

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 9 January 2017 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

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

Apologies: none

In attendance: Clive Hooker
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. RD thanked everybody for attending the Meeting.

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 24 November 2016

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 24 November 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 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) it had been confirmed that the WIN communication was working now; (ii) IF had sent a response to the Village Agent charity, declining their request for a volunteer from the Village to assist; (iii) Alan Beaumont (“**ABe**”) would report later to the Meeting regarding developments concerning the trough by the pond; (iv) Justin Gilbert (“**JG**”) would update the Meeting on developments regarding the control of speeding in the village and the meeting with Glyn Davis; (v) RD and ABe had resolved the drainage issue with Mr Channon; and (vi) IF had written to the WBC regarding the blockage on Bury Lane and had circulated a notice in WIN regarding WBC’s sand bag initiative.

Actions

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

5 Correspondence

5.1 IF noted the following items of correspondence received:

- IF informed the Meeting that she had received a proposal from WBC about parish council donations to council libraries due to budget cuts. However, the Berkshire Association of Local Councillors opposed this proposal and considered it illegitimate. Discussion was still ongoing accordingly.
- IF informed the Meeting that she had received a request from WBC to submit a new precept for 2017-2018. There was a general discussion about the amount of the precept that ought to be requested this year. RD concluded that the discussion should continue off-line so that IF could submit the request before the deadline of 31 January 2017.

IF to submit the precept form following further discussion.

6 Community Matters

6.1 Finance: IF informed the Meeting that she had written one cheque since the last meeting: (i) £120.00 to Martin B W for repair of the Village's website.

6.2 WIN, website and communications: It was noted that the WIN email communication system was working fine now.

6.3 Tennis Club: IF informed the Meeting that she received a request from the Committee of the Tennis Club, requesting that the fence and fence posts of the Tennis Club be added onto the asset register of West Ilsley's Zurich insurance policy (i.e., as part of the public open spaces of West Ilsley). The Tennis Club has asked for WIPC's permission to do this. The Tennis Club noted that they would pay the additional premium (£39.77+VAT). RD requested that IF forward all relevant correspondence to ABe for him to decide.

IF to forward all the correspondence to ABe relevant to the Tennis Club's fence insurance.

6.4 Table tennis: The head of the table tennis club noted that there had been increased interest in table tennis lately.

6.5 Village Hall activity and usage: Alan Bloor ("ABI") informed the Meeting that the new toilets in the Village Hall had been installed.

7 Environment and Upkeep

7.1 West Ilsley Trust: IF noted that she needed to submit the annual return of the West Ilsley Trust. This would be a nil report, as there had not been any transaction activity during the previous year.

IF to submit the annual return of the West Ilsley Trust.

7.2 Planning Applications: There had been no new planning applications submitted since the previous Meeting.

7.3 Footpaths and Bridleways: ABI noted that there was a problem with the pavement opposite the Village Hall, as well as potholes in the road opposite the "Old Post Office" and near the "Chapel". It was requested that IF report these issues to WBC for repair, and as a means of maintaining pressure on Highways for resolution of the issues.

IF to report to WBC about the noted repair required within the Village.

RD informed the Meeting that a new sign erected outside 7 – 9 Main Street denominating "Main Street" seemed to be pointing in the wrong direction and was therefore confusing. He had been in communication with WBC directly on this issue.

7.4 Cricket / Tennis / Play Area / Pond / Public Open Spaces: There was ongoing

ABe to investigate

discussion regarding the trough by the pond. A member of the public, Pauline Sinclair, noted that, if it was present, it ought to be in functioning order. It was noted that many people did not like their horses drinking from a common area that was not maintained. It was suggested that a plan be devised to use it for another purpose (e.g., for planting or reconstructing it into a park bench). It was agreed that ABe would consider and resolve the issue going forward.

what else is possible to be done with the trough.

7.5 Village Hall: The Village Hall's AGM would be held on 5 April 2017 (a public forum).

8 Safety and Services

8.1 Speeding: JG informed the Meeting that he and ABI had met with Glyn Davis (Principal Engineer, Traffic Management and Road Safety, WBC) on 8 December 2016 regarding traffic calming measures in West Ilsley. This had included a walk around the Village, examining its pressure points. The following conclusions had been agreed:

JG and ABI to continue to monitor implementation of the suggestions with Glyn Davis.

- WBC would install an SDR speed check (to measure incoming speeds) at the west end of the Village and let us know the results;
- The children's playground sign would be replaced (it is in bad condition);
- One of the "slow" signs would be refreshed;
- There were no issues at the southern entrance to the Village (i.e., via Catmore Road);
- At the northern entrance to the Village, it was noted that, with the lack of gritting, ice would frequently form during winter. While the kink in the road tended to force drivers to slow down naturally, the issue was one of gritting. It was agreed that Mr Davis would speak with Andrew Reynolds (who dealt with gritting within WBC) about this, with a view to getting the road gritted up to the limit of the residential part of the Village. Mr Davis will revert on this.
- At the eastern entrance to the Village, it was agreed that the signs and road markings would be refreshed and improved. There was some discussion about the potential installation of a speed indication sign in front of the "Chapel", with discussions on this issue to continue.

JG to revert with respect to potential speeding improvements near the "Chapel".

It was mentioned that any funding for these initiatives would be coming out of WBC's budget for next year, and that it was likely that charges would need to be split or shared between WBC and the Village. Mr Davis will revert with further information and costs / proposals.

A member of the public, Pauline Sinclair, highlighted the need to identify side-road / entrance points at the "cart track" (being the gravel cul-de-sac just before the limits of the Village on the way to East Ilsley), as this was a danger point and there were no warning signs for traffic leaving the Village (which often did so speeding). JG suggested that the Village also take some initiative itself by organizing a work party to clean the road signs within the Village which were all generally very dirty.

WIPC to organize a work party to clean the road signs within the Village.

The Committee thanked JG and ABI for their efforts in moving this issue forward.

8.2 Refuse and waste: A member of public, Pauline Sinclair, mentioned that there was a lot of rubbish and waste along Bury Lane. Clive Hooker ("CH") noted that this could be followed up with Andrew Reynolds at WBC.

IF to write to Andrew Reynolds re cleaning of gullies down Bury Lane.

8.3 Telephone and broadband: RD confirmed again that he had received no response on his email to the Giga Internet company regarding giga-capability broadband in the village.

RD reported that BT was running a consultation process regarding the presence of the payphone in the Village. The WIPC had received a report from BT, noting that the payphone had not been used at all during the last 12 months, and it was therefore slated for removal unless argumentation could be advanced by 23 January to the contrary. The WIPC agreed that there was no compelling reason to protest its removal, although RD requested IF to inform the villagers of its proposed removal and invite final comment.

IF to notify the Village (via WIN) of the proposed removal of the payphone.

8.4 Bus service: RD confirmed to the Meeting that the Village had lost its mid-morning bus service.

8.5 Voluntary Contributions to Library: RD noted that the WBC had requested voluntary contributions from parishes to the mobile library service offered by WBC. The contribution requested seemed to have no relation to the size of the respective communities. Discussion on this item would be deferred as part of the precept discussions.

9. Working Village

9.1 Shooting: A member of public, Pauline Sinclair, noted that some parts of the Village were littered with many used cartridges after a shooting, and that this was not appropriate.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 None.

11 Open Forum

11.1 It was noted that the well readings (taken every Monday) showed that the water level had increased by 20cm, but this was a steady increase and seemed to be manageable.

11.2 District Councillor report: CH updated the Meeting with his District Councillor report.

12 Date of Next Meeting

12.1 The next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 13 March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All to attend.

12.2 There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chair