

Inwardleigh Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall on

Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 8:00pm

Present: Cllr. Timms, (Chair), Cllr Dennis, (vice- chair), Cllr Ions, Cllr Hooper, Cllr King, and Cllr T.Leech with Cllr Dexter both (DTC), Mrs Clarke (Clerk). No members of the public

01/09/23 **Apologies for absence** - received from Cllr Piddington

02/09/23 **Declarations of interest** for items on the agenda none

03/09/23 **Public participation period** - no public attended.

04/09/23 **Reports from District Councillors** - Cllr Dexter and Cllr Leech.

New alliance at district level. Priority, as in Housing and Environment. Cllr Dexter mentioned homelessness in Devon. What should the council be doing?

Housing survey, so local housing is justified by the housing need, so what is the housing need? Cllr Dexter wants to know what the communities think.

Cllr Dexter wants to know our opinions. Rural parishes being very different. The district council will start to combine all the responses as soon as possible.

Cllr Dennis mentioned a strategic report which resulted in 10 houses being listed along with Cllr Leech answering the figures on social housing. Cllr Dexter mentioned that s106 isn't being abided with. Cllr Leech referred to this parish being deemed to be sustainable village and due to that developers came in and put in plans. Therefore 23 houses were allowed. The discussion continued.

This village is deemed to be sustainable as we have services into Okehampton.

Cllr Leech pointed out the difference in funding between towns and rural communities. Mention was made of community land trusts. Some councils are buying private housing for their housing needs. Okehampton have purchased 5 houses for Ukarian people. Cllr King raised the aspect of funding education and how schools etc. are less well funded if they are in a rural location.

Cllr Leech mentioned the changes in the council tax reduction scheme and also universal credit and how it affects disabled people.

05/09/23 **Minutes of the last meeting of Wednesday 19th July 2023** were approved and signed by the chairwoman

06/09/23 **Matters arising:-**

Speed watch update - The chair apologised and Cllr Leech indicated only 6 people attended and provided an update on the situation, the coordinator is Okehampton Hamlets.

Western Web is missing their cheque, a new one has been re-issued to be sent.

Budget - councillors will discuss in November, the clerk to prepare and the council can dismiss or approve accordingly with consideration to the current economic climate. Cllr Leech indicated that WBBC is capped and this may be passed on.

Street lighting issue, raised by an Chardstock parish council. How many street lights do we have and are they switched off after midnight? Would we want to change ours? Cllr Leech indicated that its council policy to turn them off. Chardstock indicate DCC don't address this, Cllr Leech believes they do as part of the carbon plan. Cllr Dennis indicated the council had refused our request for more lighting.

07/09/23 Updates on matters from the last meeting.

Insurance, an update was provided by the clerk, Mr. Gee is looking at the various quotes available. Consideration given to splitting the insurance for buildings away from the council insurance policy - Zurich.

Internet - ultra fast full fibre is not available. Cllr King provided an update as Airband needs to move the main pole, then once moved, normal service should be resumed. Timescales unknown. Cllr Dennis pointed out that Airband is an expensive service. The cabinet which serves us has been upgraded, but not the lines from it. Cllr Hooper indicated a new service is being started, Wildanet, which is meant to bring in internet for rural services.

Banking transfer - clerk updated the council on the current situation. Followed up with Lloyds, who have indicated a new card wont be here until the end of September. Clerk will move funds slowly. Clerk has generated a letter to NatWest to close the reserve account once the funds are transferred.

Bridges - Both have been repaired. Cllr Leech indicated about pot holes, Cllr Dennis indicated about another which hasn't been repaired. Four crossways sign at Inwardleigh is missing. Prism lane, still requires attention.

06/09/23 Planning

2275/23/HHO - Application to instal a greenhouse at Waterhouse Farm, EX20 3BE - no objections. Cllr Dennis provided full details.

updates - were provided on the others, by Cllr Dennis. There is a site visit on one application where Cllr Dennis will attend, at 11.30am on the 28th September. Cllr Leech indicated this will be sent to the full planning committee normally this is due to planning regulations. A discussion was held on this matter.

07/09/23 Finance

- Cheques were signed for Western Web, HMRC, Wages etc.
- Bank letters and documents were approved and signed.
- The clerk indicated that there is a software change for PAYE.

- Receipts from WDBC - the precept was discussed as this has been moved into the new bank account. Clerk indicated the approximate amounts in the bank due to the missing statements due to backlog by the postal service.

08/09/23 Matters brought forward by the Chairman - none

09/09/23 Matters brought forward by Councillors - Mr. M. Packhams Yard, the hedges are infringing on the road, needing to be cut back, the clerk to write a letter. Cllr Ions has been contacted about Abbeyford Woods and the buildings in them, other councillors suggested contacting the historical archives for the information being sought. Alternatively contact Ken Williams as he is the local historian.

10/09/23 Correspondence -

Sgt Ottley - will attend the November meeting. Cllr Leech updated the council on the new requirements for how they will deal with their paperwork and the failure by people to report crimes in effect distorting the crime figures per year. Okehampton police station will be re-opened to the public later this year.

Field Ownership information that has been requested, has been discussed and the Councillors believe the writer is correct in their approaches but the council can not do anything further than the land registry does. One of the fields may have been sold.

11/09/23 The date of next meeting is the 15th November 2023

12/09/23 Part 1 meeting closed at: 21:28

Part II **EXEMPT SESSION**
Confidential Matters (PART II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2) The public and press are requested to leave the meeting.

13/09/23 Removal of a clause in the contract of employment was unilaterally removed. A review of the clerks wages was carried out and monthly work from home allowance discussed. Filca training was agreed, the costs of which to be split between Shobrooke PC and Inwardleigh PC

14/09/23 Close of Meeting Part II at 21:42

_____ Chair

_____ Dated