

WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)
held at the West Ilsley Village Hall, West Ilsley
on Monday 9 September 2019 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

Present: Rollo Duckworth (Chair)
Justin Gilbert
Alan Bloor
Alan Beaumont
Graham Woods
Anna Sugden

Apologies: Inna Fauler (Clerk)

In attendance: 21 members of the public

	Actions
1 Chair and Apologies	
1.1 Rollo Duckworth (“RD”) acted as Chair of the Meeting. Neil Fowler helped take the minutes. RD thanked everybody for attending the Meeting.	
2 Changes to Declarations of Interest and Councillors	
2.1 No changes to the Declarations of Interest of the Councillors were received, nor were there any changes to the Councillors.	
3 Minutes of the Meeting of the West Ilsley Parish Council held on Monday 15 July 2019	
3.1 The draft minutes of the Meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 15 July 2019 (the “Minutes”) had been circulated prior to the Meeting. The draft Minutes were approved and signed by RD as a true record.	IF to file the Minutes from the July 2019 Meeting in the WIPC archives.
4 Matters Arising from the Minutes	
4.1 RD confirmed that the actions that had arisen from the Minutes of the previous Meeting had been completed as follows: a) JG (not ABe) had followed up with Thames Water and Thames Water had resolved the smell in Church Way. b) AS had ascertained that playing netball on the tennis court did not affect our insurance cover. c) AS had looked into dog poo bins. They were £200 each and also carried a maintenance charge. (To be discussed at the November meeting.)	
5 Correspondence	
5.1 RD reported that the following correspondence had been received a) A Freedom of Information request from a villager. This had been	

responded to, and subsequently the requester had asked for more information, and this would be sent to him this week.

- b) Emails from various parties regarding traffic speed approaching The Old Chapel and ways to control it.
- c) A proposal for a revamp of the West Ilsley parish website.
- d) A tentative initiative to flood light the tennis court for use by the WINGS.
- e) A briefing from the WICC outlining their plans for a two lane cricket net alongside the tennis court.
- f) A copy of the plans and quotes for work on the village hall, which is the business of the Village Hall Committee.

5.2 Items b), c), d), e), and f) would be discussed within the standing agenda.

6 Community Matters

6.1 Finance: RD explained that the Accounting Statements for year ending 31 March 2019 had been re-stated, following consultation with the external auditor. These were included in the full Annual Governance and Accountability Return, posted on the parish website. He went on to say that the finances appeared in good shape, though as the council will discuss later, there were increasing and expensive potential demands on its reserves. GW volunteered to help RD and IF review computerising of accounts, and in particular our VAT returns in the light of HMRC's Make Tax Digital initiative.

GW and RD

6.2 WIN and website: BT Internet problems still appeared to beset WIN distribution channels. RD reported that he had started a conversation with Martin Briggs-Watson on a revamp of the parish website. The council have already received a grant to cover costs of becoming GDPR compliant, which includes website development. The council already have quotes from a BALC recommended supplier, but it was agreed that Martin Briggs-Watson might be a more appropriate supplier if the costs were comparable. It was agreed that RD should continue talking to Martin on behalf of the council to draw up a specification.

RD

6.3 Tennis Club: Following the success of WINGS permitted usage of the tennis court for netball, WINGS made a case for floodlighting of the court to encourage year-round usage, either temporary or permanent. Other suitable winter/after dark venues involved travelling to them which would deter those who could not spare the time. Planning will probably be required, and WINGS were encouraged to consider a pre-application conversation with West Berkshire Council. AS raised concerns that floodlighting could create a precedent, as perhaps the proposed nets could benefit from floodlighting. ABI raised the point about theft or vandalism and the aesthetics of the proposition.

