

WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of the
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)
held at the West Ilsley Village Hall, West Ilsley
on Monday 9 May 2016 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)
followed by an Assembly at 8.00pm**

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

Apologies: None

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 14 March 2016

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 14 March 2016 (the “Minutes”) had been circulated prior to the Meeting. The draft Minutes (as corrected) were approved and signed by RD as a true record.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 RD asked IF whether all the actions that had arisen from the Minutes of the previous Meeting had been completed. IF confirmed that they had, namely: (i) IF had corrected the minutes from the January 2016 meeting of the WIPC and filed them in the WIPC archives; (ii) she had received notification from Lloyds Bank confirming the revised signatories for WIPC’s bank account; (iii) IF had written to the West Berkshire Highways Authority regarding traffic calming in the village; and (iv) she had taken all other actions according to the previous Minutes.

4.2 RD confirmed that he had spoken to Martin BW with respect to updating the Wikipedia page for West Ilsley and the village website.

4.3 IF updated the Meeting on the playground report issued by RoSPA following its recent inspection of the West Ilsley playground, as Jessica Walsby (the Chair of the Play Area Committee), was not present at the Meeting. Anna Sugden (“AS”) agreed to follow up on the outstanding items mentioned in the RoSPA report.

4.4 Alan Bloor (“ABI”) confirmed that he was still to organize a working party in relation to the gazebo area.

Actions

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

AS to liaise with Jessica Walsby and action the follow-up RoSPA items.

ABI to organize a working party for the

4.5	AS confirmed that she had contacted West Berkshire Council regarding the damaged bus stop pole, and reported that the WBC had promised that the pole by the bus stop would be repaired. The proposed date for the works was at this stage unknown.	gazebo area. Monitor repairs to the bus stop pole.
4.6	<u>2014 Flooding : Remedial issues:</u> The issue of the 2014 village flooding was discussed in some detail. It was noted that remedial work had been identified by WBC reports to protect against further village flooding (namely, effecting improvements to the drainage system leading in an easterly direction from the West Ilsley pond). In this regard, Alan Beaumont (“ AB ”) reported that he had contacted staff at the West Ilsley Stables to discuss the issue, and it appeared as though West Ilsley Stables were not currently disposed to cooperate with the WBC and agree to dig a ditch alongside its property and adjacent to the private road in order to provide a further flow-off route for floodwater from the pond. After some discussion, it was felt that the WBC needed to re-establish contact directly with Mike Channon in this regard (rather than through his staff), or otherwise find an alternate way to resolve the issue. AB agreed to attend the next WBC flood committee meeting (in place of Mel Cook – the flood warden – who could not attend).	Continue efforts to resolve the village’s flood risk, and facilitate contact between WBC and West Ilsley Stables as appropriate.
4.7	RD mentioned that there appeared to be no records as to who held the position of Treasurer. IF confirmed that she was the WIPC Treasurer.	
4.8	RD said that he had attended the WBC Conference held on 22 March. He summed up what he learned there: namely, that WBC wanted to pass as much as possible of its services to the Parish Councils. RD said that he could understand how this might work for the bigger Parish Councils, but noted that it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for small Parish Councils, such as West Ilsley. We, as the village, could simply not take care of the roads, or waste management, etc. The budget cuts were dramatic and WBC was trying to discontinue providing as many of its services as possible. ABI suggested that we could organize the salt bins ourselves and RD agreed with that.	
5	Correspondence	
5.1	<p>IF noted the following item of correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="282 1339 1240 1486">• IF said that she received the annual renewal for insurance cover from Zurich Insurance renewal. The conditions were the same as last year. Tony Elliot asked whether it would be possible to join the Village Hall to this insurance policy. Justin Gilbert (“JG”) agreed to check the conditions and the possibility for the Village Hall accordingly. <li data-bbox="282 1522 1240 1696">• IF mentioned that she had received correspondence, stating that new pension regulations were due to be introduced in 2017. According to the Pension Regulator, all Parish Councils would have to assume new legal duties in relation to pensions if they had at least one employee. It was agreed that AB would look into the matter further to determine the implications for WIPC. 	<p>IF will send the Zurich insurance to JG for further checking re the Village Hall.</p> <p>IF to send all information relating to the new Pensions Regulator (and regulations) to AB.</p>
6	Community Matters	
6.1	<u>Banking:</u> IF confirmed that work with respect to effecting the changes to the signatories to the WIPC bank account following the recent resignations was now completed.	

