

# WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”) followed by Assembly held at the West Ilsley Village Hall, West Ilsley on Monday 14 May 2018 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)

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**Present:** Rollo Duckworth (Chair)  
Alan Bloor  
Inna Fauler (Secretary)  
Alan Beaumont (Deputy Chair)  
Justin Pilditch

**Apologies:** Graham Woods  
Anna Sugden  
Justin Gilbert

**In attendance:** District Councillor Clive Hooker  
Several 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, especially the representatives of the various Village Committees who had very kindly come to present their annual reports. RD said that we would hold a shorter WIPC Meeting in order to allow plenty of time for the annual reports.

### 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 13 March 2018

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 13 March 2018 (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 most of the action items had been completed, as per the following notes:

- IF and Rachel Hudson had resolved the issue regarding the money which the Village Hall Committee owed to the Parish Council. The amount had been confirmed and the money had been paid back.
- RD was still in the process of talking with Martin Brigg-Watson regarding the new website installation for the Parish Council.
- There was still no reply from WBC regarding the request for a new map.
- Graham Wood (“GW”) had submitted all documentation regarding the tree trimming, and was still waiting for approval from WBC.

### Actions

**IF to file the Minutes from the March 2018 Meeting in the WIPC archives.**

## 5. Correspondence

- 5.1 No correspondence received.
- 5.2 RD informed the Meeting about the new data protection regulation law (GDPR). He confirmed that the Parish Council was aware of the new regulations and was taking measures to comply. The Parish Council did not have many contacts and would make sure that, going forward, it had even less. The Parish Council was going to send relevant privacy notices to those contacts that it doesn't use any more. The PC would also be circulating consent forms to all its active contacts and provide the information on how it would deal with personal data (including its policy with respect to any potential breaches). The PC did not hold any children's data. The PC had additionally decided to hold personal data only for the period of time in which it deals with it.
- 5.3 It was noted that WIN was the biggest data holder in the village. Ultimately, this was not an issue for the Parish Council itself, although the PC was happy to share and show how we were going to deal with the issue.#
- 5.4 It was noted that the Village Hall was not holding any data on those people who had booked the hall previously, as it did not want to take any responsibility for holding that personal information. It was simply easier just to delete the data.
- 5.5 The question was whether the PC was satisfied with what it had done so far with respect to the GDPR regulations. The PC had privacy notices, it had consents form, it audited its data, and it had registered the Parish Council with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) under GDPR. So the answer was: "yes".

## 6 Community Matters

- 6.1 Finance: The WIPC annual return form for the year ended 31 March 2018 had been signed. It was also agreed that IF would circulate the bank statements to the councilors in the future.
- 6.2 Village Hall activities and usage: Alan Bloor ("ABI") informed the Meeting that the village hall had raised £541 in donations by the bikers and walkers fundraising event. RD and ABI asked that a special thank you to Richard Gore be recorded for letting the Village Hall use his land for the event.

## 7 Environment and Upkeep

- 7.1 Footpaths and Bridleways: RD informed the meeting that he had received a request from one concerned villager regarding the footpath behind The Maltings. This matter had been resolved.
- 7.2 Cricket/tennis/play area/pond: It was noticed that most of the barbed wire around the recreation ground had gone but there was still some portions of it in places. ABI said that the farmers had left it there to protect the sheep when they move them from the field. It was agreed that the PC should keep pressing the farmers to remove the barbed wire.
- 7.3 Village Hall: The VH would have the flooring proposals and pricing at its next Meeting.

## 8 Safety and Services

- 8.1 Speeding: It was noticed that the 20 ml/h stickers were not popular. A member

of the public noted that the signs on Catmore Road were in a very poor state.

- 8.2 At the end of the Meeting, RD spoke about the Rospa report (with respect to the playground). He said that he felt dissatisfied with the inspection regime. Rospa had invited us to spend money, and when we did, they found even more defects than originally noted, and wanted us to spend more money to rectify. He wondered whether we could change the inspection body and find any alternative?

## 9 Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1 The next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 9 July 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All to attend.

- 9.2 RD concluded the Meeting and declared the Annual Assembly open. He invited the representatives of the various Village organisations to read their annual reports.

