

DRAFT REPORT

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West Ilsley Parish Council

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Report of the Annual Parish Assembly held at

8.00p.m. on Monday 15th May 2000.

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Present: Cllr.R.Gore(Chairman), Cllrs. C.Sheppard, A.Morris, T.Allan-Jones, P.Carlisle, P.Bartaby, L.Gibson (Clerk) District Cllr.J. Morgan and 12 members of the public.

1. The report of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday May 19th 1999, having been circulated, was signed as a true record.

2. Chairman's Annual Report. R.Pease (the retiring Chairman) had circulated to all present a copy of his report which detailed the major activities of the Parish Council throughout the Year. He thanked Mrs Gibson for undertaking the role of Clerk. He also thanked his fellow Councillors for their hard work throughout the year, both on the Parish Council and other committees.

The new Chairman expressed the appreciation of the Parish Council to both Bas Pease and Norman Carlisle for their enthusiasm and hard work in serving the council for many years.

3. Guest Speaker - Inspector Sandy Nicholson, Thames Valley Police. Insp Nicholson explained The Rural Policing Policy. West Ilsley would now be covered by The Hungerford Downland Sector. He emphasised that it was not the intention of Thames Valley Police to neglect the rural areas and they will be aiming to attend all 999 calls within 15 minutes. He introduced P.C. Wheeler and P.C.Lynch who will be covering West Ilsley within their area. After answering several questions from the floor, Insp Nicholson stated that Thames Valley Police are hoping to recruit more officers in the future. He also said that between the period of 12.12.97 - 9.5.00 there had been 24 reported crimes in the parish of

West Ilsley. The Chairman thanked Inspector Nicholson and his colleagues for their time.

4. Reports from Representatives of Village Organisations.

W.I.Tennis Committee - John Clemenger A good year, the court had been rewired and the moss and weeds treated. The court was now in good overall condition. £335 had been collected in fees, most of which had been spent on maintenance of the court. 238 people had used the court during the year. It is probable that a small increase in fees would be necessary next year.

Evergreens - Shirley Gore The club has 41 members at present. Outings this year have included Cheddar & Wells, Brighton, Millets Farm and Cardiff. The Cake stall at the Village Show had been a success and a donation of £200 had been received from the show committee. The Christmas Bazaar was well attended and a pleasing amount of money raised. All members were treated to an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Star, East Ilsley. More outings are planned for the coming year.

Ilsley's School - Ian Fewtrell-Smith The budget is looking reasonably healthy and it is hoped that this will allow an increase in staffing hours. At present the school has 47 pupils with numbers expected to rise in the year 2000/2001. There is an active under-five's group, the supervisor, Julia Reveler, has joined the Governing Body. The school is well supported by 'The Friends of the Ilsley's School' who have given financial help. Every class has a computer and the school is on the Internet. The children play an active part in the community and Year 5 pupils acted in 'The Green Man' at The Watermill Theatre last week.

W.I.Show - Tracey Allan-Jones This years show had been a success with the gross total in excess of £2,200. of which donations of £1,700 have been made to local organisations. Many thanks to all those involved. Thanks also to the outgoing committee. The new show Chairman is Chris Allan-Jones. This years show will be on Sunday 16th July. The produce show is to be re-vamped and the Art Exhibition revived. Volunteers are needed to help man the stalls. There will be a pre-show dinner dance in the Marquee. Tickets and offers of help to Ali Eyston.

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W.I.Cricket Club - David Gore This year the 1st team had been Berkshire League champions and the 2nd team had climbed to the top half of Division 4. The field had been kept very well at a cost approaching £2,500. Fund raising continues and it is hoped to expand the usage. It is possible that the Pavilion will open on Friday evenings after a trial session. New members are always welcome.

W.I.Website - Ian Burton The website was launched in early September and features The W.I.News, Parish Council Agenda's and Minutes, Historic pictures of W.I., a Message Board and an article on Bishop Oliver. Usage of the site has been slow but it is hoped that more local organisations will make use of the facilities offered. Ideas for expansion include, History of W.I., Details of Local Walks, W.I.Statistics, For Sale and Wanted plus many more. It has helped three new W.I. families gain introduction to the village and has helped two ex-families stay in touch.

W.I.News - Andrea Cook Andrea and Steve Price had taken over the role of running W.I.News in the past few weeks as they felt strongly that it should continue as a service to the community. They would like to continue with all the usual 'notice board' items, Tennis Club, Cricket Club, Newcomers, Births, Deaths etc.but would also like to include wider issues and develop the W.I.News as a forum for debate. Further plans will be developed over the next few weeks.

W.I.R.& S.A. - Shirley Gore The hall had been redecorated, electrical and plumbing problems have been dealt with. The card tables have been refurbished by Alec Cole. The major part of the hall has been re-roofed at a cost of £4,614 + v.a.t. A grant has been received from W.B.C., and donations from Lockinge Estate and W.I.Parish Council. The balance came from the Associations repairs and maintenance fund. A successful bottle stall at the village show had resulted in a contribution of £340 to V.S. funds, in return the Association received a donation of £250 from the V.S. Committee. Fund raising had taken place in the form of a Clay Shoot and bingo session, both proving successful. Discussions with the P.C. are on-going as to the responsibilities of the Association regarding the management of the hall and recreation field. Use of the hall continues at a 'fair level' but efforts are being made to encourage more bookings. The association is happy to report that all monies raised go wholly into W.I.R.&S.A. funds and any costs incurred by officers of the Association are at their own expense.

W.I.Church. - Ian Fewtrell-Smith The Church was still suffering from low numbers in the congregation although the Pram Service continues to thrive. Following the retirement of Olive Clarke the church has no resident organist or a churchwarden since Ian retired after nine years in the post. There is a new oak altar cross made and donated by Alec Cole, a new cruet set in memory of Clare Syrett, and a seat in the upper churchyard in memory of Sheilagh Hern. The organ keyboard has been overhauled. The Church continues to be well cared for by a handful of volunteers but more volunteers would be welcomed. The roof is in need of re-tiling and some remedial work will take place soon. Fund raising in the form of a quiz night proved successful and it is hoped to hold another later in the year. A village treasure hunt and a bottle stall at the fête are also possibilities.

Best Kept Village - Mel Cook Sean Ryan and Mel Cook had taken on the role of organisers. The village is entered again and the sited to be judged will be the churchyard, post office, telephone box, village hall, cricket pavilion, recreation ground, public house and war memorial. Judging will be between 5th and 19th June.

W.I.Millennium Committee - Avice Morris Fund raising events held over the 18 months had raised a net total of almost £6,000. The committee was most grateful for the support from the village and village associations. Three millennium projects were identified by villagers. 1) A New Years Eve party which proved a great success. 2)A children's summer party which will take place on 25th June. 3)The Gazebo, for which a grant was refused by the Millennium Festival Awards but was subsequently awarded an Environmental Improvement Grant from W.B.C. However, a problem has since arisen in that there is some doubt as to the ownership of the land surrounding the pond. Indications are that it may belong to W.B.C.Highways. The Millennium Committee has requested that the Parish Council take the matter forward with some urgency so that the building of the Gazebo can commence.

Neighbourhood Watch. No report, but a message from Neville Maine-Tucker who has moved away from the area, thanking the Parish Council and the villagers for there support during his time as Neighbourhood Watch Organiser.

Downland Volunteer Group - no report.

Ilsey's Under Five's - no report.

Downland Sports Centre - no report

The Chairman thanked all those for coming and especially thanked those who gave reports.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.52p.m.

West Ilsey Parish Council

Ilsey Home