6.2	<u>Treasurer's Report:</u> IF read out the Treasurer's report for the 2015/2016 financial year.	IF will circulate the Treasurer's report to Councillors.
6.3	<u>Annual accounts:</u> IF confirmed that she had completed the annual financial accounts return form for this financial year. She will send it to the external auditors, Mazars. The annual return was by RD as Chairman.	
6.4	<u>WIN, website and communications:</u> RD mentioned that the WIN distribution was working very well in the village. RD said it would be even better to enhance the Wikipedia site about West Ilsley. He also noted that improvements were needed to the West Ilsley website to make it clearer and easier to use. People could then post more information and run blogs about the tennis, cricket, etc. RD acknowledged that the tennis booking system was working well, and suggested that the Village Hall could perhaps adopt this system. It was agreed generally by the WIPC that further efforts were needed in order to revitalize the West Ilsley website. Graham Woods (" GW ") agreed to look into this.	GW to consider a plan to revitalize the West Ilsley website.
6.5	A member of the public, Steve Corbin, said that it would be helpful if the various means of Internet / social communication (such as Facebook, WIN and the West Ilsley website) could start working together and complement each other. He also agreed that the West Ilsley website should be simpler for users.	
7	Environment and Upkeep	
7.1	<u>Planning Applications:</u> RD mentioned the planning application regarding the land adjacent to the Harrow Pub. The determination date for a decision was 14 March 2016.	
7.2	IF noted that she had previously circulated to Councillors information concerning planning application No. 16/01035 at the address: Paddock View, Main St, West Ilsley, RD20 7AA. The deadline for this application was 12 May 2016. No objections were received.	
	<u>Cricket/Tennis/Play Area/Pond/Public Open Spaces</u>	
7.3	<u>Pond:</u> ABI said that he noticed that there was an unstable tree in the pond area opposite the Harrow pub. He believed that it should be inspected and cut down if necessary.	IF to contact a tree officer at WBC regarding the offending tree.
8	Safety and Services	
8.1	<u>Speeding:</u> A member of the public, Tony Elliot, again mentioned the topic of speeding in the village. RD noted that IF was in contact with the WBC in an effort to resolve the problem.	IF to continue efforts with the Highways Authority to ask if any traffic calming measures could be installed in the village.
8.2	Another member of the public, Adrian Dray, said that he was very concerned with the situation regarding speeding in the village. JG said that he would join IF in her attempts to persuade WBC to install traffic calming measures in the village.	
9	Working Village	
9.1	RD noted that it would be useful and informative to have David Carlisle attend WIPC meetings in order to provide input and feedback to the Parish Council forum	RD to invite David Carlisle to attend WIPC meetings.
10	Open Forum	
10.1	A member of public, Adrian Dray, raised a question concerning how the Parish	

Council spent public money. IF said that she had completed the Annual Financial Return for the year ended 31 March 2016. This had been checked and signed by internal auditor Steven Banks, and would be forwarded to the Council's external auditor, Mazars. Following this, the Council must then inform the electorate of a 30 working day period (starting on 1 July 2016 and ending on 8 August 2016) during which electors' rights may be exercised.

