

MINUTES – WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL (WIPC)

Meeting held Virtually at 1930hrs on 01/12/2020.

Present

Alan Beaumont (AB) Acting Chairman, Alan Muir (AMM) Acting Scribe, Graham Woods (GW) Acting Financial Officer, Alan Bloor (APB), Justin Gilbert (JG).

Twelve members of the public.

1. Apologies

Carolyn Culver (CC) Ward District Councillor to West Berkshire District Council (WBDC).

2. Changes to Declaration of Interests and Councillors

2.1 AB reported that Rollo Duckworth (RD) had resigned as Chairman and Councillor. Accordingly, AB confirmed that he, as elected Vice-Chairman, was happy to act as Chairman in the interim. This was approved unanimously and thus the Agenda, published on the Chairman's Signature Block on 25/11/20, was validated and the meeting could proceed as notified. The replacement Agenda circulated on 30/11/20 was to be disregarded.

2.2 AB thanked RD for his efforts over the previous eight years and hoped he would continue to support village activities.

2.3 No other changes or amendments were reported.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

3.1 AB acknowledged that the process for recording the proceedings of the WIPC Meeting held on 9/11/20 was incorrect but he recommended that the Minutes be adopted but not formally approved. Any decisions or commitments could then be addressed separately and re-proposed and seconded to validate and record them in the constituted manner.

Outcome: Agree to adopt AB's proposal: Proposed – AMM: Seconded – APB: **Carried**

3.2 Item 2.3: Co-option of additional councillor – Alan Muir co-opted by majority vote.

Outcome: Agree Co-option: Proposed – APB: Seconded – AB: **Carried**

3.3 Item 3.3: Approval of Minutes of WIPC Meeting held on 14/9/20.

Outcome: Approve Minutes: Proposed – APB: Seconded – AB: **Carried**

3.4 Item 6.3: Village Trusts (WIRSA) – Defer to next meeting.

Action: Nominee to prepare status report after next meeting.

3.5 Item 7.3: Playground tree maintenance. Quotes to be obtained for next WIPC Meeting.

Action: GW

3.6 Item 9.1: Pub – Submission of Registration of Asset of Community Value. Irregularities with submitted documentation had been noticed by WBDC and resubmission was required by a member of the WIPC.

Outcome: Resubmission agreed: Proposed – AMM: Seconded – GW: **Carried**

Action: APB

3.7 Item 9.3: Village Defibrillator requires purchase of new battery and pads.

Outcome: Purchase specified items: Proposed – AMM: Seconded – APB: **Carried**

Action: AB

4. Cricket Nets

4.1 APB declared an interest as a member of the cricket club.

4.2 APB reported on his attendance at the West Ilsley Cricket Club (WICC) virtual AGM the previous evening. Two members of the cricket club presented a summary of the current situation. Planning permission has been obtained. The cost of the nets is £22,000 and the club has raised £12000. WICC has sourced match funding of £5000 from The Greenham Trust and are seeking a grant of £5000 from WIPC funds to make up the shortfall. The matched funding will fall away if the grant is not secured. Other grants are time limited until the end of this financial year, so time is of the essence. The WIPC has agreed to assist in reclaiming the VAT payable on the construction of the Nets.

4.3 A discussion ensued about the relative merits of the project and the potential benefits and liabilities to the village of progressing the project. A member of the public expressed concern about parking but it was not thought that the use of the nets would make the parking situation worse than it already is on training evenings and match days.

Outcome 1: A project to establish WIPC's total liabilities to Lockinge Estate (including Cricket Nets) was required.

Action: Defer action until next meeting.

Outcome 2: Approve grant to WICC: Proposed – AB: Seconded – GW: **Carried** by 3 votes to 1 (AB, GW, JG voted For. AMM voted Against. APB was Excluded).

Action: Financial Officer – (Note that £5000 will be ring fenced for the project within the WIPC "general reserve" and made available when required).

5. Correspondence Received

5.1 Query. A letter has been received from Mr. Clive Hooker (CH) expressing concern about, apparently, unapproved financial expenditure. His request was for an explanation concerning the entry in the Minutes of January 2020 and May 2020 stating that the opinion of villagers would be

sought about the best to spend the £6000 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies received from WBDC. He could not recall receiving such a survey nor being approached about this subject. He also questioned how, in the September 2020 Parish Council Minutes, the majority of this CIL money (£5210.00) was allocated and spent, apparently without the survey being conducted and with no explanation for the expenditure being recorded in the minutes.

5.2 None of the current councillors who were councillors at the time could account for this oversight. GW explained that the playground had required emergency repairs during the summer and as this was during Covid 19 Lockdown these were given priority status. There were concerns about the CIL money going past the expiry date and hence it was used to cover the repairs.

5.3 CH then reminded the WIPC that, in small communities with few development opportunities, it was unusual to get CIL money. He also reminded the WIPC of the expenditure criteria relating to CIL money namely: Physical Infrastructure; Social Infrastructure; Green Infrastructure.

Outcome 1: A survey to establish what villagers regarded as priorities for expenditure of public funds was required.

Action: Defer action until next Meeting.

Outcome 2: Based on the outcome of the proposed survey WIPC would develop a Priority Support and Expenditure Plan.

Action: Defer action until next Meeting.

5.4 Speed Limit Review (SLR). JG has drafted a response the SLR carried out in West Ilsley on behalf of the WBDC recently. The response takes into account written submissions by villagers and will be considered at the Review Meeting on 9/12/20. The WIPC will be represented at this meeting by JG.

Outcome: Draft response circulated and comments collated. Final response confirmed and unanimously approved: **Approved.**

Action: JG

6. AOB

6.1 Parish Council Clerk. The requirement for an experienced Clerk has been identified. AMM has carried out a benchmarking exercise and identified a possible candidate. It was proposed that an appointment sub-committee be formed. AB, GW and JG volunteered to be on this and move forward to interview and recruit as soon as possible.

Outcome: Establish appointment committee to recruit a Clerk unanimously agreed. **Approved.**

6.2 Cheque Signatory. Additional cheque signatories are required. Currently GW is the only signatory. There are payments to be made and these cannot be made with only a single signature. AB and JG volunteered to become signatories pending the appointment of a Clerk. GW volunteered to prepare the paperwork.

Outcome: The need for additional signatories has been identified and documentation needs to be completed: Volunteers unanimously approved: **Approved**

Action: GW, AB and JG

7. Open Forum

No issues were raised in this forum.

Meeting was closed by the Chairman at 2040hrs.



Alan Muir

Acting Scribe

5/12/2020

Alan Beaumont

Acting Chairman

5/12/2020