloucester Council, to do the clearing work.

The Meadows: The Council set about improving the play equipment. As many will know, we had a frustrating time over the installation of the Gloria Jean ex fishing boat. As it was not specifically manufactured as "Play Equipment" a safety inspector refused to say it was OK and picked holes in many aspects of the boat. The problem is, we must have public liability insurance, but the insurance company won't insure play equipment that has not been inspected by an independent "competent" inspector and deemed safe. The inspector complained that it was not "play equipment". Acton Aid have done work on the boat to improve the safety, (our grateful thanks to Acton Aid is in order here). Finally an inspector using ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) guidelines seemed to apply some common sense and accepted it was safe for children to play on. It is now signed off as OK at last!

We installed equipment by the Tennis Court for use by older children. Now we are concentrating on improving and adding equipment in the young children's play area.

Thanks to efforts by the Clerk, we have obtained Lottery and other grants to pay for a large proportion of the cost.

Housing Developments: One of the continuing preoccupations of the Council is commenting on planning applications. In many cases the proposed minor development is non-controversial. We have not automatically commented adversely on every development as I, and I think most Councillors, feel that we don't want to ossify the Parish. However recently several controversial proposals have been submitted. The biggest is the proposal to build ninety houses on what is at the moment green fields described by the applicant as "Engine Common". Following a large lobby of a Council meeting by over thirty parishioners we lodged a detailed objection to the proposal. We also opposed plans to construct another mobile home park next to Acres Fair. Likewise a housing development off Tanhouse Lane. Here I would like to emphasise that a Parish Council has no power over planning. However South Glos are obliged to consider our views. As the Parish Council reacts to local public opinion I believe South Gloucestershire Council do take notice of what we say. But don't leave it at that. If you have a view for or against a planning application write, email, or use the web to tell South Glos your opinion. I would suggest South Glos are obliged to refuse the Engine Common plan as their policy laid down in their Core Strategy Plan places that area in the not suitable for development category. However if the applicant goes to appeal what the planning inspector would judge is another matter. But all previous plans have fallen on so far.

Budget: A few years ago the District Auditor drew our attention to what he declared was excessive funds held as reserve by the Parish Council. As it is the tax payer's money, we should not be holding on to it unnecessarily was the opinion. Reacting to that criticism we have over the last few years used up a lot of that reserve to keep down the precept, which is what we ask South Glos to collect on our behalf. That reserve is now down to the minimum so this year we have had to ask for pretty much all that we think we will need to spend in the year. No doubt you will have seen a rise in the parish precept on your council tax bill. Even so in cash terms it is still a small amount compared to for instance; what is levied for South Gloucestershire, The Police and the Fire Authority etc. The increase only works out at an average of less than 50p per household per week.

Once again my apologies for not being here. I hope you support the work we have undertaken within the Parish over the year. You now have an opportunity to raise issues you think we should consider. I would like to use this opportunity to mention that every meeting of the Parish Council is a Public Meeting, where anyone can come and see what we get up to. Before the meeting proper starts there is a slot where you can raise any issue over what you think we should, or should not do. Thank you.

Appendix B

REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Pat & Dave Hockey

At its Annual Meeting in May 2016 the Council reduced the number of service committees to three. Pat has served on the Environment and Community Services Committee, as the Lib Dem Spokesperson for Planning and Transport. There have continued to be 2 committees determining planning applications, DC(East) and DC(West). Both Pat and Dave serve on the latter which covers Frampton Cotterell with Dave as the Lib Dem Lead Member. There is also a Regulatory Committee which provides members to deal with Public Rights of way and Commons issues and for panels to decide on applications for licences for taxi drivers, street trading and the sale of alcohol. Pat also is a member of this committee.

As we reported last year the national housing crisis has led to a significant change in the local Planning situation. Having at last got our Planning Blueprint, the Core Strategy, accepted by a Government Inspector, and adopted by the Council, a Government Inspector has decided that there was no longer any likelihood of the development sites identified in the Core Strategy being built in time in the coming 5 years to meet the housing needs. Until this is rectified any planning applications in places which could be considered “sustainable” will be granted regardless of whether the land has been earmarked for development. So far most of these have been in Thornbury. We are aware that the planning application for development at Engine Common will be coming to the DC(E) committee shortly. Meanwhile the Policies Sites and Places planning document which brings up to date policies on such matters as design, amenity space and town centres as well as designating Local Green Spaces but doesn’t identify further areas for development, has continued through its various consultation phases, and is currently under consideration by a Planning Inspector following an examination in Public..

There has to be a new Local Plan for South Gloucestershire in place by the end of 2018 and the early consultation has taken place. Further development sites will be identified in this document, The amount of extra housing and its broad locations will have been identified in the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) which will cover the 4 Unitary Authorities known as the West of England. The timing of this is somewhat problematical as the JSP is still just a draft with considerable opposition to identifies sites, such as 1300 dwellings in Coalpit Heath’s Green Belt. Nibley is within the broad area of search associated with the expansion of Yate.

