

Impington Parish Council Environment & Burial Ground Committee

Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday 2nd December 2008 7.30 p.m.

held at The Parish Office, New Road, Impington

Present: Cllrs P J Nudds (Chairman), H S Abdullah, D W Payne

Mr T W Silk; Ms A Conder, Tree Warden Clerk: Mrs A Young Pages: 3 + In Committee

Action By Cllrs:

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr M V Cope (working). Standing orders suspended

2. Members Declarations of Interest

None

3. To Sign and Approve Minutes 2 October 2008

All in favour and to be signed as a true record

4. Matters Arising

H&S Assessments Clerk and Cllr G Payne due to carry out shortly

GSP

Byelaws No progress since at Parish Council, no response made to recent consultation

Seat at The Coppice To be ordered with 2009 date, Clerk to choose supplier

Outstanding matters Clerk and Chairman to draw up

PJN

Burial Ground Sarah Smart had been working on quotes for water supply, now not available to work for 2 months, not categorised as urgent; Flail to be done w/c 1 December

5. Spend v Budgets

Review of expected spend against budget made

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expect Spend</u>	<u>Under/overspend</u>
Litter Pick	3721	3721	0
Trade Waste	460	480	+ 20
Street Furniture	3620	830	- 2790

(inc seats, bus shelters, public art). County Council had ceased scheme to pay half towards bus shelters as planned, no public art costs yet to hand. Cllr Nudds to progress public art costs for presentation Feb 09. £500 budgeted, NIAB contribution to be chased)

PJN

Drainage/ditch	500	0	- 500
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(Volunteers/Probationers had done much work on this). Chairman anxious to keep budget in for such works in future as not guaranteed.

Grass Cut	3037	3365	+ 328
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(Query on possible double invoice payment. Noted CCC grant of £1383 received)

Trees & Hedges	5000	190	- 4810
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(All other tree costs unknown, but various vulnerable areas noted)

Street Lights	500	500	0
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Environment Vols	372	400	+ 28
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(Chairman would make sure relevant expenses claimed by year end)

PJN

Other	1290	520	- 770
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(Bulbs, planting schemes, H&S, gate, handyman costs) – Gate for Doctors Close not progressed, may yet be spent

Equipment Hire	0	180	+ 180 (to be vired)
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Open Spaces	500 (+ £1,000 ringfenced)	60	- 440
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Noting something close to a 40% underspend, Chairman explained the Committee had saved more than expected on volunteer labour (including hedge trim), bus shelter had not been accepted under MHIS; tree works had not progressed as hoped, but may yet do. All noted that Environment Committee had asked for £24,000 last precept, were allocated £20,000 and were currently showing expected expenditure of, say, £10,000. Agreed contingency should not be an Environment Committee budget, rather general reserves be available for such need. Agreed to investigate professional surveys for Coppice and Copse now, up to £1,000 spend (**Allison Conder** to approach SCDC for advice). See also agenda item 7. Agreed to budget for a bus shelter (see agenda item 12 b/f) next year. Choice of Milton Road (if bus service returns), Cambridge Road, Station Road outside Whaling Commission.

Agreed to an article in newsletter to gauge need for stop near to Whaling Commission, as a preference. Agreed:

Grass Cutting (see agenda item 13 b/f). Suggestion of increase in verges cut to 8 from 6, possibly an increase of £800 on annual cost. Agreed Cllr Nudds and Trevor Silk to meet Buchans to discuss this and other final details before signing 3 year contract, to include Burial Ground work **TWS/PJN**
Gatekeepers Hut noted funding may be required from other Environment budgets, vired for this purpose

Burial Ground Budgets largely running to plan

Figures for precept agreed, via 3 year plan. Burial Ground figures to be based on normal expenses, plus full tree survey; to move tree in line of footpaths; footpath quotes to be obtained to gauge ringfenced sum to be set aside

6. SCDC and CCC Issues

SCDC: Christmas Waste collection, arrangements unaffected; The Dole footpaths and hedgerow/Homefield and Hereward Close area grounds maintenance issues, Cllr Nudds had obtained digital maps showing ownership. Works and grant funding progressing.; Odour Nuisance reports, roof to tank applied for. Premier Brands had written to nearby neighbours; Dog bin issues, SCDC were providing red bins, Impington PC had always had preference for green. Problems with graffiti and size discussed. Agreed to write to SCDC requesting replacement in green and requesting a larger bin in Mill Lane as frequently overflowing

CCC: Walkabout 2008, Cllr Nudds reported Matt Pickering was carrying out jobs agreed including:

- B1049 flailed
- Rose & Crown railings painted
- Bollards replaced

Parish Paths Partnership (P3) 2009/10, details noted. No action required; Street Lamp removal of redundant columns, still some duplicates, but Cllr Bradney aware

7. Tree Wardens Report

Tree Works applications Continued to be reported to Planning Committee

Commemorative Tree Planting 3 trees planted outside Holiday Inn, one to commemorate 27 years on Council for Trevor Silk, 2 others to form an avenue into the village (3 delivered for 1 charge). All agreed to purchase pack of LED powered lights to put in trees on opposite verge for Christmas, up to £50. Discussion on possibility of Christmas tree on slabbed area on B1049 at Coppice in future years
Horse Chestnuts, Clay Close Lane Cllr Nudds suggested felling the 2 trees to benefit others on the site, due to overcrowding. Sapling oaks available to plant nearby.

