

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting

Monday 9th January, 2012

Present: Cllrs: Sean Ryan, Alan Bloor, John Mountford and Alison Banks (Clerk)
plus approximately 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Anna Sugden, Jo Scriven and Dries Hagen.

2. To Receive any changes to Declarations

None

3. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 14th November, 2011

Signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

War memorial repairs – one quote had been obtained for approx £2000. This was for cleaning (£1370), replacement of 2 blocks and some re pointing. All agreed it seemed high and that a second quote would be sought. This was in hand with Cllr Hagen.

Bury Down Car Park – no news from Elaine Cox. She has subsequently said that she is still waiting for potential meeting dates from West Ilsley stables. The Clerk would make contact with them to see if dates would be forthcoming and to ensure no work was undertaken prior to all parties being consulted.

Gulleys - The Clerk had heard back that the West Ilsley gulleys are cleansed 3 times a year (May and October) but would find out the timing of the third visit. The ponding in the road on the way to Farnborough had not been cleansed so the Clerk would follow this up with Stuart Clark. A copy of the winter service plan would be obtained from West Berkshire Council to ensure our primary routes are salted.

The steps by the Tennis Court had been removed and the bank will be tidied and seeded in the spring. Thanks to Cllr Alan Bloor and Peter Carlisle.

Broadband Speed – Steve Cobrin reported that there was some Government money to upgrade the broadband service to rural areas. Currently West Ilsley has a “poor” rating so could do with the upgrade. However this was only possible as far as the exchange at East Ilsley, therefore restricting the improvements we would see. West Berkshire Council is looking for a £1663 contribution from West Ilsley. As they are only expecting a 25% improvement in speed for us compared to others, it was worth checking if our contribution could be reduced. Cllr Mountford offered to follow this up.

Salt Bins – There had been renewed interest for a possible salt bin for The Maltings and West Ilsley House residents. Thanks to Grant Phillips of West Ilsley House he had canvassed opinion as to a possible location. The Parish Council had offered to pay for one should a location (acceptable to all) be found. The current favourite site is on the pavement at the entrance to The Maltings. The Clerk offered to canvass further and especially to those who would see it (Main Street residents opposite The Maltings) and also to check with West Berkshire Council if there were any requirements from their side and to confirm size and colour options.

5. Correspondence received

Any correspondence referred to items already on the agenda and would be taken later.

6. Bury Down Car Park

See above. Further to the meeting, The Clerk has called West Ilsley stables, who were very receptive to a meeting. The Clerk will help coordinate a meeting.

The main issues are to prevent 4WDs from entering and damaging the surface and also to prevent rave goers from gaining easy access to their raves, usually in the subway further east towards East Ilsley. Elaine Cox (who presented a proposal at the previous PCM) had proposed a plan whereby the car park is surrounded by a ditch and the spoil used to make a mound the far side. Along the nearside would be a low fence. There would be 2 gates and a Kent Carriage Gap. This allows carriages and bikes to pass, but not cars. Emergency services would also need access (Elaine would check that the Emergency vehicles could get through). There followed discussions on whether to lock the gates, where the string of racehorses would pass and how high the fence would be.

7. Parish Precept

Following discussions it was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all Councilors to freeze the precept for the sixth year.

8. Parish Plan

The Chairman read out a note from Cllr Anna Sugden, summarising that they had now received back more than 60% of questionnaires. These would be analysed shortly.

9. Cricket Club

Extension work is progressing well.

10. Village Hall

Tony Elliot represented the Village Hall committee and reported that he was now the appointed caretaker but that they still required a secretary. Some smaller maintenance jobs had been completed and a good clean – the lights had been improved and the hall looked spotless. There was a new fridge and new crockery. Quotes were underway for some of the larger jobs and grants were being considered.

The recent two fundraisers had been a great success – the village Fireworks had raised £382 and the Bingo £140.

11. Transport and Safety

The relocation of the Bus stop sign is been added to the works programme for January – The Clerk has dropped a note through the resident's doorway.

Cllr Mountford still regularly follows up the speeding issue with West Berks. Further testing would be considered usually in the spring. Speeding as a general issue is documented in the Parish Plan. The results will be useful to see how serious a problem we have.

12. Environmental

As above in matters arising.

13. Play Area

Nothing to report

14. Tennis Court Committee

As reported in matter's arising.

15. Accounts for Payment/receipts received.

The current account has £7584 less £150 pledged to the Parish Plan's 3 winners.

16. West Ilsley Trust

No request for donations.

17. Planning Applications

15 Main Street conditional approved by West Berkshire Council.

AOB

PAYE and The Clerk

The Clerk confirmed that the payroll (The Clerk's salary and PAYE) has been set up with Douglas Tonks. A direct debit has been set up to allow them to take £13.50 + vat per pay quarter and to pay the Clerk her salary annually in March.

The Clerk's salary was discussed. Following much research it appears that most Clerk's claim a stationary allowance in addition to their hourly salary. This seemed a sensible strategy.

It was agreed that from 2013 her salary would be adjusted as follows. A stationary allowance of £10 per week (£520/year and not subject to PAYE) and a 1 hour per week (£9.94/hr rate) for Clerk duties (£516.88/year). Total salary now £1036.88 per year. This gave her a small rise.

Cllr Mountford had looked further into the village defibrillator. He reported that East Ilsley and Compton share a service. If West Ilsley were to have their own it would cost £2500 approx but following discussions it seemed that this was not repayable in full but small regular donations were expected. In light of this, Cllr Mountford would progress possible volunteers and The Chairman would write a short piece for WIN.

Further information and interest (from the Parish Plan) would also be analysed.

The next PC meeting is Monday 12th March, 2012 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.

Alison Banks, Clerk to The Parish Council