Hopefully all local residents and businesses will be aware of the major traffic disruption which will be caused by the work to replace the Bromley Heath viaduct, starting in June. StreetCare are proposing to close roads through Frampton Cotterell to deter rat running to avoid traffic queues. An information/consultation was held on May 9th at 8pm in C of E School.

South Gloucestershire Council in line with the Government’s austerity measures continues to be required to make huge cuts in its expenditure. There many reductions in staff which means the Kingswood Civic Centre is no longer required for them and the remaining staff are moving to the Badminton Road Offices. There will be reductions in library services. Winterbourne staffed opening hours will be reduced to 24 per week and Yate to 35. Both are proposed to be fitted with “Open Access” technology which will enable them to be accessed using a swipe card between

8.30am and 7.30pm, 7 days per week. Despite funding challenges caused by recent legislation Merlin have started work on their redevelopment programme at the former council housing complex at Chilwood Close, Algars Drive and Nibley Lane.

Area Forums and Safer Stronger Community Groups have been replaced by Community Engagement Forums covering larger areas. The Forum for Frampton Cotterell, which includes Winterbourne, Iron Acton, Westerleigh, Frenchay and Stoke Park, has agreed to meet in the Greenfield Centre. They don't have any delegated decision making powers or budgets but residents and Parish Councils have the opportunity to have such issues investigated as well as raising other matters of interest to them. Requests for local traffic management schemes are assessed by Officers and if appropriate will be included in a list of schemes which will be prioritised for selection when the capital budget is set. This year's programme includes a 30mph limit for Bristol Road between Church Road and the Winterbourne boundary and investigation of a pedestrian refuge near the junction with Court Road. Each Councillor has been allocated £3,000 to replace the Area Forum Grants. From their 2016/17 allocations Pat and Dave have provided funding to continue the Youth Club at its current level, a waste bin for Mill Lane, interpretation boards for Watermore and Iron Acton schools to provide artwork welcoming cyclists, walkers and horse riders to their Parishes at the boundaries in Frampton End Road. Funding has also been provided for Floral Friends of Frampton to increase the Spring flowers in its verge with help from Iron Acton volunteers.

The Council has continued with its commitment to carbon reduction. More electric vehicles are being added to its fleet. The Environment and Community Services Committee has agreed that the Climate Change Strategy and the Low Carbon Plan should be refreshed and brought together in one high level strategy document. It has also approved a revised Animal Charter reflecting new legislation and including the recognition of the distress caused to both farm and wild animals from the debris left by flying party lanterns.

The Government agreed that the 4 Unitary Authorities that make up the West of England could have devolved funding for infrastructure and education and skills as well as new powers for transport and planning. This involves forming a "combined authority" lead by a directly elected Metro Mayor. North Somerset Council decided that they would not be happy with this arrangement but South Gloucestershire, B&NES and Bristol have formed the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). It had its first meeting on March 1st. At its second meeting it agreed that for at least for the first year Community Transport and subsidising public transport which are now part of the responsibilities taken over by the Combined Authority, should be devolved back to the Unitary Authorities. The election of the Metro Mayor took place on May 4th. Tim Bowles was elected. By law there has to be a Scrutiny Committee and an Audit and Accounts Committee made up of representatives of the Unitary Authorities. Pat will be one of the South Gloucestershire members. North Somerset needs to continue involvement in the Joint Spatial Plan and the Joint Transport Strategy so a Joint Committee will be formed to work in parallel with WECA.

The Conservative administration has decided that from the Annual Council Meeting on May 17th the Council will revert to Cabinet decision making with only Planning and Regulatory decisions remaining with committees.

Dave and Pat Hockey 09/05/17.

Appendix C

Acton Aid Report to Parish Meeting

Acton Aid has continued to thrive over the last 12 months, primarily under the chairmanship of Simon Cross.

Our average attendance is over 20, with members also actively participating in many other Parish Organisations: PC, PCC, Choir, Film Club, May Day etc

Since the last Parish meeting we have held successful Mash and Proms events, the Beer Festival, Bonfire Night and Childrens' Party, as well as supporting May Day.

We have made the following financial contributions:

Cleaning the Church = £100.00

Gloria Jean = £1,136.18

Friends of Iron Acton Primary School (bonfire night)= £164.00.

North Road Primary School (bonfire night) =£66.60

Jamie Mcivor Fund bonfire night donation = £334.20.
Children's Party £368.00

These are in addition to the manpower given freely by members.

For 2017 we will again stage the Mash and Proms in the Meadows on 14th and 15th July (tickets still available on our enhanced website) , the Beer Festival on 9th September , and Bonfire Night on 4th November.

We have budgeted a total of £5k as contribution to the new play equipment in the meadows.

AM

May 2017

Appendix D

Iron Acton Film Club 2016/17

The Film Club has completed another successful season which was much enjoyed by the membership.

