

## Draft Minutes

### West Ilsley Parish Council

Monday 17th January 2000 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllrs R.Gore, (Chairman) C.Sheppard, N.Carlisle, A.Morris, T.Allan-Jones, L.Gibson(Clerk) District Cllr.J. Morgan and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr R.S.Pease.

2. The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 8th November, 1999, having been circulated to members were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

Village Pond Maintenance. The Clerk had contacted the two volunteers, Mr Sean Ryan and Mr Mel Cook and asked them to liaise directly with Cllr. Carlisle. The Clerk had also contacted Cornhill Insurance who confirmed that 'Providing the Parish Council is solely responsible for the maintenance of the pond then the Public Liabilities section of the policy would cover the Parish Council's legal liabilities as far as they could apply'. Concern over the safety of parking at the pond was once again raised. It was agreed that the clerk should contact Malcolm Bowler at the Highways Dept to arrange a site meeting before the next parish council meeting.

Grain Dryer Noise. The Clerk had written to W.B.D.C. Public Protection Department, who had stated that the results of the survey were not available as it had been privately commissioned, however they were still investigating the matter.

Street Nameplates. The residents of Bury Lane had been written to by the Clerk. No objections or queries had been received. It was therefore agreed to commission two nameplates for the Village end of Bury Lane along with one for Catmore Road. Clerk to inform the Highways Department.

Housing Needs Survey. A notice had now appeared in the West Ilsley News informing the village of the intention to carry out a survey. The Clerk was in possession of some example survey documents, produced by The Rural Housing Trust. These would be circulated to Councillors for their comments. Some doubt was expressed as to whether there would be a charge for the survey sheets. The Clerk to clarify. Dist Cllr Morgan

enquired if there had been any research as to availability of a suitable site. Cllr Gore said it was important to gauge interest first.

Overhanging Vegetation. The Clerk had written to Babbie, who in turn had written to the owners of the properties concerned. The vegetation had now been cut back.

Surgery Handybus. The Downland Practice had replied stating that on average 10 villagers from West Ilsley use the bus per month with 10 drug deliveries on top. To keep the bus up and running the Practice needs to raise £4000 per annum. Cllr Pease had suggested an allowance in the precept for 2000/01 of £150.00 this being approx 50p per head of population.

#### 4. Correspondence.

a. A letter from Ilsley's Under 5's expressing concern over the lack of parking at the village hall. This is an ongoing problem in the village that the Parish Council is constantly trying to solve.

b. Southern Electricity - had once again replied stating that they were unable to do anything about the overhead wires in the village. It was agreed that as Cllr Pease had been handling the matter so far, it should be left with him to attempt to arrange a meeting with Mr Murray of the S.E.B.

c. Flooding. In December the village, once again, suffered serious flooding. It was agreed the Clerk to write to Mark Edwards of the Highways Department to enquire when improvements works would begin. The Chairman had written to Mr Channon of Hodcott Stables expressing concern that the landscaping works, including the elimination of the large pond, may have an effect on the drainage of surface water from the village. He had been assured that the necessary steps had been taken to ensure that the changes would not cause any problems. Cllr Pease had also contacted Mark Edwards of the Highways Dept who had replied stating that the work would be monitored. Cllr Allan-Jones suggested a program of inspections to monitor the situation.

d. A letter had been received from a resident expressing concern over the amount of unsightly rubbish that had been 'dumped' in Folly Lane (cart track). Cllr Carlisle to investigate. Dist Cllr Morgan pointed out that bulky items were collected, free of charge, by West Berks Council.

e. A letter from the Watermill Theatre asking for donations had been received. It was decided not to make a donation as the Theatre already benefitted from the village rate payers.

#### 5. Millennium Project.

Cllr Morris reported that the New Year Eve celebrations had been a huge success and had been much enjoyed by both the committee and the villagers. The next event will be the

children's party in the summer. No further news had been received from W.B.D.C. on the grant application.

Cllr Morris and Dist Cllr Morgan to investigate. A brief discussion followed as to whether the Parish Council should cover the cost of millennium mugs for the children in the village. Cllr Gore said that any further funding from the Parish Council should wait until news of the grant application. Cllr Allan-Jones to investigate how many children in the village.

6. Audit and Parish Precept.

Audit. The district audit of accounts for the year 1998/99 had been successfully carried out with no written comments from the auditor. Precept. The Parish Council set a Precept of £1,531 for 2000/01. A slightly lower figure than 1999/00. The motion, proposed by Cllr Sheppard and seconded by Cllr Allan-Jones was carried unanimously.

7. Report from West Berks Police Sector Forum. 1.12.99

Cllr Carlisle reported that the meeting had been disappointing and felt that the chance to air his views had not arisen. Clerk to write expressing disappointment and once again highlighting the lack of police presence in West Ilsley.

8. Open Forum

The Secretary of the W.I. Recreation and Social Association raised the matter of the relationship between the Parish Council and The W.I. R. & S. A. A meeting between the two parties had not clarified the situation as the original constitution had been mislaid. A letter to the secretary of the W.I. R & S.A. from the Charities Commission stated that the Parish Council were registered as the Trustees of the W.I.R. & S.A. Cllr Gore believed that the Parish Council were trustees of the Village Hall only and felt that the true Trustees are the members of W.I.R & S.A. Clerk to seek clarification. He also suggested that there should be a letter of delegation and authority. Dist Cllr Morgan suggested that the Clerk approach the legal team at W.B.D.C. for assistance. Cllr. Allan-Jones stated that if members of the Parish Council were Trustees of the Village Hall then this should be made clear on the 'Acceptance of Office' document.

Cllr Morris expressed concern over the increase in the fouling of village pavements by horses. Cllr Carlisle agreed to ask riders using the pavements to take steps to avoid this happening.

The presence of 'Travellers' on the Ridgeway, near the tunnel under the A.34, was raised by Cllr Carlisle. There are now several vehicles and it was felt that it was time that they were moved on. The Clerk to write to Richard Beech the Enforcement Officer at W.B.D.C.

Date of next meeting, Monday 13th March, 2000

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00p.m.