

Annual Parish Meeting of Iron Acton 2022

Minutes of Iron Acton Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2022 at 8.00pm Held Iron Acton Parish Hall

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

9 members of the public were present.

Councillor's Councillor D Smith (DS)

Councillor L Noble (LN)

Councillor R Lomas (RL)

South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, John Lean & Claire Young

WELCOME SPEECH

Councilor C Spedding (CS) the Chairman of Iron Acton Parish Council introduced herself and gave a welcome speech and outlined the procedure and the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

01-04-22* APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sheppard

Councillor Wright

Councillor Edmonds

Councillor Chapman

02-04-22* TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2021 had been previously circulated. Councillor Noble proposed and Councillor Smith seconded that these minutes be adopted and signed as a true record. **All Agreed**

03-04-22* CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Councillor Spedding Report - Annual Parish Meeting 25.04.2022

- Parish Maintenance throughout the Parish including storm damage repairs
- Tree planting around the Parish
- MUGA project
- Matting in the Parish Meadows
- New grass cutting contractor
- Responding to South Glos Local Plan
- Work in Chill Wood for the management plan
- Speed measures in North Road
- Beat surgeries
- Website and accessibility improvements
- Complaints and FOI requests
- Traffic safety measures at Nibley Lane

04-04-22* SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

South Gloucestershire Councillors Report – Report Appendix A

05-04-21* QUESTIONS / REPRESENTATIONS SUBMITTED

North Road School report – Appendix B

Iron Acton School report – Appendix C

Floral Friends report – Appendix D

North Road Ladies – Verbal Report

Nibley Lane Allotments report – Appendix E

Parish Hall report – Appendix F

Acton Aid report – Verbal Report

Iron Acton Cinema report – Appendix G

CS advised that all subsequent questions and queries that could not be answered on the night or required any further action would be looked at the next PC meeting.

Questions Raised

- No questions raised

Points Raised

- No points raised

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.42pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

Annual Parish Meeting of Iron Acton

District Councillors' Report

Monday 25th April 2022

South Gloucestershire Local Plan and West of England Spatial Development Strategy

The past year has seen continual work by South Gloucestershire Council drafting a new Local Plan. The Local Plan will determine how our urban towns and rural communities will develop over the next 18 years. The Phase 2 consultation, which explored a range of issues and policies without identifying specific sites for development, has just concluded. Officers are now analysing the responses from that public consultation. They expect to publish a Phase 3 consultation document, which will identify major sites for housing development, in late 2022 or early 2023. The Phase 3 consultation, however, will require the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) making satisfactory progress drafting their regional development plan (the Spatial Development Strategy or SDS). If there are further delays in preparing the SDS this will produce knock on delays with the Local Plan as it must be consistent with the SDS. Some of the delays with the SDS have been incurred because Michael Gove, the *Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities*, has indefinitely postponed Conservative plans to radically reform the planning system.

Councillor Toby Savage, the Conservative Leader of South Gloucestershire Council, has recently revealed that an initial version of WECA's SDS specified that a total of 37,000 homes may be earmarked for South Gloucestershire. This would be 9,000 more than the anticipated need for South Gloucestershire alone when calculated using the government's standard formula for housing demand.

South Gloucestershire Council could be required to deliver the additional 9,000 homes under the Duty to Cooperate. The Localism Act 2011 places a legal duty upon Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of development plan. It is not a statutory duty to agree but LPAs must make every effort to secure the necessary cooperation on strategic cross boundary matters before they submit their Local Plans for examination. LPAs must demonstrate how they have complied with the duty at the independent examination of their Local Plans in order for those plans to be successfully adopted.