11 Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The next Parish Council meeting is to be held on Monday 11 July 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

11.2 There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

12 Annual Assembly

12.1 The various committees within the village were then invited to present their annual reports (a copy of each of which is attached to these minutes as follows):

- Tennis Committee (Liz Dray)
- Ilsley Under 5's (Juliet Ryder)
- Village Fate Committee (Daniel Hudson)
- Play Area Committee (didn't present)
- Table tennis Committee (Steve Cobrin)
- Evergreens (Tony Elliot)
- Church Committee (Ian Fewtrell-Smith)
- Village Hall Committee (Alan Bllor)
- Cricket Club Committee (Justin Pilditch)
- Dawnlands Ward Cllr Clive Hooker report

All to attend.

Chairman

Attachment 1 (Tennis Committee)

Tennis Club 2015/16

Annual membership runs from April each year at a cost of £45/family and £25/single membership. We are delighted to have 24 families as members (which includes 5 from outside the village) and 2 single memberships. At the moment we have 3 less memberships than last year but this usually increases as the summer goes on.

We now have an electronic booking system for both members and non-members thanks to Martin BW and details of how to use this can be found up at the court. It is interesting to see we are picking up extra income from the occasional non-village booking.

Louise Beaumont ran another successful junior tennis coaching course during the Easter holidays. A total of 25 village/tennis club children benefited from coaching over 3 days and another family joined as a result.

We have been able to keep our membership fee at the same level for some time now due in part to undertaking the court maintenance as much as possible amongst the committee of 6 of us and we are immensely grateful to Alan Beaumont for his help in weedkilling and strimming around the court. As you can imagine it is both costly and difficult to get external help for this over the summer months.

West Ilsley News 2016

Andrea and Liz continue to produce the monthly WIN newsletter which is distributed in the main electronically but in paper format for some villagers who are unable to have internet access. As always we would like to express huge thanks to the kind neighbours who print extra copies for those unable to receive information electronically. In addition we continue to send out ad hoc emails in between and there is now a West Ilsley News Facebook page. As always, we do our best to get in touch with new residents, but we're not always aware when properties change hands, particularly when they are rented, so we would appreciate any updates or neighbours putting new residents in touch with us if they are interested in joining the email system. We raise about £250 income per annum in advertising.

Attachment 2 (Ilsley Under 5's)

Ilsley Under 5's Update Report to West Ilsley Parish Council Monday 9th May 2016

Since the last report we have welcomed a new committee. Our new committee members are Leah McGrath (Secretary), Rebecca Hartley (Treasurer) and Natasha Tombs (Social/Fundraising). We are also in the process of transferring Chair responsibilities from Juliet Ryder to Victoria Britton.

The Ilsley Under 5's continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays and this year the committee have continued to work really hard, including planning an exciting programme of events incorporating cooking, yoga, music as well as external activities such as Nature Tots and a visit to Leapfrog Ceramics.

We have introduced activity weeks where the group meets once or twice a month at an external location for an activity such as Nature Tots, Soft Play etc and then for the other weeks we hold the sessions in West Ilsley Village Hall. This format continues to lessen the burden on a small committee and the set up rota. Although since the summer, we now have many regulars who are happy to help out.

We have been using social media networks such as Facebook groups and a new Page to maintain contact with our members about activities and this is working really well, although we are mindful that not all families are using Facebook so we continue to promote on local noticeboards and through the local Children's Centres. Whilst numbers had declined over last year we are seeing a resurgence in the numbers of families attending and are monitoring the situation with the review of Children's Centres as this will place more emphasis on our links with families in the community. We get occasional visits from Tanya (Chieveley Childrens Centre). They have given us excellent feedback about our range of activities that we are offering families.

Chieveley Childrens Centre has now closed, but will be offering an outreach programme.

**Juliet Ryder
Chair to Ilsley Under 5's**

Attachment 3 (West Ilsley Fete Committee)

West Ilsley Fete - Annual Report

The 2015 fete was held on Sunday 5th July 2015 and was preceded by the usual Friday night dance organised by a small group of volunteers from the village with a festival theme, aptly named 'Westival' and was a huge success with all the money raised used to support the various village groups.

