

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 9th March 2015

Present: Dries Hagen(Chair), Rollo Duckworth, Alan Beaumont, Alan Bloor, Jo Scriven, Anna Sugden, Sean Ryan and Alison Banks (Clerk). 12 members of the public and District Councillor George Chandler.

1. Apologies

None

2. To receive any changes to Declarations

None received.

3. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 12th January 2015.

Signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

The Parish Council had received a copy of the Cricket Club's Insurance cover. The exact cover will be clarified. Dries offered to contact Geoffrey Brown from West Ilsley Cricket Club.

A fence quote had been received via Cllr Bloor for £3745 inc VAT from Giles Wilson-North. This was cheaper than Mark Baker. Kevin Holloway was still to quote.

However at the time of writing his quote had been received. It was comparable to Giles W-North. Proposed by Cllr Bloor and seconded by Cllr Scriven to go ahead with Giles. This would include the small amount of fencing in front of the village hall. The rugby posts had been purchased and were a great success. Cllr Sugden thanked Wes, Adrian and Ali for their help assembling. The Clerk will insure these and confirm that Public Liability extends.

The rubbish outside the Village Hall is still unsightly – the chairman asked for an update from the village hall chairman - Mr Hanbury

The VAS has been repaired – all to check.

Dog Fouling signs are on order.

5. Correspondence received

To be taken in the minutes

6. Improvements to existing open spaces

The rugby posts have arrived and paid for and will be insured. The benches for outside the tennis court are paid for and due imminently. The fence work will be commissioned following the decision to go ahead – action Cllr Bloor.

All invoices to the Parish Council and VAT would be claimed back. Once purchased they would be added to the Asset Register and to the PC insurance.

7. Precept

Following from the previous meeting the Chairman was asked to propose the small rise. This was done by e mail and the Councillors were asked to consider a proposal to

uplift the precept by 0,5% in line with the current Consumer Price Index as published by the ONS.

The responses had all been positive. Hence the Clark has requested this from West Berkshire Council.

8. Village Funding Update

The proposed new procedure for allocating any precept money to village committees was underway and 2 applications had been received: All Saints Church – payment made and Village Hall.

Village Hall - £5000 to match grant received and to be used for upgrading heating, insulating and lighting.

The proposal had been received by e mail from Mr Hanbury, the Village Hall chairman and the Parish Council Chairman would follow up. It contained details and quotations for lighting, insulation and acoustics.

9. Village Hall Update

As described in the funding item, the Hall is undergoing Phase 1 improvement: internal improvements complete. Phase 2 would involve upgraded insulation, lighting and acoustics. A request for £5000 had been requested. – see above. Phase 3 heating improvements.

10. Community Led Plan

Cllr Sugden requested that this plan should be shelved for the time being. Current data was out of date and further work was required and increasingly more time consuming and detailed. All agreed the previous questionnaire had been useful. However as the route for funding via a Community Plan document was not guaranteed and more data was required the project would be shelved for now. Grateful thanks to Cllr Sugden and Duckworth for all their work to date.

11. Transport and safety

The illuminated VAS 30mph sign appears to be mended – according to Mr Cobrin. Tony Elliot had tried unsuccessfully to make progress with West Berkshire Council but had now received an e mail from them. All suggested that the sign should be relocated (near the Chapel House area). The Chairman asked for the e mail to be forwarded to him.

12. Environmental

The pipe lining/pipe repairs along Main Street is complete. This was the last part of the urgent repairs. Going forward there is 18k available for design work for further improvement.

There are still issues regarding who is responsible for maintaining and repairing pipes and ponds. The Highways team are insisting it is the riparian owner (Lady Huntington for Keeper's pond, The Banks's for the pipe under The Poplars, WBC for the Duck Pond and Mick Channon for The Stables). However in contrast Highways do and have

offered support for some projects eg they have replaced the pipe under The Poplars and dredged the Duck Pond (7 years ago) but clarity is required. Cllr Beaumont offered to chat to Lady Huntingdon concerning the pond at Keeper's Stables and as to if WBC had offered any support and the Chairman was going to take legal advice.

This would be raised at the next Pang Valley Flood Forum.

Thames Water was in discussion with the 5 properties in West Ilsley house for improvements to their foul system which had discharged last February during the floods. Progress was being made.

13. Cricket/Tennis/Play Area

Nothing to report.

14. Accounts for payment/monies received

Cheques raised for rugby posts and benches. The clerk had been paid.

15. West Ilsley Trust

The defibrillator and cabinet had been purchased. It will be put up outside the village hall once the correct cabinet arrived. In the meantime it is in the porch of the village hall. Successful training had taken place.

16. Planning Applications

None on circulation.

17. AOB

Everyone agreed that the duck pond needed a good tidy up. This would be coordinated and a working party arranged similar to the one for the Church. The Chairman was asked to compile a list and then Andrea Cook offered to coordinate.

There was a general request for the steps up to the tennis court to be reinstated. Cllr Sugden would check what H&S requirements need to be met.

A window had been broken in the property bordering the Orchard – it had come from a pellet gun or similar. The Police had been notified. There was a suggestion for CCTV to be positioned in the village (Cllr Sugden to investigate). Adrian Dray to forward the telephone number of Mr Noble who owns the orchard to inform him of this activity.

Cllr Hagen to contact Mr Noble.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that potentially there could be Councillor elections in May. All took away their papers to prepare their nominations. If contested (unlikely) there would be elections.

The Clerk indicated that she would be looking for a successor.

The next meeting will be on Monday May 12th – the AGM at 7.30pm followed by the Parish Assembly at 8pm