Bus Service Cuts and Timetable Changes

The Government has announced that financial support provided under the Bus Recovery Grant (BRG) scheme will finish in October. The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) were notified by local bus operators of many service changes, coming into effect from Sunday 24th April 2022, as operators adjust to the government's announcement. Bus operators have provided the following update on the pressures they are experiencing:

In recent months we have experienced significant driver shortage across the West of England – we have seen increased numbers of leavers, due primarily to drivers being tempted into the HGV industry by significantly inflated wages for haulage companies (following the HGV crisis). [...] As well as increased leavers we also continue to experience driver sickness at approximately 9% (normally at this time of year this would be around 3%) some of which is COVID related.

Recruitment has also been significantly challenging in recent months. [...] With our current levels of attrition and sickness we are approximately 120 drivers short of our required establishment.

WECA will be supporting a number of bus services, using underspends from their 2021/22 budget, that would have been withdrawn for being commercially unviable. This includes the Y3 that serves Iron Acton and the Y5 that serves Westerleigh village. As the ongoing financial support from WECA cannot be guaranteed in the long term replacement services will be put out to tender at the end of August.

Y1 (Bristol)	Chipping Sodbury – Yate – Nibley – Coalpit Heath – Frenchay – Bristol Bus Station	Timetable amendment.
Y2 (Bristol)	Yate – Nibley – Coalpit Heath – Downend – Fishponds – Eastville - Bristol Bus Station	Service Withdrawn. Passengers can use services Y1, Y4, Y6, 86 and 680 an alternative.
Y3 (Bristol)	Yate – Iron Acton – Frampton Cotterell – Winterbourne – Hambrook – Bristol Bus Station	Timetable Changes: WECA is funding the full service as it is no longer commercially viable. It will include a replacement service within the tender round to start from 28 th August 2022.
Y4 (Bristol)	Yate – Nibley – Coalpit Heath – Frampton Cotterell – Winterbourne – Hambrook – Frenchay – Broomhill – Stapleton – Eastville - Bristol Bus Station	Route amendment, service will now terminate at Yate Park and Ride. Frequency reduction to every 90 minutes.
Y5 (Bristol)	Chipping Sodbury – Yate – Westerleigh – Pucklechurch – Shortwood – Mangotsfield – Staple Hill – Fishponds – Eastville – Bristol Bus Station	Timetable Change: WECA is funding the full service as it is no longer commercially viable. It will include a replacement service within the tender round to start from 28 th August 2022.
Y6 (Bristol)	Chipping Sodbury – Yate – Nibley – Coalpit Heath – Frampton Cotterell – Winterbourne – Stoke Gifford – Little Stoke – Patchway – Cribbs Causeway – Filton – Southmead Hospital	Timetable changes.

Appendix B



Parish Report from North Road Community Primary



April 2022

Over the past year, the staff of North Road Community Primary School have continued to work strategically to improve the outcomes for its pupils. We have been working within Covid Safety Risk Assessments and Outbreak Management Plans, which have impacted on the structure of the school day. They have, at times, provided increased challenges for staff and impacted on staff work load and well-being. The staff team at North Road are a close family and through supporting each other we have managed to keep all classes open to pupils. This has helped us to ensure that all pupils are both mentally and physically healthy and further disruption to learning kept to a minimum.

A Covid outbreak in November 2021 impacted 2/3 of the pupils in school. Staff worked tirelessly to provide both school based and on-line learning daily so that all pupils were able to access learning. A second Covid outbreak, which started in February 2022, put pressure on the staffing situation as 80% of the teaching and support staff were affected during Term 4. During this time we were still able to keep all classes open. This was only due to the dedication of the whole school team, many of whom worked additional days and took on a variety of new roles, in order that the school could remain open for our pupils so that pupils and families could continue to benefit from a level of normality and much needed routines could be maintained.