The fete day itself on the Sunday was well attended despite the changeable British weather with the day starting off with fine dry weather early on followed by wind and rain towards the end of the afternoon that brought the proceedings to an abrupt close.

Highlights of last year's show included the helicopter, hawk and owl display, although this partly disrupted due to the weather, pedal go-karts, the ever popular produce show, including the hugely competitive male and female baking categories last year won by Philip Knight and Louise Beaumont respectively.

Amongst the other favourites were the West Ilsley dog show, bottle stall, raffle, crockery smashing, BBQ, teas and cakes, clothing and 'bric a brac' stall as well as the many other village favourites. The 2015 attendance was up on previous years with almost 500 paying entrants with the overall fete well supported from those within the village and those from further afield.

As a result we raised an amazing amount with a net profit of just over £2,500 which enabled us to make donations totalling £1,600 to the many village organisations, including All Saints Church, Evergreens, Tennis Club, The Illseys School, Village Hall, Village Fire Works, Air Ambulance Family of Hope (Mandy Slater) and Lymphoma Association (June Cook). The amount we managed to donate was up on previous years which is testament to all those who supported the weekend.

This year the fete is to be held on 3rd July 2016 with the pre-fete dance to once again be held on the Friday night. This year the event is to be based on a British theme to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday and is being organised by four individuals with the purpose of raising money for all village committees, more details to follow.

Whilst we have lost several members from the committee the planning for the fete this year is well advanced with the produce show and the usual range of stalls and entertainment.

Finally, I would like to thank all the village organisations, local businesses, sponsors and individuals for their continued support every year to make the fete weekend a hugely successful and enjoyable event for the whole village to enjoy. Without this support the fete would not happen.

As always the committee is always keen to receive any comments or suggestions for this year's event, if you have any suggestions or would like to get involved please contact any one of the fete committee.

Daniel Hudson – May 2016

Attachment 7 (Church Committee)

REPORT ON BEHALF OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH FOR THE WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 9TH MAY 2016

Over the last year, the Revd. John Toogood has continued to be supported by Revd. Lady (Denise) Brown and Revd Douglas Dales, but with the addition of Revd William McDowell as curate. William will be ordained as priest in July and he will be with us for another 3 years.

At our recent annual parochial church meeting, Alexandra Axtell was again re-elected churchwarden with Ian Fewtrell-Smith, together with the appointment of one new PCC member, bringing the church council membership up to nine.

We continue to be one of 9 churches in the East Downland Benefice, with united services held in Chieveley every third Sunday in the month. All Saints' continues to hold three Sunday services on the first, second and fourth Sunday of each month, two of which being specifically aimed at families and children. In addition, café church at Chieveley is extremely popular with younger children with members of our church actively involved in the planning of, and music for, this service.

We continue to be very grateful for the support of various volunteers within the village, looking after the church and churchyard by keeping the grass cut, cleaning the church or providing flowers. We had our usual working party for Remembrance Sunday although the Easter one did not take place this year.

All Saints' was very fortunate to receive grants from the Parish Council early last year, as well as from the Fete Committee, from Christmas greetings in the WIN and from the ladies who organised the Pre-fete dance. There were also a number of individual donations, all of which are much appreciated.

Our Harvest Lunch and the Clay Pigeon Shoot were both well attended and in the summer the Parochial Church Council hosted a Pimms Party after our well-attended Pet Service. We would like to thank all those who were involved in making all these enjoyable community events happen.

After the high costs of the previous year when mesh was installed under the ceiling in All Saints', it was almost a relief in 2015 to only have to find our customary running costs of around £12,000. These costs have to cover the Diocesan Parish Share and Benefice Expenses which enables us to have a full time minister and pays for our clergy expenses, as well as the maintenance of the church itself. This was achieved by a combination of donations, regular gifts, collections and our fund-raising events. As usual, the collection of our Remembrance Sunday service went directly to the British Legion and this year it was our turn to host all members of the local Legion who packed out the church. We also donated collections to WaterAid as well as to two local charities, Two Saints and Time to Talk. Collections from Café Church services that were held in All Saints' went to the charities Amar and New Day, both of which support women and children in other countries.

