

West Ilsley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held online on Monday 17th May 2021.
Commencing at 8:15pm.

Members Present: Alan Beaumont (AB), Chairman
Alan Bloor (APB)
Alan Muir (AMM)
Graham Woods (GW)
Clive Hooker (CH)

Members Absent: Justin Gilbert (JG)

Officers Present: Sarah Marshman, Clerk/RFO

In Attendance: 10 members of the public.

Minutes

APM21/22-01 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Justin Gilbert.

APM21/22-02 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2019

Resolved: Members agreed the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting be accepted as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

APM21/22-03 To receive the annual report from the Chairman

The Chairman, Alan Beaumont, thanked the following:

- his predecessor as Chairman, Rollo Duckworth,
- the West Ilsley News team,
- the COVID response group for their hard work and keeping the village as positive as possible,
- all the volunteers who gave up their time to help with the vaccination programme.

APM21/22-04 To receive the annual finance report from the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

The Clerk summarised the accounts over the previous year. The precept was the only funding received, at £10,700. Expenditure totalled £14,092 and included £5,210 on playground repairs, £5,000 donation to the Community Nets Project and £1,056 on the new village website. The final balance at year end was £43,129.

APM21/22-05 To receive a report from District CouncillorCarolyn Culver
Carolyn sent her apologies and provided the report in Appendix A.

APM21/22-06 To receive reports from Village Groups and Organisations.

West Ilsley News (WIN) – Andrea Cook and Liz Dray confirmed they were happy to continue for another year unless anyone would like to take the role on. They are currently revamping the layout and would like to encourage all interest groups to let people know what is going on through the WIN. The WIN will be stopping paid advertising but will find a way to list those on West Ilsley who wish to share their services.

Tennis Club – Anna Sugden reported that the 20/21 season had been very impacted by COVID. The court was allowed to reopen on 13th May, with doubles being allowed from 1st June and there are many bookings. Tennis coaching has been offered but there has not been enough uptake for it to go ahead. Maintenance inspections are carried out regularly. There is one netball post available so play can take place on half a court. The finances are considered ‘healthy’ and a good sinking fund is available for when resurfacing is required.

Cricket Club – The Cricket Club provided the reports given in Appendix B.

Evergreens – The Evergreens provided the report given in Appendix C.

Table Tennis – The Table Tennis Club provided the report given in Appendix D.

Church Committee – The Church Committee provided the report given in Appendix E.

Village Hall – The Village Hall provided the report given in Appendix F.

APM21/22-07 To receive questions from members of the public

The village survey, referenced in previous minutes, was discussed, It was confirmed the Council wishes to ascertain what priorities the Village has for spending the funds accumulated by the Council.

A discussion was had around the idea of a Parish Plan. One was drafted previously, but not followed to completion. This will be discussed further by the Council at a future meeting.

A query was received regarding the spending of CIL money received for the building of house next to the Harrow. The Council will follow this up and report back.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:09pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Appendix A: District Councillor Report

During the past year I have held regular meetings with the local covid response volunteer coordinators in Ridgeway ward villages. This has enabled information sharing and collective problem solving and was valued by the attendees. The response of the community to helping people during the pandemic has been extraordinary and heart-warming.

During the year I secured more funds from the members' community bid scheme, bringing the total to £9,000 over two years. All members were also given the opportunity to apply for a £1,000 covid recovery grant which I did.

I have a 100 per cent attendance record at West Berkshire Council meetings. I am a member of Full Council and Western Area Planning Committee and I attend Executive along with the Liberal Democrat Official Opposition spokespeople to hold the council leadership to account.

At Full Council we proposed a motion in favour of a local pilot of universal basic income. We lost the vote but we believe it is important to use Full Council as an opportunity for debate on topical issues. Many councils have passed a similar motion, as part of discussions about post-covid recovery for people who have lost work and were not entitled to furlough. This could be a long term problem if we have more lockdowns.

We also lost the argument about pedestrianizing Northbrook Street for the benefit of shoppers and hospitality businesses who want to use the pavements for customers. It is extremely difficult to have an impact at WBC level because of the top-heavy Executive system and the most satisfying part of my role is helping people in this ward.

I attend as many of the six parish councils' meetings as possible but sometimes there are clashes.

I have dealt with a lot of casework, much of which has been about planning applications, potholes, flood risk, things that have been damaged, litter and unemptied bins, the impact of covid on residents and businesses, public rights of way, and flytipping. My thanks to council officers for helping to resolve these issues.

Appendix B: West Ilsley Cricket Club Report

CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 2020

Well what a strange year this has been and a strange way to hold an AGM but we felt important to hold the AGM and communicate with members.

This time last year we were looking forward and planning for the 2020 season but all plans were disrupted. Initially I thought we might not get any cricket in 2020. We have been guided throughout by advice from the ECB and Oxfordshire Cricket Board who have been very proactive in giving advice to clubs. Despite pronouncements from government about the ball being a “vector” for the transmission of the disease, community cricket was allowed to restart in July albeit with a number of restrictions. Its been an odd sort of game when we have to stop after every six overs and sanitise!

