

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 14th January 2013

Present: Sean Ryan, Alan Bloor, Dries Hagen, John Mountford, Jo Scriven and Alison Banks. 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies
Anna Sugden
2. To receive any changes to Declarations
None received.
3. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 12th November 2012.
Signed as a true record.

For Future Progress

War memorial. Unfortunately the lettering is hardly visible so it was suggested that a bronze plaque would be considered and costed. Action Cllr Hagen in conjunction with Ian Fewtrell-Smith.

Village Broadband. West Berkshire's initiative to improve the speed of Broadband. W.Ilsley's contribution £1663 and due to be completed 2013/5. Registrations still being accepted – Steve Cobrin following progress.

The rapid response defibrillator was still under discussion. The Chairman offered to write his article for WIN

4. Matters Arising
5. Correspondance received
Taken in the meeting
6. Co Option of Rollo Duckworth
Mr Rollo Duckworth was co-opted onto the Parish Council. Proposed by John and seconded by Jo Scriven.
7. Village Hall Update
Although Philip Knight, the Chairman of the Village Hall could not be present he had reported via Sean Ryan that currently the village hall was unsustainable (increasing costs and maintenance bills, reduced rents) and as a village asset help and advice was being sought. There followed a discussion. In short its future lies in its ability to fund raise, a strategy that had worked successfully for years. As for increasing the village precept to enable funds to be diverted to the village hall, there was a mixed reaction but the con-census was to not increase the precept (for this purpose). The current PC funds would also not cover large handouts. However it was suggested and agreed that the profits from the Pre fete Dance (Ros Duckworth has kindly offered to run this event) should all go towards the Hall. This could raise upwards of £1500.

Philip Knight has indicated he can attend the next meeting.

8. Dispensations to allow councillors to discuss precepts – Village Precept 2013
All Councillors were asked to complete a form to allow a dispensation for each member wishing to contribute to the Precept discussions. The forms were duly signed and returned to The Clerk.

A discussion followed on the 2013 precept. The current PC bank balance is £5030 with £2300 ring fenced for the Play Area. This leaves £2700 available. There were suggestions to raise the Precept in line with inflation and another suggestion to increase it to help contribute to the Village Hall costs/Church costs but agreement was reached to freeze it for the 7th year running at £2515. The Clerk will complete the form and return it to West Berks Council.

9. Parish Plan update

The Chairman proposed a village open meeting in March when the Plan and its results could be discussed further. It is proposed that a copy of these results will be given to each household and presented at the meeting.

In order to apply for funding, the plan needs to be adopted by West Berks Council. To achieve this, feedback from the plan needs to become the future action plan for the village with a new committee forming to take this on. Realistically this does not seem likely but it was agreed to publish the results and see if volunteers come forward.

10. Transport and Safety

Speeding – Cllr Mountford reported that the speeding data was available.

In front of The Old Post Office the speeds were acceptable (85th centile) 32mph, by Moorland Close also acceptable but in front of The Harrow the speeds increased to 39mph. He would encourage further action from West Berks with perhaps Police presence in the form of a speed gun.

The Clerk had chased up Andrew Garrett of West Berkshire Highways and he confirmed that the initiatives below were still planned, but due to the wet weather they had been delayed. In addition to these he agreed to add the repainting of the white lines at the bottom of Bury Lane. He also would look into the A34 junction again and to moving the 30mph sign up the hill towards East Ilsley. The following was confirmed:

They will improve the gateway 30mph signs and slow signs on the approaches to the village.

They will allow the centre white lines to fade naturally through the village as it has shown to reduce traffic speeds.

They will highlight the bend adjacent to Moorland Close and Manor Cottage and improve the edge of carriageway markings at the lay by.

The Bus service contract has been awarded to Newbury Buses with no change to the timetable. This was expected.

There was a comment from a resident about the number of cars parked poorly and dangerously at the bottom of Bury Lane. This causes poor visibility when turning left. Also there was again a problem with the bin lorries not being able to enter and exit Church Way due to the cars parked at the entrance close to Keeper's Stables. It was suggested and agreed that The Clerk would contact PC Matt Allen and ask him to write a small note for the next WIN regarding parking.

11. Environmental

The run offs, the pond over flow and in general the village drainage is coping with the wet weather. There is a flood alert for the area with ground water very high. This can be observed in Great Shefford and East Ilsley to Compton. Those residents with basements are aware.

We await further photographic evidence of unsightly electricity cables from Alan Beaumont. An email had been received from Andrew Lord asking if the village was interested in joining a group in favour of underground electricity cabling. There is some funding available from SSE and there will be an initial discussion at the end of May. The Clerk has registered our interest, but photographic evidence was required. All agreed that further photos would be taken and then the Clerk would submit them altogether.

12. Cricket Club

No comments.

13. Play Area

No comments except that in March, prior to the RoSPA inspection a small working party and some expenditure on bark would be required. Help from local families would be sort.

14. Tennis Court Management

No comments

15. Accounts for Payment/receipts received

The Church would receive a one off donation to help with their unexpected expenditure on a new oil tank. A £300 donation was agreed. The Chairman to confirm to the Treasurer by e mail – all Councillors had previously confirmed their support by e mail.

16. West Ilsley Trust – requests for donations

None requested

17. Planning Applications

None

18. AOB

Football Goalposts for The Recreation ground. A great idea and all Councillors offered their support (and in part financially) if a volunteer came forward to manage it. The Clerk reported that one resident had shown a little interest to her – this would be followed up.

The Clerk reported that the telephone kiosk in the village was not working. It had now been repaired.

Mr Elliot had asked for the PC Minutes to be printed in WIN. It was agreed that as they were put on the web site, a note would be put into WIN showing the link of where they could be found.

Dates of the next meetings as follows: March 11th, May 13th, July 8th, Sept 9th and Nov 11th in the Village Hall at the time of 7.30pm.