Hazel in Coppice Cllr Nudds suggested coppicing. All agreed to spend within budget (£250 suggested cost for horse chestnuts, £150 for hazel) **subject to approval of Tree Warden** following site visit
5 trees in Copse No progress as yet. Tree Warden confirmed work was essential, all agreed to delegate to Clerk and **Chairman** to get work done, within overall Environment Committee budgets
Tree works adjacent to 7 The Coppice Clerk and **Chairman** to get work in hand as soon as possible
Copse (Histon Football Club Holdings) Agreed to include in survey agreed agenda item 5 **AC**
Copse – Guided Busway Compulsory Purchase Order – offer of compensation received. Agreed to continue to negotiate for increased amount

SCDC Agreed Cllr Nudds and Trevor Silk to contact Dist Cllr Chatfield with issues regarding non-response for Trees & Landscape Department

TWS/PJN

8. Chairman's Report

Homefield Park Friends launched

Environment Volunteers had been working hard. Next group due to help in Brook Working Party 10 January 2009. Grant funding to be allocated for work at Clay Close Lane £300.

Copse – Anglian Water Cllr Nudds to meet Anglian Water representative re re-instatement issues 4/12
Greening Campaign funding request had been withdrawn

Gatekeepers Hut No information yet on possible grant funding opportunities, Cllr Cope to investigate. Possible virement agreed Item 5

MVC

9. Playground Inspector's Report

NIAB fence now installed. Mr Smith reported each week following inspection

10. HICCA / 11. Parish Partners

Cllr Payne described meetings and discussions held. Energy & Climate Change approach to all Parish Councils “prepared to offer or find time and commitment to make a tangible difference to local energy conservation and efficiency”. SCDC had £200,000 to spend on “Carbon Footprint” items. Members discussed their own Environmental Statement and Plan set up and noted the need for minimal impact on the Council’s other work, but without jeopardising the project. Cllrs Nudds and Payne to talk to Ken Doyle regarding how HICCA’s expertise could be utilised. SCDC to be advised that IPC interested in engaging with this work

DWP/PJN

12. Bus Shelter

Dealt with under item 5

13. Grass Cutting

Dealt with under item 5. Cllr Nudds and Trevor Silk to attempt to liaise with Buchans on litter picking schedules in the village

TWS/PJN

14. Other Reports and Correspondence Received

CPRE “Stop The Drop” Campaign details; Various brochures and Reports

15. Burial Ground Report

Quote for work to provide screen for trade waste bin, and screen for compost area, spec agreed between Groundsman, Litter Picker and Site & Maintenance at £425. Some concern over lifespan of willow hurdles. Suggestion of hedge to be planted in addition to hurdles for long term screen. Agreed Cllr Nudds and Clerk to progress work by Site & Maintenance, maximum £500

PJN

Quotes for tree works to Prunus rear of 7 Spring Close. Agreed to accept quote for 2 trees, at £170 from Richardsons Trees

Allotment Report One plot given up, to offer to next on list. Fence needs possible replacement. Committee to write to landowners locally regarding any possibility of negotiation for accessible parcels of land to provide new allotments for the community.

“In Committee” – Employment – To agree amount of hours to be offered to Burial Ground Groundsman in view of new arrangement from 2009 for contractor to maintain part of grassed area, held “In Committee”, As per standing order 67, in view of the confidential nature of business about to be transacted, any public were temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw. Ms Conder and Mr Silk left meeting

Next meeting 3 February 2009 (additional to planned), then 24 March. Agreed to meet more often if required, dates to be set at meeting 3 February.

Meeting closed 10.05 p.m.

“In Committee”

Burial Ground - Employment – To agree amount of hours to be offered to Burial Ground Groundsman in view of new arrangement from 2009 for contractor to maintain part of grassed area

In order to contain costs of grass cut going to contract, Clerk suggested 16 hours p.w. November – February be reduced to 14 p.w. and 20 hours p.w. March – October be reduced to 17 hours p.w.

Clerk to meet Groundsman to offer these hours, with 18 to be maximum hours in summer if not acceptable. As before attendance at funeral to pay an additional hour.

Meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.