



MINUTES OF THE ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th May 2026 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: K Goldie (Chairman), E Furr, R Blake (Vice Chairman), S Gamble, R Day.

OFFICER IN ATTENDANCE: Steven Patmore - Parish Clerk/RFO

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor L Peace, County Councillor D Barnard.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: None (0)

214. **Apologies for Absence**

214.1 Apologies received from Cllr P Seal, Cllr M Jones.

Unanimously approved

215. **Chairman's Notice**

215.1 The Parish Council's policy for openness and transparency was read out by Cllr Goldie.

216. **Declaration of Interests CLLR GAMBLE Agenda Item 221.4**

216.1 No written requests for dispensation for declarable interests were received.

None

216.2 No written requests for granting of requests for dispensation were not applicable.

216.3 No request for dispensation as appropriate.

217. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

217.1 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th April 2026.

Proposed Cllr Blake Seconded Cllr S Gamble and unanimously agreed by all.

These were duly signed by Cllr. Goldie.

218. **Public Participation Session**

218.1 None

219. **Reports from County and District Councillors**

219.1 Report received by County Councillor David Barnard.

219.2 Written report received from District Councillor Louise Peace.

Please see Appendix for written report.

220. **Ongoing Projects**

220.1 To receive updates on the legal documentation for the lease arrangements for the Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club and approve any actions.

Agenda Item deferred to next meeting.

220.2 To receive updates on Rights of Ways.

Cllr Goldie reported that the kissing gate located on the footpath by the corner of the football field had been reported to the HCC Rights of Way Officer for urgent repair. Cllr Goldie further advised that the Parish Council's contractor, William Crosse, would be able to undertake a light hedge cut along FP12 if required.

220.3 **Highway Matters.**

Cllr Blake reported on the number of potholes and the general condition of local roads. County Councillor David Barnard explained that residents can report highway faults directly via the dedicated hotline and website provided by Ringway, Hertfordshire County Council's highways contractor.

220.4 To discuss and approve the repair/replacement of the Map Boards on Upper and Lower Green.

Agenda Item deferred to next meeting.

220.5 To discuss and approve the repair/replacement of Sports Club Ground fencing.

Cllr Goldie reported that William Crosse would be commencing the fencing work the following day. Members were advised that there would be an increase of £100 to the original quotation of £1800 **which was** due to the fence posts needing to be sourced from an alternative supplier.

It was resolved to accept the increased quotation which included the **additional £100** for supply of fence posts.

Proposed Cllr Furr Seconded Cllr Blake and unanimously agreed by all.

220.6 Update on Outline Application 25/02401/OP Erection of up to 100 dwellings with means of access from Turnpike Lane.

The agenda item was covered and discussed within Cllr L Peace's report to the Council.

220.7 To receive update on Allotments.

Cllr Day reported that all allotment plot holders had been informed of the new annual allotment rents for 2026/2027. Members were also advised that William Crosse is due to commence work on the footpath and the fencing works within the coming weeks.

221. **New Matters**

221.1 To discuss and approve the Parish Councils response to the proposed bus timetable changes, including the impact on residents and whether to submit a formal objection or representation to Stagecoach.

Cllr Peace reported on the proposed reduction in the frequency of the 9A and 9B bus services and outlined the potential impact this would have on local bus users, particularly those relying on the service for travel to work, education, medical appointments, and other essential journeys.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would write to Stagecoach requesting the reasons for the proposed changes to the 9A and 9B bus services and to formally raise the Council's objections to the reduction in service frequency and unanimously agreed by all.

Action: Clerk

221.2 To discuss and approve a request for a Parish Council grant of £150 towards the cost of a Christmas lunch for St Katharine's 60+ Group.

Councillors discussed the grant request, and it was resolved to award the St Katherine's 60+ Group a grant of £150.

Proposed Cllr Gamble Seconded Cllr Furr and unanimously agreed by all.

Action: Clerk

221.3 To discuss and approve a request for a Parish Council grant of £200 towards the cost of running the Icklefest and use of Upper Green for the event, together with access to the Parish Council's electricity supply.

Councillors discussed the grant request, and it was resolved to award The Icklefest Committee a grant of £200.

