

WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting (the “Meeting”) of the
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)
held at the West Ilsley Village Hall, West Ilsley
on Monday 12 September 2016 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

Present: Rollo Duckworth (Chair)
Alan Bloor
Inna Fauler (Secretary)
Justin Gilbert (arrived during the meeting)
Anna Sugden
Graham Woods

Apologies: Alan Beaumont (Deputy Chair)
Justin Pilditch

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 11 July 2016

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 11 July 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) IF had arranged for a £30 donation to be made to the Community Council for Berkshire; (ii) Justin Pilditch (“JP”) had requested the West Ilsley Cricket Club to tidy up the relevant parts of the recreational ground and it had been done; (iii) IF had organized for the West Berkshire Council to cut the vegetation along the footpath behind the Maltings; and (iv) Graham Woods (“GW”) had arranged for the necessary work to remedy the defects in the playground to be completed: his great work in this regard was commended.

5 Correspondence

5.1 IF noted the following items of correspondence received:

- IF informed the Meeting that she received a letter from District Councillor Clive Hooker about the recent WBC report regarding historical sexual abuse of children under care in Thatcham. In the letter there was a plea to anyone

Actions

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

RD to summarise the WBC sexual abuse report and arrange for publication in the WIN.

who may have been a victim or had witnessed children being sexually abused by people in trust to step up and inform the police. RD said that he would summarise the report and send it on for publication in the WIN.

- IF informed the Meeting that there was an energy saving scheme from WBC that could be observed on the information board.
- IF informed the Meeting that a safe food reduce waste workshop was being organized by the WBC. It was agreed that IF would pass this information on to the editors of the WIN for publication.
- IF mentioned that she had received a letter from the charity organization "Centenary Fields". They had offered WIPC to join their charity by nominating our recreational ground / cricket field to be dedicated as a Centenary Field to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. It was noted that the WIPC could not accept the invitation, as the village cricket field did not fall within the WIPC's competence (it was under the care of the cricket club).

IF to inform the editors of WIN regarding the safe food reduce waste workshop.

6 Community Matters

- 6.1 Finance: Alan Bloor ("ABI") noted that the Village Hall owed the Parish Council a sum of money for alterations. He was not sure what the amount was, but hopefully would find out soon. ABI also enquired whether Village Hall should raise an invoice for Village Hall usage by the WIPC, and IF confirmed that she had not yet received the relevant invoice, and that it needed to be submitted.
- 6.2 WIN, website and communications: GW noted that everyone in the village was receiving an electronic version of the WIN, except for 11 people who were receiving a paper version. The system was running smoothly and there was nothing to be changed or improved. It was mentioned that Andrea Cook and Liz Dray were working very hard to keep the WIN running. It was also mentioned that there was a general lack of interest in people joining the Village's *Facebook* page. RD expressed hope that the Village website would be used more often as a resource for village life. A member of the public noted that the email system between the villagers and WIN was extremely important in cases of flooding.
- 6.3 Church: It was mentioned that there was going to be a Harvest festival in the West Ilsley Church on 2 October 2016.
- 6.4 Table tennis: The head of the table tennis club noted that, unfortunately, there was a general lack of interest in table tennis at the moment, but he hoped that the situation would improve as the weather deteriorated into autumn / winter.
- 6.5 Fireworks: ABI said that the Guy Fawkes firework display would take place on 4 November 2016, presumably on the Carlisle's field. Tony Elliot was in charge of buying the fireworks, and Alison Banks was in charge of food. The Village Hall hoped to donate £250. The firework committee was looking for donations from the cricket committee, the Harrow and Mike Shannon.
- 6.6 Evergreens: A member of the public, Tony Elliot, briefly informed the meeting of the Evergreens' recent activities and plans for the future.
- 6.7 Village Hall activity and usage: ABI noted that the work on the Village Hall had been done by Tony Elliot. Mr. Elliot updated the meeting on how he had progressed with his work and what had been completed so far. ABI commended Mr. Elliot for his work.

6.8 ABI reported that the Village Hall Committee was looking at the opportunity to advertise the West Ilsley Village Hall in those nearby villages which did not have their own hall (such as Farnborough and East Ilsley).