That said the cricket that has been played has been enjoyable with everyone encompassing the rules without question. Its been great to have so many people wanting to play on Saturdays and especially so many younger members. Those youth players have performed extremely well and I look forward to their continued participation over the season to come; they are an asset to the club and hopefully more will want to play.

The end of season charity game organised by Chris Walker was combined with the ceremony to name the pavilion after John Verney. We were able to raise £1,000 for charity and it was a fitting way to end this difficult season.

I would like to thank Nigel Chubb for his sterling work in opening and running the bar with all necessary restrictions. In fact he was so successful that the bar profit was more than the whole of last season.

The club will face a new challenge next year as the OCA has merged with the Cherwell League. This will allow us to play some new opposition and not have to travel so far to away games. It will also introduce a new format to some of games with it being possible for a game to be drawn and the side batting first can declare.

I am hopeful that we will be able to have a full season of cricket next year albeit there may still be some conditions such as the sanitiser!

With the future in mind the committee have been working hard on projects to keep cricket alive and prospering at West Ilsley. With the first lockdown and the initial prospect of cricket looking bleak this year, the committee took the decision to waive all subscriptions this year. When cricket started we charged only a £5 match fee. We were lucky to start the season in good financial health and with a grant from West Berks Council we have come through season financially sound as you will see from the accounts. We have over £29,000 in the bank of which a little over £8,000 represents donations received towards the net project.

Neil, our treasurer believes we will be financially sound if we enter next season with circa £15,000 of club funds (excluding that ringfenced). Consequently the committee have agreed to purchase anew mower for the square, repair the scoreboard and get a new sheet to cover

the wicket. This is on top of the money the club spent in 2019 on a new kitchen area and new railings round the pavilion. Through Pete Carlisle he arranged for all the club ground equipment to be serviced in Spring this year. The committee want to ensure money is spent to improve the club.

I must thank Ralph Taylor who at the beginning of this year agreed to take on moving the nets project forwards. He has put in a lot of time and effort and as you will see from his report this project is now in a position to start. He has worked tirelessly with the Parish Council and we have agreed a structure whereby the PC will own the nets for the benefit of the village and the club will agree to maintain them. We are now at a position where we believe we will be able to fund the whole project without using any other club funds.

Update on Activities Since the Chairman's Report

The Cricket Club is looking forward to a full season of playing, albeit subject to straitened Covid imposed restrictions. Initial indications are that it will be a fantastically subscribed season, with enrolments of Juniors members forging ahead well, and payment of subs for Senior members coming in gradually. Friday night practice evenings with the younger soft ball players, and with the bar and BBQ open, are a festival of cricket and fun. We have not yet managed to play any Senior matches due to the weather, but the U13s have played a cup match at home. Recent purchases of new equipment for the groundspeople have meant that the pitch is looking very good, and the pitch is playing well with no issues.

West Ilsley Community Nets Project Update

As many of you are aware, there has been a cricket net's project running in order to replace the existing, rather worn-out net that sits in the far corner of the recreation ground.

I am delighted to announce that after 2 years of hard work and fundraising, we have now placed the order for our new cricket net facility to be built. The nets will be located alongside the existing tennis court on the righthand side and will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. All going well, the nets should be ready for action by the end of June. During this period, there is likely to be some inconvenience whilst the work is carried out but we don't envisage any impact to the tennis club or children's play area. The work will be carried out by Total-Play Ltd who are a recognised ECB and Sports England specialist sporting contractor.

Although the nets will be managed and maintained by the cricket club, they are in fact a community asset and, as such, open to the wider community as a whole and not just the cricket club. We see these facilities as providing and encouraging generations of youngsters to enjoy, train or simply try cricket in a safe, quality environment (oldies are welcome too).

It would be remiss of me not to say thank you to all the people involved. Unfortunately, there are simply too many contributors to mention them all individually, however, there are a few people who I would like to thank specifically. Alexandra Axtell and Patrick MacKenzie-Charrington who were very much instrumental in kicking off the project. Pete Carlisle and his family for donating the strip of land next to the tennis courts, amongst other things. Neil Fowler for his constant support. The Parish Council and in particular Alan Beaumont and Rollo Duckworth and finally to James Gardener and Ian Wilson for their generous support.

I totally believe this is something that we can all take great pride in and I hope that in some small way it gives us something to look forward to after what has been a very difficult and challenging 12 months.

Appendix C: Evergreens Report



REPORT FOR 2020

The Ilsley Evergreens are primarily an over 60's Travel Club, with members from East and West Ilsley, Compton, Newbury, Chilton and Inkpen. We arrange monthly coach trips from April to October and a visit to a Christmas Market in December.

Theatre trips are also arranged whenever something of interest is available plus regular Afternoon Teas and Prize Bingo evenings which help towards fundraising.

Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus outbreak during 2020 we only had one Management Committee Meeting in January and our Annual General Meeting in February. We did manage a theatre trip in March to see the musical "We Will Rock You" just before the lockdown was announced, but were unable to have any of our planned outings or other fundraising events

We are due to have a Committee meeting in July with the view to recommencing Coach trips in September and October.

Membership is only £10 per person per year and the cost of the coach trips is £10 for members and £12.50 for visitors. Anyone is welcome to join us on any of our trips.

Information regarding our various events appear in the West Ilsley News, East Ilsley Communicator and Compton Compilations.

Tony Elliott ~ Secretary

Appendix D: Table Tennis Club Report

Report from West Ilsley Table Tennis Club 2020-2021

We normally play in the Newbury Table Tennis League Division 3. We only had 3 players playing this season, our ages range from 61-84, we hail from West Ilsley, Grove and Challow. We would welcome any interest in joining us! We need new blood!

Unfortunately, due to the Covid Lockdown, the 2019-2020 season was suspended in March 2020, we have been unable to play since, meaning the 2020-2021 season was cancelled. It is hoped that some limited play might be possible after 17th May. The next season starts in October, by which time it's hoped we can more confidently restart play.

We will continue to play at Brightwalton Village Hall, until work has been completed on our Village Hall's flooring to resolve the slippery conditions due to condensation.

We also play in the Didcot league, based at the Marlborough Club, where we have more teams, and a broader age range of players.

Local clubs which provide youth coaching are based at Thatcham Parish Hall, Didcot UTC, Kintbury Jubilee Centre, amongst others. Please contact me for more details. Also I have just discovered that there are two outdoor tables at the Harwell Cricket field (by the outdoor Gym-training equipment)

Steve Cobrin (captain West Ilsley Table Tennis Club)

Appendix E: Church Committee Report

REPORT ON BEHALF OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH FOR THE WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 17TH MAY 2021

Over the last year, whilst there have been very few services due to the pandemic, our rector Revd. John Toogood has continued to be supported by Revd Douglas Dales, Revd William McDowell and Revd. Lady (Denise) Brown throughout the benefice. Alexandra Axtell was again re-elected churchwarden with Ian Fewtrell-Smith.

We carefully followed the advice and directions from the government and the Oxford diocese and as a result, the last regular service in church was held on 8th March 2020. Since then and as guidance permitted, we have held our Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day service (at which we hosted a small contingent from the armed forces and various other organisations), our annual Carol service, a family service on Christmas Day and Holy Communion on Easter Sunday this year. All were held outside in the churchyard and whilst the weather was cold, they were very well attended. With the warmer weather and the lifting of restrictions, the first of our regular services took place on 16th May with a Communion Service held inside the church. The pattern will continue initially with services on the first and third Sundays in the month, alternating between communion services and family services, the latter to be held outdoors in order that singing can take place. As soon as that particular restriction is lifted, services will revert to inside.

It is hoped that the café will restart fairly soon, likely in the churchyard in the first instance.

During the time since my last report in May 2019 when the church was fully open, numerous volunteers within the village continued to look after the church and churchyard by keeping the grass cut, cleaning the church or providing and arranging flowers, for which we are extremely grateful. During the pandemic, the churchyard continued to be kept neat and tidy, and our thanks go to those who cut the grass on a regular basis.

Sadly, the oil was stolen during the pandemic but a generous donation has meant the heating could continue to be provided when required, in particular when funerals took place.

For the completeness of reporting since May 2019, in that year there were 2 baptisms, 3 funerals and 1 wedding; in 2020 there were 2 funerals and there have been 2 funerals this year.

Income for the church has understandably been hit hard by the lack of services but with the generous support of regular donors, we were able to operate with only a small deficit. We are grateful to Louise Taylor for examining the accounts.

Our church looks forward to being fully active again, playing its part within the village and the wider community.

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

17th May 2021

Appendix F: Village Hall

West Ilsley Village Hall 2020/2021

It is well over 16 months since the Village Hall held an event due to the pandemic and a similar period since the committee have been able to hold a meeting. So very little to report.

There are maintenance issues with the Village Hall in particular the roof and tiles slipping and the floor. Both have been looked at by contractors and quotes have been received. The roof will be attended to shortly and will be paid for by the Village Hall from its own funds.

The hall floor is a separate matter and the cheapest quote to repair, tank, insulate and put a new floor covering is approaching £20K. In order to complete the works, grants are being looked into and also the possibility of the Parish Council providing some match funding taken from the precept.

The latest accounts for the Village Hall and treasurer's report are attached.

On a much brighter note and looking forward the Village Hall has been booked for pilates classes which will be commencing very shortly. There are plans for some bingo nights and hopefully we will be able to hold the bonfire this year.

There are a number of vacancies on the Village Hall committee so if anyone in the village has the inclination and would like to offer their time and be involved in the village please let me know.

Alan Bloor

Chair Village Hall Committee.