As before we put on 6 events over the winter months each of which comprised a children's film in the afternoon (free of charge) and a film for members and their guests in the evening.

The children's films have proved particularly popular with audiences of 40-50 quite common. The sale of sweets and drinks, together with the occasional generous donation from a grateful parent, has helped defray the costs of purchasing the films and hiring the Parish Hall.

The members' films have been well received, partly because members vote for them, and everyone seems to enjoy the convivial atmosphere created by an evening surrounded by friends, a good film, and a well-stocked bar!

Our membership numbers have fallen slightly from last year's impressive levels (around 35) but this puts us on a sound financial footing and means we can continue for at least another 2 seasons, with dates already booked.

So long as members are happy to join and enjoy the unique experience of a community film club, we will be happy to keep it going. Our ambition this year is to widen the membership base and welcome new members from all parts of the parish, and beyond. Membership forms for the 2017-18 season will be distributed with the next edition of Local Poyntz or can be found on the Parish Website.

My thanks go to all the willing volunteers who help prepare the hall each time and especially to Caroline and Sarah who take care of membership lists and finances.

Appendix E

Iron Acton Parish Report

11th May 2017

We've had a busy year at Iron Acton Primary School. Many changes have taken place and the school continues to go from strength to strength. We consider ourselves to be a 'Good' school. Our most recent test results were very strong, being well above the local and national averages. We have a team of dedicated staff who work incredibly hard to ensure the best outcomes for the children. The parents are supportive and pro-active in supporting their children's education and we have a very active PTA who raise money for the school. The children are happy and enjoy coming to school; we have an effective school council and have recently set up additional child-led teams to focus on health and safety and the delivery of collective worship.

Over the past 12 months, we have had a particular focus on utilising our outdoor area, which at Iron Acton, is amazing and one of our teaching assistants is now trained in delivering Forest Schools to children across the school.

We have increased the number of trips and visits so that children can get out and about and learn from their local environment. We have also welcomed people in to school more frequently in order to share their expertise with the children, e.g. engineers, someone from the Dog's Trust, a nurse and a police officer.

Our link with St James the Less Church is strong and effective. We hold a termly service at the church as well as our Nativity, Harvest and Easter services. We regularly receive visitors from the church to lead acts of collective worship. We have been pleased to work closely with Father Malcolm over the past few months too. Our work with other local small schools continues and will become ever increasingly important with significant funding cut backs. Our pupil numbers remain strong and we look to build numbers further to ensure sustainability into the future.

During a recent parent survey, one parent made the following observations about the school:

'Children are recognised as the individual people they are and every effort is made to make them feel happy and confident which is the best atmosphere in which to learn. I love the family feel that pervades through the school, the teachers know all the children/parents and the children all mix in together – this I think is the key to its success.'

The school is led with the children's best interests at heart.'

M Riches
Headteacher
May 2017

Appendix F

NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

North Road Ladies Club was founded in 1967 and, therefore, we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary this November.

We have 36 members and hold our meetings in Iron Acton Parish Hall Committee Room on the 1st Monday of the month (excluding May Day and August). In May we usually have an evening trip to somewhere of interest.

Our meetings consist of a Speaker, refreshments, raffle and business.

Every year we fund-raise for a chosen Charity and for 2017 we have chosen "SPECIAL FRIENDS CLUB". This is a charity run by parent volunteers providing support for families of children with special needs. To raise funds we be holding a skittles evening, an afternoon tea party and Bring & Buy stalls at our meetings.

We are a friendly club and new members are always made most welcome.

June Rycroft
Club Secretary

1st May, 2017.

Appendix G

**Report to Iron Acton Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 11th May 2017
IRON ACTON CHARITIES – Registered No: 252194**

“To help residents in the Parish of Iron Acton, South Gloucestershire who have financial difficulties which result in them living in poverty and/or being excluded from education/training opportunities”.

Account Balances as at 1st April 2017:-

Accessible Funds National Westminster Bank £502.71

NS&I £672.13

£1,1,74.84

Restricted Funds Henry Carpenter Ray 60 Units @ £13.97 = £838.20

John Hay 33 Units @ £13.97 = £461.01

United Charities 88 Units @ £13.97 = £1,229.36

£2,528.57

£3,703.41

This is an increase of £136.46 on 2015/16 balances.

Iron Acton Charities has not received any application for grants during the year. In previous years the majority of applications have been received from both of the primary schools within the Parish. As new head teachers have taken up position, they are probably not aware of this facility. Therefore letters have been sent to both head teachers introducing Iron Acton Charities and welcoming applications for grants.

Finally, the Trustees are pleased to report that discussions are on-going with a local property development business which is considering a substantial, four-figure donation to the Charity. This generous injection of money into accessible funds will enhance Iron Acton Charities ability to continue their discrete support for parishioners.

Paula Evans

Secretary & Trustee

Iron Acton Charities

10th May 2017