

**MINUTES of the Meeting of Islip Parish Council  
Islip Village Hall  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**16/09 Present:** Mr M Coleman, 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)

**17/09 Apologies:** none

**18/09 The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009** had been circulated and were approved and signed.

**19/09 Matters arising from the minutes:** there were none.

**20/09 Changes in Members' interests and declarations of personal or prejudicial<sup>1</sup> interest:** Mrs Henebery declared an interest in the item on the Mill Lane sign .

**21/09 District and County Council Report:** Mr Hallchurch reminded the Council that it is likely that planning permission will be given by CDC for the commercial combustion of household waste, and that the question of emissions falls outside this, and is a matter for the Environment Agency. The Chairman noted that several such facilities in Europe had been closed down because of failure to meet emissions requirements.

**22/09 Financial Matters: 1. Budget '09-10:** the Chairman reported media interest in the decision to grant a "tax holiday" for '09-10, i.e. that there should be no precept. Articles had appeared in the Oxford Mail and Oxford Times, and in the Times. The Chairman had been interviewed for local radio and television. The Council congratulated the Chairman on his composure. **2. Value-for-money Review - emoluments to the Clerk:** Mr Milner reported that in accordance with the Council's decision in January 2008, a sub-committee of councillors (Coleman, Milner, and Stephenson) now recommended that £250 be paid to the current Clerk each year in December *ad hominem*; payment to be retrospective to December 2007. This was agreed *nem con*.

**23/09 Administrative Matters: 1. PC Website:** Mr Coleman reported that the website is operational, and suggested that the Council might wish to exploit the possibility of commercial advertising. It was agreed that care would have to be taken not to threaten advertising in the Parish News. Councillors Henebery and Stephenson agreed to bring proposals to the next meeting. **2. Clerk's PC:** the Clerk reported that his PC is currently inoperative.

**24/09 Highways and footpaths: 1. New lay-by Bletchingdon Road:** the Chairman reported that CDC had inspected the lay-by as a spot-check on compliance with planning permission for the garage. Mr Colebrooke reported that he had by hand delivered to Mr Bell a copy of the Council's latest letter to CDC. Mr Bell had confirmed that there had been hard standing where there is now a lay-by. **2. Dog fouling:** Mr Venables reported that a villager had asked him to raise the matter of the increasing incidence of dog-fouling – on the Recreation Ground (including the slope leading to the play area), the Millennium Walk, the Church Lane pavement, in the churchyard, and across the road from the Dr South's School. The Chairman had written to CDC. The CDC response had been very positive, and is to be taken further. **3. Chiltern Railways:** the Chairman reported that he had contacted Chiltern Railways about the proposals for the railway. CR had replied that its aims are

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"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"

- restore the Oxford to Bicester line to dual track including new safety systems
- rebuild Islip station with two platforms
- more convenient travel to London from north Oxon
- fast and frequent commuter services Oxford/Islip/Bicester
- link Oxford to High Wycombe
- improve Bicester Town station
- additional track and platforms at Oxford station
- multi-modal interchange station at Water Eaton
- supplement existing Bicester North/Marylebone services
- trains every half-hour London/Oxford; all trains to call at Bicester Town, Water Eaton Parkway; some will also call at Islip

Representatives of the company are to address the Council at 8.30 p.m. at the next meeting. **4. Mill Lane sign:** the Chairman reported that traffic now frequently diverts from the Kidlington Road down Mill Lane; satellite navigation systems appear not to flag up the crossing or the single-lane road. Very nearly all traffic turns back on sight of the crossing, but this has led so far to three known incidents of vehicles backing into the cottage at the crossing, but inconvenience only to the many pedestrians who use the lane. The Chairman had added a sign “crossing closed” to the traffic sign for the level crossing at the opening of Mill Lane, and noted that the highways authority might object. The Council approved the Chairman’s action.

**25/09 PC Properties: 1. Play area:** Mr Venables reported that the playground is now in intensive use. He reported the financial position: of the £50K or so cost of the playground, the PC will have to meet some £3K to £4K. The Council thanked and congratulated Mr Venables for his management of the project, including its financial aspects. Mr Venables reported that the OPFA wishes to hold its annual meeting 21.10.09 in the Village Hall, and intends to light the playground using a portable generator. **2. New Burial Ground:** the Chairman reported the generous offer by Mr Brian Henman of twenty young yew trees. Mr Colebrooke will collect the trees, and their siting will be decided by the Burial Ground Committee. **3. Bare licences to Collice Street properties:** Mr Venables reported that he had confirmed ownership and apprised the owners of the properties of the Council’s wishes, and will now enquire as to how the demarcation line might be marked prior to the issue of licences.

**26/09 Planning: 1. Planning Applications:** Mrs Henebery reported that there are no current applications. **2. Greystones - Appeal to the Secretary of state for Communities and Local Government:** the Chairman reported that the owners of Greystones, a listed building, are to appeal against listed building enforcement notice for an alleged breach of planning control. The Council agreed that it would not make a submission on the matter.

**27/09 Environment:** Mr Colebrooke had nothing to report.

**28/09 Health and Education:** Mr Coleman reported that the school continues with a full calendar of fund raisers and community involvement.

**29/09 Village Hall:** Mr Milner had nothing to report.

**30/09 Any other business: 1. Post Office:** the Chairman reported that he continues to seek an alternative arrangement for a weekly post office service. **2. Fire Service:** Mr Milner reported that he left his details with the fire service expressing an interest in a visit to speak to the village on fire alarms; he awaits a response.

**31/09 Date next meeting:** the next meeting is on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009**