

# 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 11 July 2016 at 7.30pm (the "Meeting")**

---

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

**Apologies:** Anna Sugden

**In attendance:** Clive Hooker  
2 other members of the public

## 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 9 May 2016

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 9 May 2016 (the "Minutes") had been circulated prior to the Meeting. The draft Minutes were approved and signed by RD as a true record.

## 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 To be discussed during the Meeting.

## 5 Correspondence

5.1 IF noted the following item of correspondence received:

- The annual return had been filed, and there had been some questions and feedback from the auditors which had been incorporated into the final accounts.
- IF noted that she had received a request for a donation from the Community Council for Berkshire (a charity). After discussion, it was agreed that the WIPC would make the standard, recommended donation of £30.
- IF noted that she occasionally received (by email) ongoing cold-calling advertising material, and it was confirmed that this should be largely ignored.

## Actions

**IF to file the Minutes from the May 2016 Meeting in the WIPC archives.**

**IF to arrange for a £30 donation to be made to the Community Council for Berkshire.**

## 6 Community Matters

- 6.1 WIN, website and communications: Graham Woods (“**GW**”) said that there had been no real progress on these matters since the last meeting. It was noted that it might be difficult to move to a new, automated service of communication beyond the current email distribution list for the WIN. He noted that there were 11 houses in the village without email, and the WIN was distributed to these premises in hard copy form. The West Ilsley *Facebook* page was very poorly subscribed. The Committee noted its thanks to GW for his work on these matters.
- 6.2 There was no update or word on the potential upgrade of the broadband Internet connection for the village. It was unclear whether the upgrade would bypass the village or come through it.
- 6.3 Church: It was noted that there had been a well attended lunch in honour and celebration of HM The Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 6.4 Cricket Club: Justin Pilditch (“**JP**”) noted that the new artificial pitch for the West Ilsley Cricket Club had been laid during the course of the day (with improvements made to the nets area as well), and that this was a significant improvement to the Cricket Club’s facilities.
- 6.5 Alan Bloor (“**ABI**”) noted that the grass on the banks and at the top of the ridge by the tennis courts was extremely overgrown and unkempt. He recalled that, as the main occupiers of the recreational ground, the West Ilsley Cricket Club (“**WICC**”) was obliged (pursuant to the recreational ground’s association documents) to look after and maintain the entirety of the grounds, and ensure that they were fit for purpose. This work typically fell to a small number of volunteers to complete. While the cricket ground itself was in fine condition, the periphery (including near the tennis courts) was not. It was agreed that Rollo Duckworth (“**RD**”) and IF would send a message to the WICC accordingly, requesting that remedial work be undertaken. JP also undertook to inform the WICC Committee.
- 6.6 Table Tennis: A member of the public, Steve Cobrin, noted that he had run a small number of table tennis sessions in the Village Hall, which had not been particularly well attended. He said that he would look to resume sessions after the summer.
- 6.7 Fete: JP reported that the village’s annual fete held been very well attended in hot weather. The fete had generated a profit of £2950: a sum of £1000 would be kept in reserve for next year, leaving the sum of about £1800 to distribute equally to the various groups within the village. The headline numbers and distribution plans would be circulated to all in the next WIN.
- 6.8 One disappointing aspect of the day had been the small number of volunteers: only 4 had assisted the fete committee in its work on the day. The fete was very much relying on the same group of volunteers from year to year. ABI said that he thought that the fete had gone very well, with the BBQ selling out. There had been a number of local commercial stalls which handed over a proportion of their takings for the day (e.g., the ice-cream van). The only complication had been the last minute cancellation of the bouncy castle due to the proprietor’s illness. JP concluded by noting that most income streams were up from last year, and that overall feedback had been that the fete was better than previous years.
- 6.9 Village Hall: ABI noted that, as a new initiative, there was now a regular poster in the WIN advertising the Village Hall for hire. External works on the building had

**RD, IF and JP to request the WICC to tidy up the relevant parts of the recreational ground.**

**ABI to look into possibility of**

been booked for the first week in August, and these were expected to be completed during the course of that week. Insurance for the Village Hall was due to be renewed in February 2017, with the insurance premium expected to cost about £440. It was agreed that ABI would look into amalgamating the Hall's insurance with WIPC's overall policy from next year.

**amalgamating the Village Hall's insurance with the WIPC policy from February 2017.**

## **7 Environment and Upkeep**

7.1 Planning Applications: IF reported that there had been a planning application to improve / rebuild the roof at the property located at March Box House, Main Street (opposite the entrance to The Maltings). Some remedial work had been required by the West Berkshire Council ("WBC") with respect to these improvements. There were no objections.

7.2 There was some discussion of the planning application with respect to the property at 9 Main Street. There had been no Council objection to the works, although Anna Sugden had filed a private objection.

