

Annual Parish Meeting 18th April 2019 – IPC Chairman`s Report

Dear Parishioners, thank you all for attending the annual Instow Parish meeting for 2019. I have moved the agenda slightly to allow the various village organisations report on what great things they have been doing this year.

Instow Parish Council has had another interesting and challenging year.

Following on from the work started last year, the car park resurfacing is ongoing and the toilets have been refurbished.

IPC, as nominated beach controller continues to work closely with DEFRA and the Environment Agency regarding bathing water quality. DEFRA has now de-designated Instow as a bathing water beach, and appropriate signs have been erected.

The beach sharing code of conduct was introduced in May last year, with reasonable success, apart from some people actively encouraging dog owners to ignore it, this includes one of our own Councillors. Signs have been vandalised and stolen, and have had to be replaced at a cost to the Parish. After consultation these measures were agreed by the Parish Council, and it is hoped the next Council will continue to implement the wishes of the parishioners.

The sand on the pavement and flooding issue has not been resolved, but there is a continuous dialogue with the Estate and DCC Highways. As far as beach cleaning is concerned, Peter Hosegood continues to clean the beach and we are working closely with Plastic Free North Devon, to implement their initiatives, there is still room for improvement.

2 of the new bus shelters along Anstey Way have had perch bars installed at the request of parishioners.

Resident parking has been an issue for a many years, and DCC are in the process of consultation with parishioners and businesses.

After much discussion with planning, three applications for development have been approved.

In recognition of the great work various village organisations that contribute to our community, have been recognised via the Parish Council grant system, they are Bucks Meadow Orchard for repairs to the bridge, Village People, Bideford Railway Heritage for work on the signal box. Annual grants go to All Saints Chapel and Community Centre, Instow PCC burial ground, Intow, Westleigh and Yelland Parish News, Instow Parish Hall Trustees. As well as the grants, the annual carol singing event raised a total of £109 added a further £101 and shared the £210 equally between North Devon Hospice, Appledore Lifeboat and Northam Lodge.

It has been a very challenging term as Chairman and I would like to thank most of my fellow Councillors for their continued support, and especially thank my vice chairman, Cllr Green, for his continued help and support, as well as Martyn our Parish Clerk, who has been put under considerable pressure during the last twelve months, and has guided the Council through some difficult times. I also thank Cllr. Frank Biederman who has continued to support Instow Parish. I would like to thank Peter Hosegood for cleaning the beach, and clearing the rubbish bags, and where we have had an issue regarding dog waste he has dealt with it. Julie Braddick for keeping the toilets clean. Katharine Mills our handyperson, has been doing an excellent job, trying to keep on top of the sand on the pavement, which seems far worse nowadays. She has also worked with John on the refurbishment of the toilets, painting bollards, bins and lampposts. Regular litter picking keeps the village clean and tidy.

This PC, in spite of consistent undermining bullying and intimidation within and outside the village has achieved a great deal, and a lot of it due to the personal commitment of some Councillors. Individual Councillors should have recognition for what they have contributed to the Parish, giving up much of their own time.

Gill Clements has managed the car park toilet cleaner often covering absence, purchasing and storing disposables; Gill is not afraid to get her hands dirty and will tackle most jobs to improve the village.

John Stenton, has taken active responsibility for the painting and refurbishing of the car park toilets also painting bollards, recycle bins and lampposts. He joins regular beach cleans with IVP and has created their website. John has some good ideas for initiatives and improvements.

Michael Green, Vice Chair has served for 14 years. Michael has much valuable experience, is Chair of the finance sub group and produces the budget for the year. He is also responsible for updating procedures, policies, code of conduct etc. Michael has experience as a company secretary and often advises on correspondence issues.

David McCrum, has a wealth of business and management experience and is also managing the resurfacing the car park, dealing with NDC who are going to oversee the implementation.

Anthony, has served for some 20yrs years and always makes a valuable contribution at the meetings, unfortunately due to work commitments has had to reduced his availability.

Neil, again makes valuable contributions at meetings, is also on the car park sub group.

Cathy, recently co -opted, has excellent knowledge and experience of Parish Council workings.

In my opinion, this village has lost a good, previously cohesive council, representing its residents with their individual skills, and I would like to thank them for their support.

As for myself, I feel proud and privileged to have served Instow Parish for over a decade, and it is with great sadness that I have decided not to stand for Parish or District councils, but I feel for my own health and wellbeing, and that of the council it is time to stand aside. For a number of reasons I feel I must highlight.

I have consistently been accused of
Misleading IPC on planning/ boundary changes and the local plan in a
public meeting and also influencing the decision on my own planning
application.

Bullying and harassment of a Parish Councillor.

Lying

Had an injunction taken out on me, not the parish council, to stop
the introduction of the code of conduct, this was attended by one of
our own councillors and a representative from DALC, and by witness
accounts was considered a bit of a jolly.

In the local press, as Chair of NDC H&W board, condoning children
being allowed to play in the toxic water at Instow.

Not complying with DEFRA / EA signage along Marine Parade.

The survey undertaken in Instow regarding dog restrictions, accused
of misinterpreting the data to get a result that supported its
implementation

Abuse and accusations through social media/ Parish News / local
papers – Journal & Gazette.

Reported to DALC regarding conduct of the Parish Council

Holding secret meetings at which allegedly decisions were made

Reported to the monitoring officer for misconduct at PC meetings.

Of course many of the above accusations are aimed directly at me,
and others at the Council, but as Chair I take them all personally and
take full responsibility.

Brian Moores

Chairman IPC