Proposed Cllr Gamble Seconded Cllr Furr and unanimously agreed by all.

Action: Clerk

221.4 To discuss and approve a request for a Parish grant of £1700 towards the cost of maintaining the Lebanon Cedar Trees in prime condition in St Katharine's Church Yard.

Councillors discussed the grant request, and it was resolved to award St Katharine's PCC a grant of £1700.

Proposed Cllr Day Seconded Cllr Furr and unanimously agreed by all.

Action: Clerk

222. **Planning Applications**

222.1 New Planning Applications Received since the last Meeting

- 222.1.1 26/00558/HYA Hybrid Application : Hybrid application for a mixed-use development to provide a total of up to 230 dwellings, a residential care home (Use Class C2), an Independent Special School (ISS) and new sports pitch, with access from Bedford Road, landscaping, parking and SuDS comprising: Phase 1 Application for full planning permission for the erection of 100 dwellings, an ISS, new sports pitch and associated parking, landscaping, open space and SuDS; Phase 2 An outline application on the remaining part of the site for the erection of up to 130 dwellings, a residential care home (Use Class C2) and associated works with access from Bedford Road (all matters reserved apart from access). Land At Pound Farm, Bedford Road, Ickleford, Hertfordshire, SG5 3RS

Cllr Goldie reported that the IPC objection letter had been submitted to the North Hertfordshire Council planning officer. The Council will now await the end of the consultation period and confirmation of the Planning Committee hearing date, at which the Parish Council will register to speak and advocate on behalf of residents.

- 222.1.2 26/01015/FPH Full Permission Householder: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear garage 15 Walnut Way, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3XT

The planning application was discussed in detail, and it was unanimously resolved that the Council have no objections.

- 222.1.3 26/01044/FPH Full Permission Householder : Single storey front extension and installation of side entrance door following demolition of existing front porch. 7 Abbis Orchard, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3TN

The planning application was discussed in detail, and it was unanimously resolved that the Council have no objections.

222.2 Planning Decisions received since the last Meeting

None

223. **Finance**

- 223.1 To note receipts between meetings.

None

- 223.2 To approve payments made between meetings and any payments made at the meeting.

- 223.2.1 Invoice for £433.73 from Mark Walker Grounds Maintenance for burial ground.

- 223.2.2 Invoice for £632.40 from RJ & WR Crosse for IPC Maintenance Contract.

- 223.2.3 Invoice for £37.80 from DCK Payroll monthly charge.

- 223.2.4 Invoice for £156.00 from CPM Playgrounds for playground inspection report.

- 223.2.5 Invoice for £478.80 from Scribe New accounts software setup and training.

- 223.2.6 Invoice for £100.00 from Settle land rent for the Allotments.
- 223.2.7 Invoice for £340.70 from Hertfordshire County Council for Sports Field rental.
- 223.2.8 Invoice for £207.01 from K Goldie Village Retirement Event.
- 223.2.9 Invoice for £94.23 from C Biller Village Retirement Event.
- 223.2.10 Invoice for £74.94 from W Crowe Village Retirement Event.
- 223.2.11 Invoice for £50.00 from R Gillam Village Retirement Event.
- 223.2.12 Invoice for £113.95 from S Brecknock Village Retirement Event.
- 223.2.13 Invoice for 65.73 from S Patmore Village Car Park and Play Park signage.

Direct Debit Payments

- 223.2.14 Invoice for £11.99 from Telecoms World for Parish phoneline.
- 223.2.15 Invoice for £21.22 from Castle Water for water supply at Allotments
- 223.2.16 Invoice for £9.03 from Castle Water for water supply at Burial Ground
- 223.2.17 Invoice for £15.34 from Eon Next for electric supply Upper Green.
- 223.2.18 Invoice for £61.54 from NEST for Clerks pension contributions.
- 223.2.19 Invoice for £313.95 from HMRC for PAYE Tax payment.
- 223,2.20 Invoice for £54.00 from Scribe Monthly Subscription.
- 223.2.21 Invoice for £60.00 From Lower Green Farm Storage Charge.

Proposed Cllr Gamble Seconded Cllr Furr and unanimously agreed by all.

