

DRAFT MINUTES

West Ilsley Parish Council

Monday 13th March, 2000 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllrs R.S.Pease (Chairman) R.Gore, C.Sheppard, N.Carlisle, A.Morris, T.Allan-Jones, G.Wilson-North (Minute Taker), District Cllr.J. Morgan and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Mrs L Gibson (Clerk)

2. The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 17th January 2000, having been circulated to members were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

Parking at the Harrow Pond Those members of the Parish Council who had met with Mr Malcolm Bowler of W. B. Highways Dept at the pond, reported that Mr Bowler felt that parking around the pond was unsafe due to 'danger of access'; he had also pointed out the need to access the fire hydrant on the site at all times. As the Parish Council might be liable in the event of an accident, it should take action to prevent parking there. District Councillor Morgan agreed to contact Mr Bowler requesting his views in writing to the clerk. Subject to this letter, no parking signs and a chain link fence to prevent access, should be erected. The clerk was invited to investigate costs, to write to the council's insurers to clarify cover, to write to the National Association of Local Councils for clarification of the Parish Council's legal position and to warn the Landlady of the Harrow, and the West Ilsley News of action contemplated.

Thames Valley Police Inspector Sandalls from Thatcham Police Station to be invited to attend a future meeting of W.I.P.C. This would offer an opportunity for the P.C. to express disappointment in the lack of police presence in West Ilsley.

Village Nameplates Catmore Road nameplate is now in place, Bury Lane nameplates to be erected in the near future.

Travellers on The Ridgeway. Have now moved on to Aldworth.

Village Pond Volunteers. Sean Ryan and Mel Cook to liaise with Cllr Carlisle to discuss responsibilities regarding the Harrow pond maintenance. The lower pond by Keepers Stables is also common land, it has been looked after by Hodcott Stables. Lord Huntington should be approached regarding future management of the pond.

S.E.B Chairman to write to arrange a meeting with Mr Murray after Gazebo Grant Application Meeting on March 20th.

4. Correspondence.

a. Village Playscheme. Cllr Sheppard proposed that the Parish Council offer £200 to East Ilsley towards associated costs of a 3/4 Playscheme. Cllr Gore seconded. Carried unanimously.

b. Heavy Goods Vehicles. After much discussion it was agreed that the clerk should write to David Beckett (Chairman West Berks Highways Committee) asking that signs be erected on Bury Lane and Windmill Hill, near the A.34 stating 'No HGV's Except for Access' If the Highways Committee is re-examining HGV routes, would they please consider restricting access on every approach to West Ilsley.

c. Grain Dryer Noise. Additional noise limiting work has been undertaken and we now await harvest to gauge the success.

d. Best Kept Village. A contact person is needed to co-ordinate the Competition. The Chairman thanked Cllr Carlisle for his hard work over the previous years and suggested that the pond volunteers be nominated. The Parish Council will enter the 2000 Competition. Entry to be in by 31st March.

5. West Ilsley Recreation and Social Association. Parish Councillors are Trustees of the Village Hall and of the Recreation Ground. Future nominees should be made aware of this prior to Local Election. The Rector is also a Trustee. The Chairman to write informing her of this. The Parish Council and The Rector are also Trustees to the agreement (1988) between the Parish Council and the Cricket Club. W.I.R.& S.A. is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Village Hall and of the Recreation Ground. The new constitution of W.I.R.& S.A., submitted to the Parish Council in 1994, has not been formally approved. The Parish Council requests that the W.I.Recreation and Social Association submit a revised constitution for approval of the Trustees.

The upkeep of the Pavilion is the responsibility of the Cricket Club. Cllrs Gore and Sheppard to meet with the Chairman of W.I. Cricket Club John Bowness, and acting Secretary Tony Scriven on March 18th to assess internal and external dilapidation of the building. Cllr Gore suggested that this should become an annual inspection. Clerk to write to the Chairman of the W.I.C.C. for information of related costs re. the use of the pavilion by outside bodies during 1999/2000. The chairman noted that the P.C. is very proud of the W.I.C.C. and asked to record it's support for the Cricket Club.

From the floor Mr Bartaby asked whether under the Local Government Act, a Parish Councillor could be elected and then stand down from Trusteeship or ex-officio duties? Clerk to seek advice from National Association of Local Councils.

Mr Bowness, Chairman of W.I.C.C., stated that the Recreation Field is maintained by the C.C. The Chairman suggested that the use of the Recreation Field by third parties be discussed with W.I.R.& S.A. The P.C. asked that the W.I.C.C. give proposals and notification of rental charges for use of the Pavilion for 1999 and proposed charges for 2000 to the P.C. and W.I.R.&S.A. The Parish Council currently leases the Recreation Ground and for £1.00 per year from Lockinge Estate and does not wish to review this very generous agreement.

6. Rural Housing Survey. The Parish Council approved the letter and survey which will be delivered with an addressed envelope to all W.I. householders along with the W.I.News.

At this point the Chairman moved forward to the Open Forum.

10. Open Forum. Mr Bartaby requested that the P.C. pursue the Highways Agency and demand advance warning of road closures. Recent notices were incorrect, misleading and poorly placed. The P.C. would like prior and accurate notification in future. Clerk to write to Highways Agency and copies to W.B.D.C. Highways Dept. and D Beckett chairman of W.Berks Highways Committee.

7. Accounts for Payment. It was proposed that the following cheques be raised:

Annual Hire of Hall - £30.00. Cllr Sheppard proposed, Cllr Gore seconded, all in favour.

Clerks Expenses - £92.59. Cllr Allan-Jones Proposed, Cllr Morris seconded, all in favour.

Clerks Salary - £490.00. Cllr Gore proposed, Cllr Morris seconded, all in favour.

8. Local Elections. Nominations for Local elections must now be delivered by hand to the Returning Officer, not posted. Notice of Parish Council Elections to be displayed no later than 24th March. Notice to go in to W.I.News for April.

9. Annual Parish Assembly to take place on Monday 15th May, 2000 at 8.00p.m.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to take place on Monday 15th May, at 6.30p.m. This to be preceded by Annual Meeting of the Trustees of The Village Hall and The recreation Ground leases

Clerk to invite Guest Speaker to attend Annual Parish assembly and to send invitations to all groups and clubs asking for representations and reports.

Further Business. Revised Planning application No. 154732 'Ridgeways'. No objections. Cllr Sheppard proposed, Cllr Allan-Jones seconded, all in favour.

The chairman drew the attention of Dist Cllr Morgan, Chairman of The Downland Planning Committee, of unsightly BT cables recently installed above ground to temporary site hut. Clerk to write to BT objecting.

Cllr Morris asked the P.C. to provide W.I. children up to the age of 16 with a Millennium Mug at the Summer Party. Agenda to next meeting.

On closing the meeting, Cllr Pease said he would not be standing for re-election; and thanked fellow councillors for their support and cooperation.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.02p.m.