

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 14 March 2016 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

Present: Rollo Duckworth (Chair)
Alan Beaumont (Deputy Chair)
Alan Bloor
Inna Fauler (Secretary)
Justin Gilbert
Justin Pilditch
Anna Sugden
Graham Woods

Apologies: None

1 Chair and Apologies

1.1 Rollo Duckworth (“RD”) acted as Chair of the Meeting. Inna Fauler (“IF”) agreed to act as Secretary and take the minutes.

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 11 January 2016

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 11 January 2016 (the “Minutes”) had been circulated prior to the Meeting. The draft Minutes (as corrected) were approved and signed by RD as a true record.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 RD asked IF whether all the actions that had arisen from the Minutes of the previous Meeting had been completed. IF confirmed that they had (namely, IF had corrected the January Minutes and filed them in the WIPC archives; she had responded to the Newbury Citizens Advice Bureau, and further taken all other actions according to the previous Minutes).

4.2 A member of the public had a question about the minutes which were taken at the meeting held in November 2015. He also asked why the minutes from the previous meeting hadn’t been posted on the West Ilsley website. IF agreed to attend to these matters.

4.3 IF still to organize for the village’s bus services to be advertised in WIN. RD still to contact Martin BW regarding the village’s Wikipedia page.

Actions

IF to correct the Minutes from the January 2016 Meeting and file in WIPC archives.

IF will correct the last sentence in point 9 from the minutes of Nov 2015 and ask Martin BW to post the minutes from the last two meetings on the West Ilsley website.

IF to advertise bus services in WIN. RD to progress the village’s Wikipedia page.

5 Correspondence

5.1 IF noted the following item of correspondence received:

- She had received an example of a medal to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth the Second's 90th birthday which the WIPC could order and distribute amongst the villagers or school children. It was agreed that the WIPC would not take up this offer.

6 Community Matters

6.1 Banking: IF noted that work with respect to effecting the changes to the signatories to the WIPC bank account following the recent resignations was ongoing. Lloyds Bank had been sent all of the newly requested information, and IF was now waiting for them to confirm that everything was in order (or revert with further questions).

Waiting for Lloyds Bank to confirm status.

6.2 WIN, website and communications: It was **noted** by a member of the public that the broadband was quite good in West Ilsley village and that nothing else was required to be done at the present time.

6.3 Church: Alan Bloor ("**ABI**") reported that a working party to cut the grass around the church and the gazebo area would be organized soon.

ABe to circulate an email about a working party

6.4 Fete Committee: It was noted that the fete season was approaching, with the West Ilsley Fete due to take place on Sunday 3 July. The Fete Committee would soon be commencing its work and regular meetings in this regard.

6.5 Under 5's / Playground: Jessica Walsby ("**JW**"), Chair of the West Ilsley Under 5's Committee, attended the Meeting. She came to discuss the matter regarding the RoSPA playground inspection that was due to take place in April this year. JW had inspected the playground herself and noticed that some of the timber had become rotten. She had made an appointment with one of constructors and he had mentioned that the timber used would usually have a 10-year warranty. JW had duly contacted the company, Leisure Logs, which had originally constructed the playground. They confirmed that they would usually provide a 10-year warranty but on particular conditions, depending on who supplied the bark, how badly the timber had become rotten, etc. The company representative also stated that it depended on the level of risk present: i.e., low, medium or high. There was general discussion on what to do and Anna Sugden ("**AS**") suggested that we send the previous year's RoSPA report to the company and seek its feedback on it.

JW agreed to send to the company Leisure Logs the previous year's RoSPA report.

6.6 Village Hall activities and usage: A member of the Village Hall Committee reported that they had held their meeting last week. It was very quiet. The main issue was that the Village Hall Committee was suffering dwindling membership, without whom it would be very difficult to finish the work required for the Village Hall.

7 Environment and Upkeep

7.1 Planning Applications: There was a general discussion about the planning application regarding the land next to the Harrow Pub. The determination date was 14 March 2016. There was no official information regarding the application on the West Berkshire Council website. Some councilors expressed the view that the only issue on which the application could be rejected was with respect to highways and visibility.