7.3 Footpaths: IF noted that she had received a request to have the footpath behind The Maltings cut back. Being a public footpath (and outside the boundary of the farms), it was a WBC responsibility. IF noted that, as per last year, she had requested private assistance to complete this task. In the context of the ongoing discussion, Alan Beaumont ("ABe") was nominated as WIPC's Footpaths Officer, and he was tasked with approaching WBC to request them to complete this work. It was also noted that the banks on Bury Lane were overdue to be trimmed back (this work was scheduled to be performed twice a year), as the overgrown vegetation hampered visibility and posed an accident risk. It was agreed that ABe would also bring this to the Council's attention.

**ABe to contact WBC regarding trimming back the footpath behind The Maltings and the banks on Bury Lane.**

7.4 Pond: ABI noted that he had had a discussion with a Tree Officer from WBC and it had been agreed that the officer would check one of the swamp trees in the pond area for stability and take any necessary action. A number of branches of one of the trees in the area had also become overgrown and were interfering with the overhead wires. It had been agreed that local farmers would look at this and trim the branches, as necessary.

**ABI to monitor the progress of required work in relation to some of the trees in the pond area.**

7.5 Play Area: Graham Woods ("GW") noted that the most recent RoSPA report into the village's play area had identified further deficiencies with respect to the remedial work that had been identified in its 2015 report. Accordingly, the risk rating for a number of the structures in the playground had been determined as "high" (versus a "medium" rating last year), thereby requiring immediate rectification. Essentially, a number of the structures were rotting (e.g., posts supporting the swings, and other climbing items).

**GW to (i) proceed with notifying the village of the closure of certain parts of the playground, and erect suitable notices in the playground, and (ii) attend to remedial action as a matter of urgency to enable the playground to be reopened as soon as possible.**

7.6 There was some discussion on the appropriate action to take, noting that the WIPC had a duty to act immediately on the recommendations in order to avoid any potential accident and associated liability issues. It was therefore decided that those parts of the playground identified as high risk should be immediately closed by appropriate notice to villagers (via WIN email), as well as visible notices and barriers on site, and that funds be allocated as a matter of priority to remedy the defects. It was vital that the playground be repaired and available for use as an important part of the "working village". It was also agreed that GW would circulate the RoSPA report to WIPC members for review and feedback within 24 hours.

## **8 Safety and Services**

8.1 Speeding: Justin Gilbert ("JG") noted that the WBC was pushing the village to

install Speed Indication Displays (SIDs), claiming that it was the only viable route available to us for speed calming measures. Two people in the village had been trained to use the devices, but their licenses had now expired. The next training course was scheduled for 26 July, and the Council wanted us to send some villagers to attend.

8.2 There was general discussion on this issue, with RD noting that the use of SIDs did not really resolve anything. JG noted that SIDs were simply a means of gathering data on speeding within the village. There was a need to consider new, innovative methods of traffic calming. For example, ABI noted that, at the eastern end of the village, further effective measures could include moving the 30 mph sign further uphill, introducing highway strips (as Mick Channon had done with the horse crossing), speed indicator signs and rumble strips. Clive Hooker (“CH”) reminded the WIPC to bear in mind that any new measures required installation and ongoing maintenance, and this would always have cost implications.

8.3 It was agreed not to proceed with the SID training at this stage, and that RD and JG would consider the issues further.

**RD and JG to consider traffic calming measures in further detail.**

8.4 Refuse and Waste: CH informed the Meeting of a new initiative to be introduced by WBC, whereby waste depots in the county would be allocated for use only by its permitted users (on a territory basis). Households in West Berkshire would be given a permit for display in their vehicles, allowing them to use the waste depots only in West Berkshire. This would accordingly prevent people outside the county from using West Berkshire based waste depots. A similar regime had been introduced in other nearby counties.

8.5 Pub: It was noted that there had been no development on the vacant land adjacent to the pub, other than the removal of the fence. The construction of the houses had now been approved. The LPG tank was expected to be removed in due course.

## **9 Any Other Business**

9.1 None.

## **10 Open Forum**

10.1 District Councillor Report: CH raised the issue of drainage of the pond located on the Channon property as a potential means of preventing flooding in the village in the future. He stated that there needed to be discussions with the Channons in order to encourage them to support the WBC recommended measures with respect to the pond to assist with water flow and flood prevention in the village. In this regard, it was felt that the WIPC should take a more active role in facilitating the necessary discussions between the Channons and WBC. After general discussion on the matter, it was agreed that representatives of WIPC would write to the Channons in order to facilitate such a meeting.

**RD to communicate with the Channons with a view to facilitating a meeting with WBC to discuss the implementation of flood prevention measures on their property.**

## **11 Date of Next Meeting**

11.1 The next Parish Council meeting is to be held on Monday 12 September 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**All to attend.**

11.2 There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

---

**Chair**