The Friends of North Road have also been very busy finding new and creative ways, within the safety restrictions of Covid, to keep fundraising for the school. This has included a Where's Roley and his Friends Trail around the local area, a Night Glow Outdoor Disco for pupils and an Outdoor Christmas Craft Market on the playground. Over the past few years they have provided new outdoor climbing equipment, refurbished the main school toilets, purchased new outdoor vehicles for EYFS and KS1 and provided each class with the funds to improve their classroom environments. They work closely with the School Council to find out what the pupils and school need as well as providing educational experiences and fun activities for the children themselves. Membership numbers have reduced since the start of the pandemic and FONR are always looking for new members of the local community who will be willing to join them in having fun and raising much needed funds for the school and its pupils.

In November 2021, the long-awaited traffic calming measures outside of the school and along a section of North Road were finally installed, following delays due to the Covid pandemic. This was something that the pupils, through School Council, had been campaigning about for many years.

November 2021 also saw the start of the re-roof of the staffroom and school kitchen by the Local Authority. These rooms have suffered for many years with rain water entering the building culminating in substantial areas of damp. Work on the roof has now been completed and we are awaiting confirmation of assistance to re plaster and decorate the damp and damaged internal walls.

During March 2022, we were involved in interviewing a potential Artist in Residence who will be working with the school during the next academic year. Molly Hawkins, a local Bristolian Artist, will be working on a new mural on the end of the school building as well as working with the pupils to develop the outdoor classroom space through art and design. This project is being funded by Cotswold Homes, who will be building in the local area, as part of their commitment to giving back to the local community and improving the environment through artwork.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, we have seen the number of pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals rise from 12% to 20%. The recent increase in pressures on the cost of living has had an impact on many North Road families. Thanks to the support of Lidl in Yate, we have been able to increase the size of our Community Food Bank with weekly collections from Lidl of donated store cupboard items. We now have many families who are relying on the North Road Community Food Bank, along-side the Yate Food Bank, in order to feed their children.

As a school, we have 105/105 children on roll. We have an additional pupil joining us this week from Ukraine who will be living with a school family under the Governments 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme. We have a substantial Pastoral Curriculum, including a Pastoral Lead, Sand Tray Play Therapist, an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and a Parent Support Advisor who will all be working closely along-side the pupil and her family members in order to provide emotional and physical support as well as the skills needed to access the academic curriculum.

We recently had confirmation of 60 applications for our September 2022 EYFS intake of 15 places with 28 of these being first place preferences. We are looking forward to meeting our new pupils and their families in the coming months.

Sarah Stillie, Headteacher, North Road Community Primary School

Appendix C

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School

Iron Acton Primary School currently has 101 pupils on role with the majority of year groups either full or oversubscribed. It employs 26 members of staff, some of whom are on multiple contracts, has a full complement of governors (16 in total) and a supportive and proactive parent body. A number of volunteers attend regularly to provide class-based support. As the school emerges from the past two years in a strong position, there is much to celebrate:

- We are a successful small school with sustainable pupil numbers; we are a popular choice for families within and outside of the parish
- Our pupils are happy to come to school and enjoy being part of our school community
- Our pupils make strong progress despite the disruption of the past two years
- Our school was judged Good by OFSTED in March 2018 and is due to be inspected again in the next two years; we are also judged to be Good by the church schools inspectorate
- We have a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with St James' Church; this was recently recognised by the Diocese through the award of the Church & School partnership award
- We were one of the first small schools in South Gloucestershire to form a federation with another school – Hawkesbury Primary School; this has enabled the school to be ready and prepared for present and future educational reform
- We have extensive outdoor spaces which are utilised to enrich the experience of our pupils and the curriculum we can provide

Our priorities over the past year have been to:

- Put systems in place to ensure pupils catch up after having missed school during pandemic; this includes use of initiatives such as the National Tutoring Programme
- Provide opportunities to improve physical and mental health both now and into the future
- Adapt and develop our curriculum offer so that all pupils have access to a strong and relevant curriculum which is tailored to help them understand and learn from their local community
- Further strengthen the governing body following its recent federation with Hawkesbury Primary School
- Develop leadership within the school to ensure sustainability into the future and for the profession

Iron Acton School is a positive place to be. We look forward to continuing to provide an enriching and enjoyable experience to our children, their families and the community over the course of the next year.

