

**MINUTES of the Meeting of Islip Parish Council**  
**Islip Village Hall**  
**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**1/09 Present:** Mr J Colebrooke, Mrs E Henebery, Mr K Milner, Dr J Sargent, Mrs J Stephenson, Mr R Venables, Mr T Hallchurch [CDC, OCC], Mr M Wilkinson (Clerk)

**2/09 Apologies:** Mr M Coleman

**3/09 The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008** had been circulated and were approved and signed.

**4/09 Matters arising from the minutes:** there were none.

**5/09 Changes in Members' interests and declarations of personal or prejudicial<sup>1</sup> interest:** Mr Venables declared a personal interest in the planning applications for River Willows.

**6/09 District and County Council Report:** Mr Hallchurch apprised the Council of the general concerns of OCC and CDC, the most pressing of which is the reduction in interest on funds on deposit compared with budget. This will be partly offset by a likely reduction in the cost-of-living awards to be paid to council employees compared with budget. It is likely that planning permission will be given by CDC for the commercial combustion of household waste, but the decision on a site or sites has not been made. Mr Hallchurch pointed out that the planning application will be decided purely on planning policy; the question of emissions falls outside this, and is a matter for the Environment Agency, although Mr Hallchurch is personally convinced after much research and visits to operation sites, that emissions from modern facilities are not a problem.

**7/09 Financial Matters: 1. Budget '09-10:** it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mrs Stephenson, and decided *nem con* that the Council grant a "tax holiday" for '09-10, i.e. that there should be no precept. If the tax base [households eligible for tax] for '09-10 remains at or close to the '08-9 level of 320, this will save each village household more than £46 in '09-10. **2. Value-for-money Review - emoluments to the Clerk:** the Chairman proposed and it was agreed *nem con* that the Clerk remain in the council chamber for this item. Mr Milner reported that a sub-committee of councillors (Coleman, Milner, and Stephenson) had carried out a review of emoluments to the Clerk. The review had been recommended by the Clerk as good practice; the Council carries out from time to time value-for-money review of contracts of a similar value. The review discovered that payment to local clerks in a similar situation varies from £2.5K p.a. to £6K p.a., so that Islip pays at the lower end of the scale. What is difficult to determine is the level of hours worked and the quality of input. Mr Milner reported that the sub-committee wished to maintain the current basic salary level (which increases each year in line with the RPI), but that at the end of each year a modest bonus might be paid to the current Clerk in recognition of the quality of input. It was agreed *nem con* that this proposal be adopted, and that the level of this *ad hominem* bonus be recommended to the Council at the end of each financial year by a sub-committee: for '08-9, the sub-committee will consist of councillors Coleman, Milner, and Stephenson.

**8/09 Administrative Matters: 1. PC Website:** Mr Coleman was not present to report, but councillors reported that the central website is operational and a great success.

**9/09 Highways and footpaths: 1. Hedges:** the Chairman reported that the hedge along Church Lane and The Rise has been trimmed. **2. New lay-by Bletchingdon Road:** the Clerk reported that CDC had confirmed that condition 1 covering review of permission for 03/00415/F 30 had been observed by CDC; that CDC wish to be advised if the lay-by is treated as a commercial parking space; and that CDC had not been consulted on the construction of the lay-by because such matters are decided by OCC. The Chairman reported that OCC had passed him a copy of the single item of correspondence covered by the Freedom of Information Act; this is already in the possession of the Council. In addition to his (which invited the Chairman to visit the site at two days' notice when the chairman was abroad), it has been discovered that the work was sought and paid for by Mr Bell of Bletchingdon Road. The Council agreed that it is unlikely that the verge is to be restored, but wishes to make it clear that verges in the village should not be sacrificed without reference to the PC. It was agreed that the Chairman is to draft a letter to CDC, with copies to OCC and to Mr Bell, Bletchingdon Road, the latter to be delivered personally by Mr Colebrooke. **3. Memorial Trees:** the Clerk reported that he had written to the agents of the Church Commissioners to propose an avenue of memorial trees leading from Mill Street to the bridge at the Stank. Strutt and Parker had replied 5.1.09 that the Commissioners *do not wish to delineate the permissive path with an avenue of trees or any type of sporadic tree planting on their ownership.*

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<sup>1</sup> "one in which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest"

**10/09 PC Properties: 1. Play area:** Mr Venables reported that the playground is near completion, and that a proper opening is set for January 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. Invitees include Malcolm Conaught (Deputy Lord Lieutenant and Chairman of OPFA), Philip Rolls (CDC and Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment), Roger Davies (OPFA), and Judith McInerny, Richard Brookes, and Anthony Bibbings, all of whom were extensively involved in the Millennium Festival and the original boat-building. **2. New Burial Ground:** Mr Colebrooke reported that there is nothing to report. **3. Bare licences to Collice Street properties:** the Chairman and the Clerk had consulted the documentation since the previous meeting. It is the case that bare licences (if issued) will in fact relate to three properties in Collice Street; Mr Venables is to enquire as to how the demarcation line might be marked - as a preliminary to the issue of licences.

**129/08 Planning: 1. Ecotown:** the Chairman noted that the Weston Otmoor proposal has not yet been formally rejected. However, councillors are now to consider what possibilities there might be in the village for low-cost housing and/or sheltered accommodation. **2. Planning Applications:** Mrs Henebery reported on the following current applications:

| Address   | Decision   |
|---|--|
| 10, Kidlington road – rear dormer windows   | CDC approved   |
| 5, Middle street – trees  | CDC approved   |
| Riverbank cottage, Collice Street – change rear elevation from render to stone          | CDC approved   |
| River Willows – convert existing offices and stores to residential dwelling 08/02560/LB | PC objection: over-development of site; site subject to flooding |
| River Willows – convert existing offices and stores to residential dwelling 08/02517/F  | PC objection: over-development of site; site subject to flooding |

**11/09 Environment: Village-wide wireless internet access:** Mr Colebrooke noted that individuals can gain wireless access to the internet by means of the wireless telephone network.

**12/09 Health and Education:** Mr Coleman was not present to report.

**13/09 Village Hall:** Mr Milner reported that a burglar alarm ad been installed at the Village Hall.

**14/09 Any other business**

**15/09 Date next meeting:** the next meeting is on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009**