As running costs were down in 2015 and receipts were up considerably, financial matters are not such a big concern at the moment, although we cannot depend on such large receipts in the future. As ever, we are grateful to Andrea Cook for examining the accounts.

Our church continues to be active, playing its part within the benefice. This includes helping to redesign the benefice magazine and website, considering ways of serving the wider community, such as assisting with the local food bank and preparing new modern services, particularly for children. We are also involved with the provision of a new benefice office in Chieveley, the timber frame due to go up on 10th May.

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

9th May 2016

Attachment 8 (Village Hall Committee)

Chairman's Report

It has been a difficult year for the Village Hall Committee in that due to unforeseen circumstances there have been at least three chairmen. That said significant progress has been made by the Committee in respect of continuing the improvement of the Village Hall as a facility following the successful grant application in the previous year. The lighting, acoustics and insulation have been completed. Painting has been done. In my view the Village Hall is much more user friendly, however we do still seem to have a problem in encouraging a greater use of the Village Hall.

There are still things to do to further improve the facility and these are currently ongoing or being looked at - these include heating, toilets and external works to the building.

Fund raising during the year has included the village bonfire and many thanks to those who generously contributed to the fireworks and the Carlisle family for allowing the use of their field. Christmas and Easter Bingo nights have been successful activities.

As I have said the real disappointment is the usage of the Village Hall and any suggestions on how this can be improved would be most welcome.

Although only having been in this position for a very short period of time I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work during the year particularly just recently in finishing of the painting and ceiling. Thanks Steve for rallying the troops.

I believe there are issues of management of the Village Hall which will need to be discussed with the Parish Council if there are not sufficient people in the village willing to volunteer as committee members and take on the various roles.



Downlands Ward Report 2015/2016
Councillor Clive Hooker

Since the election in May 2015 when I was elected as the Downlands Ward Conservative representative, I have endeavoured to support the constituents of the Ward in a wide range of issues both for individuals and collectively.

Immediately after the election I was asked to sit on a total of five Council Committees, those being the Western Area Planning Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, Joint Consultative Panel, Corporate Parenting Panel and the Licensing Committee. I am also a substitute for the Eastern Planning Committee, however, I have not as yet been called upon to attend.

I also represent the Council on the Saunders Wynn and Coventry Trust, which is a charitable organisation donating educational funds to worthy children in Chaddleworth. To aid my effective contribution as a Councillor on these Committees and Panels, I attended thirteen in house training courses, many of which were obligatory before participation on the above committees was approved by the Council.

On May 12th the election of the new Council Leader takes place and the subsequent reformation of many of the Council Committees, I have been relinquished of several of my commitments on the Committees mentioned above and have been invited to concentrate on planning issues in particular. Therefore, I will be sitting as Chairman of the Western Area Planning Committee, as a member of the District Planning Committee and as a member of the Planning Advisory Group. I have also been invited to sit on the Council Appeals Panel. The forthcoming year is going to be very busy.

During the last eleven months, I have represented the Ward at seven Western Area Planning meetings and twenty one associated site planning meetings, prior to the main planning meeting itself. I have also attended three out of the four scheduled Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meetings. I have attended six full Council meetings, twenty four Parish Council meetings, only one of which I have not been able to attend, that being Brightwalton due to other meetings coinciding. I have attended two Joint Consultative Panel meetings, three Corporate Parenting Panel meetings, two District Parish Council Conferences, one Sanders Wynn and Coventry Trust meeting and I have also represented the Ward at RAF Welford on three occasions for various remembrance services.

I have held eight constituency surgeries, one in each parish and one in Farnborough village, which gave every resident in the Ward the opportunity to meet with me personally and to discuss any of their concerns in confidence. These were in some areas poorly attended, but the intention is to hold these again next year, which I consider to be a reasonable frequency.