6.4 Cricket Club: An email update on the nets project was discussed. It contained a quote for the work of some £32,000 inc VAT. Although there was broad consensus for this project, ABI expressed grave concerns that such expense in the light of the slightly fragile state of the village-based adult playing membership of club. He felt that there were other features of the club that could be improved in lieu. Neil Fowler was invited to respond, and he noted that investment in the Juniors section of the Club by way of constructing the nets would be vital to continue to retain and attract Junior playing membership. He noted that the Club would not financially survive without a Juniors section. The council agreed that the WICC were free to pursue the project, since it was doing so at its own

expense (all funds for the nets project would be raised specifically for the purpose), and there was currently no formal request from the WICC for funding from the council and, accordingly, no current commitment from the council to help with finance.

6.5 Table Tennis: Steve Cobrin noted that the Tennis Club (and the venue for playing home games) would be relocating to Brightwalton for the forthcoming season while the Village Hall underwent appropriate repairs. The table tennis tables had already been moved to the new site.

6.6 Fireworks: It was noted that unfortunately Tony Elliot may well not be fit and able to run the fireworks this year. A trained stand-by/replacement should be arranged through the Village Hall Committee.

7 Environment and Upkeep

7.1 Planning: The only application in this period was for the installation of bollards outside The Old Chapel. ABI reminded the meeting that the parish council was fully behind the application. A decision was due on 18 Sep 2019.

7.2 Footpaths and Bridleways: A West Berks council officer had been in touch with RD regarding the contentious footpath currently closed. He hoped that there would be resolution and an announcement shortly.

7.3 Playground: It was noted that the weeds within and around the playground had been removed / killed.

7.4 Village Hall: RD reported the quotes that the Village Hall Committee have received for the complete overhaul of the property. £79,000 would deliver a top-of-the-range solution, but was felt to be somewhat excessive for our needs. The Meeting discussed the perennial topic of the future of the hall itself and its role and location in the village. RD suggested the whole topic could be re-visited at another time, reminding the Meeting that it was the work of the WISARA/Village Hall Committee. Its next step would be to conduct a thorough due diligence on the quotes received and the needs of the hall itself.

**ABI/Village Hall
Committee**

8 Safety and Services

8.1 Signage: There was lengthy discussion by the council and the Meeting of ways to mitigate the excessive speed with which traffic approaches the village from the east. Ward Councilor Carolyne Culver had been in correspondence with the owners of The Old Chapel and achieved finding 50% funding for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) similar to the one at the other end of the village by the cricket pitch. The question was asked whether the council would find the remaining 50%, put at £2,500. However even it was fully funded, there appeared to be no agreement about where the VAS should be sited. Broad discussion followed, including some creative thoughts which will be put to West Berkshire Council, including a redrawing of the village boundary so as to move the speed limit further up the hill. It was suggested that this re-drawing could be incorporated into the bigger settlements boundary project that West Berkshire Council was undertaking. The Meeting noted that there appeared to be village-wide support for a reduction in the speed limit within the village (to 20 mph as had been achieved in East Ilsley) and any measures that could achieve the goal of reducing speeding. While in principle the council supports whatever makes the village safer for all residents and properties at that end of the village (and on both sides of the road), with such meagre resources it would want to be sure that the solution it paid for was effective.

JG

9 Working Village

- 9.1 Farming: David Carlisle updated the meeting on the farming calendar, which he deemed as satisfactory.
- 9.2 Pub: ABI reminded the meeting about the Asset of Community Value scheme and asked who might be the community representative, wondering whether it should be the parish council or another body. No decision was made.

10 AOB

- 10.1 ABe proposed thanks to RD for his work on updating the council's governance documents and other paperwork. Seconded by AS.

11 Open forum

- 11.1 David Carlisle pointed out that the drainage gullies on Bury Lane might not be working properly. JG undertook to take this up with West Berkshire Council.
- 11.2 The Meeting was reminded of the risk of domestic bonfires getting out of control at this time of year.

JG

12 Date of Next Meeting

- 12.1 The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11 November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall
- 12.2 There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

All to attend.

Chair