

# INGLETON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Ingleton.

### Present:

Councillors: S Leech (Chair); P Hunton (Vice-Chair); I Cartwright; P Humble and  
M Vickers  
Visitors: Two (2) visitors  
Clerk: J Mead

### Apologies for Absence: Councillor: J Pressley

This absence was accepted by Chair and Members.

Prior to commencement of the meeting Cllr Leech, as Chairman, reminded Members and visitors that the meeting would be conducted under the Council's agreed meeting procedures.

### 3 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made to the meeting.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

A fifteen minute discussion period for members of the public to raise questions and/or concerns ensued.

### 4 Co-option of Parish Councillor

The Chairman reported that, after months of there being a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, and having published the regulatory advertisement of the position, a volunteer had come forward to fill the post. Prior to naming the person the Chairman asked whether anyone else in the audience wished to make a further nomination or volunteer themselves. There being no further nominations offered the Chairman welcomed Mr Alfred Mead as the new Member of the Parish Council for Ingleton.

### 5 Clerk's report on actions taken since previous meeting

#### Road Traffic Control at Springwell Junction

Further discussions ensued following the lack of any resolution to the dangers of exiting Springwell by car onto the main road through the village. One visitor also raised the issues of other egresses within the village and the parking of cars by home owners living on the main road near to the entrances. It was agreed that no laws were being broken by such parking and the road markings were following the legal requirements so little could be done to address the situation on that basis. The Clerk is to seek further advice from the Durham County Council and a question is to be raised on this matter at the PACT meeting scheduled to take place in the Village Hall on 1 December.

#### Public Footpaths

The Clerk reported she was finalising details of which parish footpaths would be covered with regard to the grant funding available from Durham County Council and would have details ready for the grant application before the next meeting of Ingleton Parish Council.

#### Non-appearance of Post Office Van

Members advised that this was not the first unexpected, yet protracted, absence of the Post Office mobile unit to this village where some residents depend heavily on their services but that, because there was no penalty for the service being removed, there was expected to be very little done to ensure the services were continuously in place. The Clerk reported she would contact the Post Office where the van is based to ask if she could receive notification of any expected absences in the future. She will also contact the editor of the Parish Pump to ask whether his readers would like to send, via email, their permission for the Parish Council to hold their contact details in order to effect a notification service of such absences by the Post Office.

Chairman's Signature .....

### Siting of WW1 Plaque

Members and visitors agreed that the WW1 Memorial Plaque, affixed by Cllr Leech to the Memorial Stone sited in the centre of the village, was sited most appropriately and looked well, especially when, in November, the ‘Tommies’ were also in situ.

### Installation of a Smart Meter in Jubilee Field Pavilion

Cllr Mead reported that, as a favour to the Parish Council, he had been on site in the Pavilion when the smart meter had been installed on 16 October 2019 and that it was in full working order. He further reported that because the meter was reading such small measures of power use, it would not be giving a read out on savings to the Parish Council.

- 6 a) **Public Participation:** Comments on agenda items  
No comments were made.
- b) **Public Participation:** Any other business.  
No items raised.

## **STRATEGIC BUSINESS:**

Issues of strategic importance that require priority attention.

### 7 **Precept 2020/2021**

The Chairman advised that this item was on the agenda in order to discuss what rates of increase, if any, would be used in the calculation for the 2020/21 precept.

In the ensuing discussions for the size of precept a visitor suggested that it should be sufficient enough to cover the removal of weeds in the kerbside as the village was left untidy in this matter. During the ensuing debate where the access to the kerbs being hampered by parked cars making such weed control less effective was acknowledged, some Members voiced their belief that the village was not unduly overrun by weeds and it was decided that Members could not justify raising the precept when weed control was already the responsibility of Durham County Council.

The Chairman reported that the statement of accounts highlighted purchases not included in last year’s planning e.g. campaign to reduce dog faeces pollution; increased utilities costs for cricket pitch improvements; additional grass cuts and agricultural machinery costs. This bringing an overspend of £882 the Chairman suggested options for calculating the 2020/21 funding. 1. Proceed with the projected figure set out which could potentially leave us £500 in deficit of the precept amount. 2. Raise the sum to enable a balance of funding to expected expenditure, or 3. Increase the precept in order for a reserve of money be in place to accommodate unexpected expenses. The Chairman highlighted the fact that the precept for Ingleton is one of the lowest within the County.

### **Proposal**

The Chairman proposed that there be an uplift in the precept to incorporate a small surplus in order to maintain the principles for self-contained funding whilst continuing to seek grant funding for purchases and VAT refunding to best manage future financial strategies.

**Proposed by: Cllr Leech    Seconded: Cllr Humble    Vote: Unanimous approval.**

The Chairman is to draft a table showing a proposed precept figure and submission will be discussed at the January 2020 meeting of the Ingleton Parish Council.