AS expressed her concern about the gazebo area and suggested that a pole be inserted in its original position so that the building contractors could not use the pond area as a parking space. ABI said that he was going to sort out the matter regarding the soil for the pond area, after which the barrier pole would be re-erected in its original place.

ABe to sort out the soil issue and general repairs for the pond area.

A member of the public complained about the noise from the contractors' truck at 26 Main Street which sometimes occurred as early as 7am.

ABI to talk to the contractors working at 26 Main St regarding the early morning truck noise.

7.2 Footpaths and Bridleways: ABI mentioned that while he had been away, the entrance towards the cart track had been tidied extremely nicely. The hedges and the banks had all been cut back. He did not know who had performed the work, but he wanted it recorded that it looked superb now.

7.3 Cricket/Tennis/Play Area/Pond/Public Open Spaces

(a) Pond: RD mentioned the anti-parking post again. ABI confirmed that he was still waiting for quotes for material for tidying up and repairing the pond area following the floods in 2013/2014. Thereafter, the anti-parking post would be erected back as soon as the working party had completed its work.

7.4 Village Hall: It was noted that there was an ongoing dispute regarding the invoice for electrical work (both in terms of the overrun in cost and the quality of the work performed), and there was other outstanding work that needed to be completed. It was also noted that they needed to finish the inside work (some painting and tiles) and in April they would move outside.

8 **Safety and Services**

8.1 Speeding: The issue of speeding in the village was discussed again. AS had noticed that drivers usually don't slow down until they get to the pond area. ABI said that traffic calming measures (such as the narrowing of lanes) had been discussed many times before but had always been rejected by the Highways Authority on the grounds that West Ilsley was a working farming village and there were two stables in the village. He also said that he had discussed with the Highways Authority about the installation of white gates by the entrance to the village from Catmore Road, but that this had been rejected due to a lack of financing in the last year. Justin Gilbert ("JG") noted that we needed to be satisfied that the WIPC had done everything possible to protect villagers and prevent any potential accident from occurring. He suggested that there ought to be new traffic calming measures which would not intervene with the regular passage of tractors and horses. RD suggested that discussions with the Highways Authority in this regard be reopened. ABI also mentioned that another reason why Highways had rejected the introduction of traffic calming measures in the village was the need to use the throughroad as a detour in the event of an accident on the A34. As always, financing was also an issue. Some of the councilors suggested that we might, as a village, consider subsidizing and contributing some funds for traffic calming measures.

IF to write to the Highways Authority to ask if any traffic calming measures could be installed in the village.

8.2 Roads and Gritting: A member of the public mentioned that the salt bin that was located on Bury Lane seemed constantly to be open. He asked whether the WIPC was responsible for it. There was general discussion about responsibility for the salt bin.

8.3 Telephone and broadband: A member of the public updated the Meeting about broadband in the village. He confirmed that he was not generally aware of any

problems with Internet speed in the village.

- 8.4 Bus services: AS noticed that the bus stop post had been damaged. No one knew how had this happened.

AS to notify the West Berkshire Council that the bus stop had been knocked over.

9 Working Village

- 9.1 Pub: RD reported that he had contacted the company which owned the pub and had made enquiries about their ongoing investment into the pub. They had responded that they had wanted to sell the pub to the current tenant but the deal had fallen through, so they now needed to develop the land next to the pub in order to release financing to make these investments.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Alan Beaumont (“**ABe**”) said that West Berkshire Council had sent a letter in November 2015 to Mike Channon’s stables regarding proposed anti-flooding on his land, but the WBC had not yet received a reply. WBC had asked the WIPC to contact Mike Channon to chase a response. The non-reply was delaying the decision making process.

ABe to contact the Stables (Mike Channon) accordingly.

11 Open Forum

- 11.1 IF mentioned that there was a District Council Meeting to be held on 22 March 2016, and that it would be desirable if someone from the WIPC could attend. RD agreed to do that.
- 11.2 RD read out, in Mr Hooker’s absence, the short report from Mr Hooker concerning the WBC meeting which he attended and which was held on 1 March 2016.

RD to attend District Council Meeting on 22 March.

12 Date of Next Meeting

- 12.1 WIPC AGM to be held on Monday 9 May 2016 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.
- 12.2 There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

All to attend.

Chairman