I met with the Chief Executive of the Council, Nick Carter, in the Ward at his request to inform him of achievements attained during the year and to discuss with him any concerns the constituents in the Downlands Ward may have.

The achievements shown to Mr Carter were the excellent renovation of Beedon Village Hall assisted from the financial contribution from the West Berks Council under the Members Bid Scheme and the Parish Plan Scheme. A proportion of the funds, however, were raised by the local community assisted by a grant from the Greenham Trust. The renovation project ran for three years concluding at the end of 2015.

I would like to stress the importance to West Ilsley Parish Council of reconsidering drafting a Parish Plan as once approved, the financial advantages can be considerable for the community, as seen for example in Beedon as outlined above.

I discussed the concerns of the East Ilsley and West Ilsley residents with respect to flooding and any preventative actions to reduce the possibilities of flooding occurring in the future. It was actioned at both East and West Ilsley Parish Councils that they would arrange to meet with Stuart Clark, the Flood Officer, to discuss the dredging of the respective village ponds to ensure adequate balancing can take place in heavy rain conditions.

I have a meeting with Stuart Clark on Wednesday 11th May 2016 to discuss his plans for flood prevention in West Ilsley in particular and to view his drainage proposals to date; I will report back the outcome of that meeting at your next Parish Council Meeting.

Prior to Christmas, I accompanied Police vehicle patrols in Newbury Town Centre as part of an alcohol awareness and drink driving initiative. I also accompanied Police Officers in their 4x4 vehicles on a rural crime prevention exercise travelling along a length of the Ridgeway during the hours of 10pm and 4am. This rural initiative was the incentive of our Police Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld, who has successfully been re-elected, who wished to ensure that the patrol of rural areas of farmland and farm buildings was prioritised in an effort to reduce rural crime, in particular theft of farm equipment and livestock rustling.

With the Government devolving services down to District Councils, it is expected in due course that the District Council will devolve services down to the Parish Councils.

This issue of devolution of services from the District to the Parish Councils was discussed along with the concerns of the residents regarding the possible lack of volunteers and the associated legal and health and safety issues involved with expediting such contracts.

Mr Carter's response was that in rural areas, it was understood that there would be a lack of volunteers and such services would only be devolved if and when the Parish Councils deemed it practicable. He has since our discussion, written to all Parish Councils re-iterating that rural areas such as Downlands will not have these matters placed on them in a compulsory manner, but will only be considered if voluntarily offered by the PC's.

I have assisted constituents on a personal level with regards to council tax, retaining and obtaining social housing, speed camera repositioning programme and in East Ilsley, making the case for the Parish Council to make representation to have the speed limit reduced around the one way system and passed the primary school from 30mph to 20mph.

I have helped one constituent with his plans for a start-up venture by supporting his case and presenting it at the Western Area Planning Committee.

I have been in discussion with several church councils in my Ward regarding the alternative use of church buildings to safeguard the future for their communities, with a mind not to encroach on Village Hall usage.

I have also liaised with the Council Highways Department to have several miles of the rural roads in the Ward maintained by widening and improving the drainage, one of which being Catmore Road which has been re-patched, widened in places, cuts maintained and white lined.

I have also represented the Ward at the presentation of the Community Awards Conference where people in West Berks are recognised for their services both to the community and the Council.

In the experience of long standing Councillors at West Berks Council, this year has been the most difficult in their memory with regards to cuts from central government and the knock-on effect of council tax increases to fund the shortfall. I have made my contribution in trying to retain the local

bus services to our rural communities and the mobile library service. I have also been in long discussions with the Council with regard to the home to school transport restructuring. Hopefully these matters will be looked on sympathetically with the £1.4M interim grant secured by Richard Benyon for the partial retention of these service, however, these interim grants are only for two years and these issues will be raised again in the future.

Clive Hooker

Councillor, Downlands Ward

9th May 2016