

WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)
held virtually
on Monday 14 September 2020 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

Present: Rollo Duckworth (Chair)
Justin Gilbert
Graham Woods
Anna Sugden
Alan Beaumont

Apologies: Alan Bloor

In attendance: Several members of the public. Apologies from Carlyne Culver

1. Chair and Apologies

- 1.1 Rollo Duckworth chaired the meeting, via Zoom hosted by Graham Woods (GW). Apologies from Carlyne Culver, Ward Councillor. There was no clerk present as the post is vacant. West Berkshire Council, Democratic Services are content for the meeting to be held without a clerk.

2. Changes to Declarations of Interest and Councilors, and policy documents review

- 2.1 No changes to declarations of interest were received nor were there any changes to the Councilors at that time.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the West Ilsley Parish Council held on Monday 13 July 2020.

- 3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 July had been circulated prior to the meeting. The draft minutes were approved AS and GW and signed by RD as a true record.

RD to publish.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

- 4.1 RD confirmed the following actions had been taken since the previous meeting.

- a) All matters arising will be covered in the rolling agenda.
- b) The meeting agreed that there was now closure on Inna Fauler's tenure as Parish Clerk, after five years in post. The payroll accountants had also been paid, and we are now in position to advertise for an LC1 grade clerk, and the vacancy notice has been circulated for approval. All this was approved. The notice will be published in the WIN and the website. (No IT equipment was supplied to the outgoing clerk, but there is money to purchase equipment as necessary for the incoming clerk.)
- c) RD explained the clerical duties he had undertaken. Two portable filing boxes have been bought, and the current filing reviewed. RD has taken unwanted paperwork to confidential shredders in Swindon and is talking to Berkshire Record Office about them housing our older records which are currently kindly looked after by Richard Gore. RD does not want reimbursement for his expenses.

RD to publish.

RD

5. Correspondence.

5.1 No action correspondence has been received, and information correspondence primarily from WBC has been published in the WIN where appropriate.

6. Community Matters.

6.1 Finance. The books are up to date, the bank statement having been checked this morning. There is a still an outstanding VAT claim which GW believes will have to be repaid. The playground refurbishment cost £5,210.00 which was paid out of our CIL money, and this leaves £1,122.89 in the CIL pot.

6.2 WIN, Website, and communications. RD commended the editors of the WIN for their continual good work in holding the village together. He noted that an upgrade in the btinternet email software had cleared some of the problems btinternet users suffered from of WIN messages going into their junk boxes.

6.3 The church, the tennis club and cricket club are restarting with permitted activities.

- a) The church has published a harvest service for 27 September, and there will be (current guidance remaining in place) a limited Royal British Legion Parade on Remembrance Sunday between the pub and the church. The parade is "sponsored" by this council, at no cost, to comply with road safety.
- b) The cricket club had a very successful memorial match on Sunday, coinciding with the renaming ceremony of the pavilion.
- c) There are no fixed plans for fireworks which are normally the responsibility of the village Hall committee. Alan Bloor will be liaising with Peter Carlisle nearer the time to see if a bonfire is possible.

ABI

6.3.1 The future of Village Hall and use of the John Verney Pavilion. RD reopened an old topic: the future of the Village Hall. He had calculated that there were 36 events in 2019 in the hall of which 6 were parish council meetings. He offered the thought that at those usage levels and at the cost of refurbishment, the hall and the garages behind it were perhaps now untenable. The hall belongs to Lockinge to whom it could be handed back. Instead the parish council through The West Ilsley Social and Recreation Association owns The John Verney Pavilion and has agreement to use the pavilion for village events currently held in the village hall. He mentioned the toddlers' group which uses the hall in the winter and therefore, were they to use the pavilion instead they would not be interfering with the cricket. Alan Beaumont wondered whether the space was the right size and shape to accommodate such events as the winter warmer and the harvest lunch which, while good points, only represent two events in the year. Justin Gilbert wondered whether refurbishment of the Hall would help market it to other users, however others suggested that there are other better halls nearby and our expense on refurbishment does not guarantee extra bookings and revenue. Ralph Taylor for the cricket club wanted more detail on how this might all work but RD explained that it was only a tentative idea, but it should be minuted in the light of the impending costs for the whole refurbishment project. The mood of the council was that they would be very loath to give up the hall, for we will never get it back. Alan Muir reminded the council that previous minutes might show earlier discussion on this topic.

7 Environment and upkeep.

7.1 Planning applications. In the period, two approved in The Maltings, and one still undecided at Folly Farm for the shepherds' huts. [After note, the Folly Farm has just been approved.]

8 Safety and Services.

8.1 Roads

- a) The A34 Junction work between East and West has been detailed in letters to all residents from Highways England and is due to start tonight, lasting until early October.
- b) The contention surrounding speeding and traffic calming at the eastern end of the village continues and Simon Tarrant from The Old Chapel is meeting with WBC to pursue every avenue. The council remains in support of his endeavours, but much of it is not business to which a Parish council can contribute. The possibility of build-outs was discussed. RD reminded the meeting that these had been considered before and he represented ABI's views, who could not attend himself, that he does not believe they are feasible in this village. JG also re-capped his conversations with WBC in this regard. The planters debate seems to be in favour of their remaining, though there is a legal process to be followed.

9 Working Village.

9.1 Pub. The registration of an Asset of Community Value exercise has commenced, led by Neil Fowler. RD thanked him for his help.

10 AOB.

10.1 None.

9 Open forum.

9.1 Village archives. Neil Fowler questioned the giving up of our archives to Berkshire Record Office. RD explained that nothing is given up, we still have control and access. Neil asked about indexing and digitalising our records. Graham Woods confirmed it would be a massive task.

9.2 Cricket nets project. Ralph Taylor asked if there was any response to his email of 4 August regarding this project. RD apologised that it had been overlooked and promised to get onto it. He suggested an interim meeting followed up if necessary, by a special council meeting if decisions needed to be made.

RD

There being no further business RD closed the meeting at 8.35pm. Date of next meeting Monday 9 November 2020 at 7:30pm.

Chair

Date