### 8 **National Tree Planting Week & Grant Application**

Owing to a local resident’s dog damaging a number of trees in Jubilee Field and the report from a tree surgeon that some, if not all, could die, the Chairman reported he had taken the opportunity to contact Durham County Council and applied for a grant to fund replacement trees. The grant awarded towards the total cost of £268 was the sum of £150, leaving a cost to Ingleton Parish Council of £118 (plus any additional costs for the siting and protection of the trees).

Chairman’s Signature .....

**Proposal**

The Chairman proposed that four trees be purchased and planted within the borders of Jubilee Field

**Proposed by: Cllr Leech    Seconded: Cllr Vickers    Vote: Unanimous approval.**

The Chairman is to arrange for the purchase of the trees and Members will liaise at a future date in order to further the project.

**9    Planting of Wild Flowers on grass verges near to village boundaries**

Following a written enquiry from a resident who suggested further planting of flowers, and possibly wild flowers to encourage endangered species of insect, Members agreed to the future planting of bulb plants such as daffodils and crociii which would allow for further flowers without any required future overseeing and/or management. The 2020/21 precept is to contain projected costs for bulbs and a decision on when planting to be done will be made at a future parish council meeting.

**10    IPC Diary of Meetings**

Members discussed the rescheduling of future meetings to be bi-monthly. Reasoning for this was that: legally, the council would still be convening more than the legal requirement of the minimum of three meetings per year plus the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting; that matters arising were well able to be discussed effectively and actioned on such a timescale; electronic communications and the website allowed for timely communication and that any urgent matters could engender an ‘ad hoc’ meeting being called.

**Proposal**

The Chairman proposed that future meetings should be scheduled on a bi-monthly basis beginning from January 2020.

**Proposed by: Cllr Leech    Seconded: Cllr Humble    Vote: Unanimous approval.**

**11    IPC Website**

Members discussed the design and updating of the website as it was reported that the original web designers are not now in business so there is a real danger of losing the webpage altogether. This being the case it was suggested that the Clerk, plus a member of the IDCA and possibly a web designer, be asked to meet to discuss what we could possibly do for the future. Clerk to contact IDCA for comment.

**ROUTINE BUSINESS:**

**12    Minutes of the last meeting:**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Ingleton Parish Council Meeting dated 25 September 2019.

**Amendment:** Agenda item 17. Second paragraph should read, ‘The Council was asked for an update on the speed advice signs mentioned in previous meetings and Cllr Cartwright reported that the project was moving forward and approval was only required from one more group of people before work could begin.

**Proposal**

With the exception of the amendment detailed above, which will be presented for signature at the next meeting, the Chairman asked Members to accept the Minutes of the Meeting dated 25 September 2019.

**Proposed by: Cllr Leech    Seconded: Cllr Humble    Vote: Unanimous approval.**

Chairman’s Signature .....

**13 IPC Finances**

VAT claimed in November 2019 = £949.71 bringing the annual total to £4272.38.  
One more claim will be made in March 2020.

Invoices paid in October and November:

Grasscutting	£528.00	Parish manual	£ 47.50
Clerk’s salary	£485.16	Tree treatments	£ 29.21
Eon	£ 36.96	Clerk training	£350.00
Wave Water	£ 45.45		

**Proposal**

That the statement of accounts reported be approved.

**Proposed by: Cllr Leech    Seconded: Cllr Hunton    Vote: Unanimous approval.**

**14 Pavilion and Field Working Group (PFWG)**

Cllr Vickers reported a need for the pavilion to be updated with suggested quarry tiles in the ladies’ toilet and remedial treatment for the walls in the gents toilet. Towel holders are also required and, as there is a future booking for its hire for a wedding event, the work needs to be factored in for the near future.

**LOCAL MAINTENANCE / VILLAGE ISSUES**

**15 Picnic Table repair in Jubilee Field**

Cllr Mead to repair the leg of the picnic table.

**16 Storage of Field Roller**

Suggestions for a more suitable site, or cover, for the field roller was discussed as the tarpaulin in situ at present is not standing up to the elements. Resiting was not deemed the most appropriate response to the problem of winter cover and an excellent supplier of custom made covers for such use was named but, as the machine is the property of the cricket team, it was suggested that this was not for the Parish Council to arrange. Matter to be raised at the Council’s January meeting.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

17. Cllr Cartwright reported that he would be taking a lead position in the organisation of the Village Fayre for 2020.

Cllr Cartwright also reported that speed advice signs are to be placed on the kerbsides of the village in an effort to reduce the amount of speeding traffic on the 30mph roads.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Ingleton

**Joyce Mead  
Parish Clerk  
3 Rayson Court  
Ingleton  
DL2 3JQ**

clerk.ingletonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Chairman’s Signature .....