Appendix D

Floral Group
For Annual Meeting.
FLORAL GROUP

This year's planting of bulbs ,which was in the Parish Meadows , was successful and hopefully has added to peoples enjoyment of this space. Previous years plantings are also beginning to take.

Over the next year it is hoped to start a wild life pond in the Meadows and enlist the help of local children in it's creation.

Approximately 16 parishioners are involved with the group if anyone would like to join they can contact me on jrw@willetts.co.uk

John Wright

Appendix E

News and updates from Nibley lane Allotments:

We have been busy keeping the allotments tidy and are pleased with most of the site (big thanks to Phil who always cuts the grass for us). The bank outside the Allotment is being managed well and is planted out with a mixture of herbs, flowers and fruit bushes, it always draws comments from passers by on how nice it looks.

The surrounding periphery of the site has been planted up with Spring and summer bulbs which look amazing when in flower, and gets visited by the honey bees.

Refurbished the trading shed and the storage shed over the last year as they were looking a bit tired.

We are now holding a large list of people waiting to join the allotments (35) it would appear that more and more people want to 'grow their own'.

In addition the Cemetery wall has become unsafe due to ivy left growing in it – this has now forced the stone apart and it has become a danger. This now has to be re-built we have repaired the most dangerous bit but the rest of it will need to be looked at by the Parish council before it too falls down or falls on somebody.

Appendix F

Iron Acton Parish Hall – report for Parish Council AGM April 2022

Throughout the last couple of years the Covid pandemic has been the dominant feature for everyone. The committee were required to close the Parish Hall completely for a while which obviously caused financial concerns. We were very grateful to receive 3 grants from South Gloucestershire Council to help us through this period and we plan to use some of that funding to improve our toilet facilities.

The various restrictions we had to meet before the Hall could re-open safely were also very challenging. Many Hall users were understandably reluctant to return immediately to their pre-covid activities and whilst most of our regular hirers have eventually returned some have not, which is having a continuing financial effect.

Despite this our committee members have been determined to keep the Hall and it's grounds in excellent condition to make it attractive to regular and one off hirers for weddings, parties etc. We complete a regular review of the fabric of the Hall and it's decoration to ensure standards are maintained. We are grateful to the Parish Council for organising grass cutting throughout the summer months.

On a number of occasions recently, groups of people have met late at night in the Hall car park causing a nuisance with loud music and drinking alcohol. They have left behind glass bottles and other rubbish scattered around the car park after they've gone. We are grateful to Angela Smith (Rose House) who has volunteered to close the gates in the late evening when Hall users have left to deter these groups from returning again.

I am very grateful to the Hall Committee for all they do to ensure the Hall continues to provide excellent facilities for the village.

Sue Gadsby
Chair
Iron Acton Parish Hall

Appendix G

Iron Acton Film Club 2021/22

The 2021/22 season began at the height of COVID and we considered carefully if we could safely put on film nights, especially considering the age demographic of our membership. We asked some of our members, who were still keen to attend so decided to go ahead with a few COVID related changes.

Rather than arrange the seats in rows on the raised seating, we set up tables and chairs on the floor, enabling family groups to sit together, slightly isolated from others.

We also served refreshments during the interval to the tables to avoid the usual crush in the bar area and encouraged patrons to leave when the film ended rather than helping the committee clear away.

Unfortunately, we were unable to include a childrens' film in the afternoon as we felt this would be too much of a risk.

Attendances were markedly down for the first couple of shows, but picked up after Christmas and everyone seemed pleased to be there.

With the reduced numbers attending, and a reduction in the membership fee, we sustained a small loss over the season but we have built up reserves and are still viable.

We fully intend to be back for the 2022/23 season (COVID willing) and hope to see you all then.

Simon Cross
Chair