

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting

Monday 14th November, 2011

Present: Cllrs: Alan Bloor, John Mountford, Anna Sugden, Dries Hagen (acting Chairman), Jo Scriven and Alison Banks (Clerk) plus approximately 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Sean Ryan.

2. To Receive any changes to Declarations

None

3. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 12th September, 2011

Signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

Would be taken within the minutes.

5. Correspondence received

A letter had been received from Mr Ian Fewtrell-Smith indicating that the war memorial was in need of some minor repairs. All agreed that we should obtain 2 quotes, one from the stone masons who repaired the Brightwalton memorial (The Clerk would obtain their contact details) and one from the previous stonemasons (Cllr Sugden to ask Mr F-S for details). The previous repairs were done following wind damage and an insurance claim was made – this would not be possible this time.

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

6. Bury Down Car Park

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.

Elaine Cox from West Berks Planning and Countryside Office had sent an email summarizing the comments from the last meeting but had not yet followed up her action to organize a site meeting and to involve Mick Channon the local trainer. This she planned to do. All agreed that a further site meeting including all interested parties was essential and a member of the PC should attend as well. This would ensure all parties were clear and happy with the proposals. The Clerk will progress this via Elaine Cox.

7. Parish Plan

The Parish Plan Committee (Cllr Sugden and Scriven) were pleased to report that of 120 households 64 had returned a completed Parish Plan questionnaire. This was an excellent response. The draw was made for 3 x £50 Harrow vouchers and the winners were Juliet Lamb, Ian F-S and Tony Elliot. Cllr Scriven will organise for the vouchers to be placed behind the bar at The Harrow and Cllr Sugden would inform the winners.

A meeting was planned with Sarah Ward to discuss the next step and the data would be collated. It was not too late to complete a questionnaire. Tony Elliot reported that he knew of a few who would like paper copies – he would pass their details to Anna Sugden.

8. Cricket Club

Extension work is progressing well.

9. Village Hall

Tony Elliot represented the Village Hall committee and reported on many of their maintenance issues. There are issues regarding the floor, the roof, insulation, heating and cleaning and the committee will have their meeting the following evening to discuss them.

Cllr Hagen offered help in getting quotes or asking Lockinge for money. Two groups (Pilates and The Autumn group) had stopped weekly hire of the hall due to a number of complaints. Cllr Hagen and all councillors congratulated the Village Hall on an excellent firework night.

10. Transport and Safety

The relocation of the Bus stop sign is been added to the works programme for West Berkshire Council for quotation. All being well it will be relocated in the next plan of works.

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.

Apparently one of the 30mph signs is obscured by vegetation – this will be checked the resident closest asked to trim back any branches.

11. Environmental

The gulleys are due for cleansing and The Clerk will follow this up with WBC. The Clerk will also follow up to obtain a copy of the Salt Plan.

12. Play Area

Nothing to report

13. Tennis Court Committee

The steps outside the court were discussed. There was a question of ownership and their state of repair plus potential Health and Safety issues. Without any original paperwork easily to hand it was suggested by Mr Gilmore (an original tennis committee member) that as they were put in when the court was first built then they would be included in the tennis committee's remit.

The Clerk had already mentioned this to Mr Muir the Chairman of the tennis committee who was to look back into the old paperwork. Failing this they could ask Lockinge Estate.

However in the short term it was suggested that a quick repair was not recommended due to the likelihood that they would need more attention with respect to hand rails/H&S checks etc and to recommend to Mr Muir that they were removed as soon as possible. Access to the court was still possible. The Clerk would write to Mr Muir.

14. Accounts for Payment/receipts received.

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

15. West Ilsley Trust

No request for donations.

16. Planning Applications

2 The Maltings and The Post Office have received WBC approval
15 Main Street approved by WI Parish Council.

AOB

PAYE and The Clerk

Cllr Hagen and Cllr Ryan had approved the use of Douglas Tonks to contact out the PAYE for The Clerk's salary. The Clerk would sign up as soon as possible.

Cllr Mountford offered to look into the progress of the village defibrillator as discussed previously. He reported that East Ilsley and Compton share a service. If West Ilsley were to have their own it would cost £3000 approx and needing a minimum of 4 people to operate. Further information and interest (from the Parish Plan) would be analysed.

Potential salt bin – would be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Sugden also reported that to acquire a salt bin for The Maltings would cost £185 to buy. If funded the Council would put into position. Following a review of all the residents concerned many liked the idea but no one wanted it sited within their view.

A letter had been received concerning the local flooding in the dip just outside the village on the way to Farnborough. Mr David Carlisle kindly offered to open up the run off and The Clerk would mention this to West Berks Council along with a request for gulley cleaning and runs off cleansing on all approaches.

Broadband Speed. West Berkshire have asked West Ilsley to part fund their Berkshire Broadband Improvement Programme “Superfast Berkshire” running from 2012 to 2015. They require £1663 or collected via the Precept. Steve Cobrin offered to look into this as he suggested that the exchange needed upgrading first.

Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations for next June 4th. We have the opportunity to buy a beacon (gas bonfire) to light on this day and one of 2012 to be lit in celebration of this event. We can buy one for £300. This was to be discussed in future meetings and in combination with other celebratory ideas for the village.

No one had any objections to Tony Elliot planting Daffodils around the pond.

The next PC meeting is Monday 10th January, 2012 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.
Alison Banks, Clerk to The Parish Council