6.9 A member of public, Tony Elliot, mentioned that he was planning a bingo night in the Village Hall on 16 December 2016.

7 Environment and Upkeep

7.1 Planning Applications: ABI said that he had received several complaints regarding the land development next to the Harrow: the fence and the bus stop had been knocked down.

RD to write a letter of complaint to the Harrow developer.

7.2 ABI mentioned that the new residents next to the gazebo area had done a great job in tidying the area, and he noted that Pete Carlisle had also done some work in the area.

Anna Sugden ("AS") to chase WBC re the damaged bus stop sign.

7.3 IF noted that she had received a refusal regarding the planning application for March Box House on Main Street.

7.4 Footpaths and Bridleways: It was noted that the footpaths had been cleared up by the WBC. ABI mentioned that the shooting season had started and would be completed by February 2017. RD noted that the Parish Council should be aware of that.

7.5 There was a further complaint about the overgrown vegetation along Bury Lane.

7.6 Cricket/Tennis/Play Area/Pond/Public Open Spaces:

- Play Area: RD noted in particular that the repair issues regarding the playground had been resolved by GW. RD congratulated him and said that the playground was now safe for use.
- Cricket / Recreation Ground: It was noted that the grass around the cricket pitch had been trimmed.
- Pond: A member of the public noted that the water trough located by the gazebo area was cracked and water was leaking, meaning that horses could not drink from it.

AS to investigate the trough and cleanliness of the water.

8 Safety and Services

8.1 Speeding: RD informed the meeting that Justin Gilbert ("JG") had attended the East Ilsley meeting regarding the recent fatal accident on the A34 and reported that the local community condemned the speeding and wanted the Highways Authority of England to take all necessary action to reduce the risk of accidents on the road. An MP would be in charge of the process. ABI noted that a major complication was that the road itself belonged to the Highways Authority, while the slip roads belonged to the local authorities. These slip roads had been built in the 1970s and sorely needed reconstruction. The majority of accidents occurred when cars entered the A34 from a slip road.

RD and JP to readdress the matter re speeding in the Village.

8.2 Refuse and waste: It was noted that the residents of the Village would soon receive permits from the WBC to use the recycling centre in Newbury.

8.3 Telephone and broadband: RD said that he had heard that some of the nearby villages had installed Giga-capability broadband. A member of the public, Steve Corbin, promised to find out whether that was indeed true.

Investigations to be made re broadband capabilities in nearby

- villages.
- 8.4 Flooding: It was noted RD and Alan Beaumont (“**ABe**”) were still working together to resolve the flooding / drainage issue with Mick Channon. JG noted that there was water in the ditch opposite the Harrow. **RD and ABe to continue efforts to resolve drainage issue with Mr. Channon.**
- 8.5 Bus service: RD noted that on 5 September 2016 bus service no. 6 had changed its schedule without any consultations: the mid-morning and mid-afternoon services had been dropped. This was very inconvenient for elderly people who relied on them. RD expressed the view that this seemed very unfair treatment for West Ilsley: as ratepayers, residents in the Village ought not to suffer because we happened to be the last stop in the service. **RD to write a letter to the WBC regarding bus services to West Ilsley.**
- 9 Working Village**
- 9.1 RD noted that David Carlisle had been invited to attend WIPC meetings.
- 10 Open Forum**
- 10.1 It was noted that the quality of tap water in the Village had deteriorated: it was sometimes very cloudy. A member of public noted that we lived in an area with very hard water (9 out of 10 on the relevant scale). **RD to write to WBC re quality of water.**
- 10.2 A member of public noted that households could invite Thames Water agency to check taps and, if they were dripping, would fix them for free. This was a useful service to be aware of.
- 10.3 One of the editors of WIN noted that the Parish Council had around £1400 of ring-fenced funds in its account and that she would like to spend it on a communications matter and requested ideas. A member of public suggested buying a new notice board in the front of the church, as the old one was in a very poor condition. Andrea Cook promised to think about that. AS suggested that some money be kept in the event that funds were ever needed to pay people who were currently doing the WIN-related work voluntarily.
- 10.4 Mel Cook updated the Meeting on the latest developments regarding the pump system in London and its effect on anti-flooding issues.
- 11 Date of Next Meeting**
- 11.1 The next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 7 November 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