224. Reports

(For information only from Organisations represented by Councillors on their Committee – no decisions or actions can be agreed at this time.)

- 224.1 Rands Educational Foundation Governors (RANDS)
Cllr Blake reported that the next meeting and the first one he will be attending is 16th June 2026.
- 224.2 Ickleford Sports and Recreational Club Committee
None
- 224.3 Ickleford Village Hall Committee
None
- 224.4 Ickleford Burial Ground Trustees
None
- 224.5 Ickleford Common Holders Association
None

225. **Chairman's Report**

225.1 To receive urgent matter from the Chairman – for information only.

Cllr Goldie reported that the IPC has printed 900 leaflets for distribution to every household in the Parish, raising awareness of the Bedford Road planning application and explaining how residents can submit comments via the North Hertfordshire Council planning portal, including details of the consultation end date.

226. **Clerk's Report**

To receive urgent matter from the Clerk – for information only.

227. **Next Meeting**

227.1 To suggest agenda items for the next Parish Council meeting.

None

227.2 To confirm the next meeting date as the 10th June 2026.

227.3 Meeting Closure. 20:50

Signed by Chairman _____ **Date** _____

Print name of Chairman _____

APPENDIX



Louise Peace
Councillor for Cadwell
 louise.peace@north-herts.gov.uk

Ickleford Parish Council - April 2026

Thank you to the scouts for painting the posts on Upper Green!

Track behind Turnpike Lane, off Greenfield avenue.

Following NHC Greenspace team's acknowledgement that this track is owned by NHC, I have had further communication from Tom Ayres to say that "they are working with the Estates team to 'understand their responsibilities' with respect to the track before they carry out any repairs. The Greenspace team will also speak to Settle."

Planning matters

- Land south of Pound Farm / Bedford Road.

(on agenda).

Information received from the developer to confirm that application has been submitted. It is a hybrid application - full permission request for 100 homes plus the SEND school with outline application for 130 homes plus a 65 -bed care home. It has been assigned reference 26/00558/HYA.

The application is currently invalid as submitted and therefore has not yet appeared on the planning website or been sent for public consultation.

*** I have an interest in the following item ***

- Ickleford Mill

Reserved Matters application received - 26/00637/RM

(on agenda)

Application appears to be supported by residents. I intend to support this subject to:

- Issues raised by 9 Arlesey Road regarding overlooking
- Concerns raised by the River Hiz Conservation Group regarding wheel-washing and potential for residues entering the stream

- Construction traffic management - due regard to weight limits through Ickleford and on Bearton Road. Old Hale Way route passes two schools and therefore there should be restrictions on timings.

On Saturday 4th April at 10.30pm the site was attended by police due to a break in at the site via the bridge / stream. I have contacted the Hill group to request that this access is secured.

S73 variation at the Mill 26/00587/S73

This concerns access and potential traffic calming measures on the bridge. The intention is to formally prioritise traffic over the bridge by carrying out some carriageway realignment and introducing priority to vehicles leaving Ickleford over vehicles arriving.

I believe that this is a good scheme and support it. The plans also include a zebra crossing to the south of the site, an informal pedestrian crossing to the north and two new bus stops. The zebra crossing already has planning permission from the outline application. The Lib Dem administration at HCC is making funds available for more 20 mph limits in Hitchin. The zebra crossing is in Hitchin North ward - I have spoken to Cllr Albert who will be including Old Hale Way in 20 mph requests. In order to make the informal crossing point to the north safer, I believe this 20 mph limit should be continued into Ickleford as far as the mini-roundabout. This section would be in Hitchin Rural and I hope that Cllr Barnard will support this.

Land East Of Bedford Road And North Of The Priory School Hitchin Hertfordshire (50 dwellings)

25/03234/FP

For information: this is next to the Priory school and is in Bearton ward. Due to the size of the site it will be determined at planning control committee. No updates from last report.

25/02401/OP Erection of up to 100 dwellings with means of access from Turnpike Lane.

(on agenda).

Subject to further consultation due to layout changes. Provisionally scheduled for PCC on 21st April (but subject to change). A site visit for PCC members prior to the meeting has been agreed - date tbc.