## 10 West Ilsley Annual Assembly

- 10.1 RD thanked all representatives of the Committees for coming. With respect to the WIPC, he informed the Assembly that, over the last year, there were seven Councillors on the WIPC so far. They were unpaid, non-political volunteers, who gave their time freely. He thanked everyone for their hard work during the last year.

- 11 The following annual reports were presented:

- **Chairman's Report** (*Attachment 1*).
- **District Cllr report** represented by Clive Hooker (*Attachment 2*)
- **WIN**, read by Louise Beaumont (*Attachment 3*).
- **Tennis Club**, read by Louise Beaumont (*Attachment 4*).
- **Cricket Club**, prepared by Neil Fowler and read by Justin Pilditch (*Attachment 5*).
- **Evergreens**, read by Tony Elliot (*Attachment 6*).
- **Table tennis**, represented by Steve Corbin (*Attachment 7*).
- **Church Committee**, read by Ian Fewtrell-Smith (*Attachment 8*).
- **Village Hall**, read by Alan Bloor (*Attachment 9*).

## 12 Open Forum

- 12.1 It was noted that the footpath behind the Maltings estate needed to be cleaned up and tidied. IF was going to write to WBC regarding this matter.

- 12.2 Ian Fewtrell-Smith thanked the Parish Council for its work and noticed that the wall around the Main West Ilsley House continued to be leaning, and there was also vegetation overhanging it which narrowed the footpath and made it difficult to walk for pedestrians.

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Chair

## **Attachment 1 (Chairman report)**

So another year in the village has gone whizzing by without incident as far as the parish council is concerned. I like to think that we are a low-maintenance, value for money body, in so far as we seven councillors are unpaid, unpolitical, volunteers who give their time freely, and I would like to thank all of them for doing this duty.

We are helped by the very efficient Inna as Clerk, without whom we would be stuck, so thank you to her too.

Within the remit of the council falls the village hall and the green spaces and the recreation ground, and I am pleased to report that two rather slow-burn projects have been completed recently: the refurbishment of the hall and making safe of the children's play ground. Thanks to Alan and his committee, and of course Tony Elliott for the former, and Graham Woods deserves a special mention for his perseverance with the playground and Ed Ryder for his help and advice with the latter. Justin Gilbert cannot be here tonight so i do not have to spare his blushes and can thank him for his work on speeding within the village.

I will not embarrass other councillors who are here, but just say thank you for your support over the year.

The village has several other features and amenities which we will now hear about.

Some of you might have noticed that we have a standing agenda at every meeting and the last three items are farming, racing and the pub, as part of the "working village" where often there are no matters arising. However this time I want to ring the changes: I want to thank the farmers for their collective stewardship of our environment and the enjoyment of living in a working farming village. I want to congratulate Mick Channon on having such a good start to the season. And lastly I want to send all good thoughts all at the pub particularly to Peter and of course Hayley.

## **Attachment 2 (District Cllr report)**

### **Address to West Ilsley Parish Council Assembly – May 2018 – Clive Hooker**

Thank you for inviting me to address your Parish Assembly to report on the activities and achievements of West Berkshire Council. If there are any questions you have, I will do my best to answer them. I am happy to take any comments and observations you have.

#### **Highlights.**

The government continues to concentrate on reducing the country's debt. In order to help achieve this, Councils, the Fire Service and Police have had funding reductions. Whilst there is no doubt that there was quite a lot of room for economies, there is really little or no scope for further economies without impacting the services received.

So finance has again been a severe problem with the further reduction by the Government of the Revenue Support Grant to near zero and the cap on any increase in the Council Tax. Social services and in particular the needs of an increasing elderly population are straining resources.

Educational achievements are improving.

There have been extensions to schools and new schools planned to cope with the rising number of children.

The local plan is being rolled forward together with a transport plan to take them up to 2036.

The roads are in good shape although the recent snow and ice has caused some damage

#### **Finance.**

In line with government policy the reduction in the Revenue Support Grant continued with a reduction from £34M in 2013/14 to £3.7M this year. Next year, 2018/19, it will effectively be zero. With the increasing pressure on social services caused by the increase in longevity of the population, the health services keeping us alive and the population increase, pressure on expenditure has increased. There has also been pressure from inflation and pay increases. However, new housing has increased the revenue from the Council Tax. Thus the reductions in expenditure and seeking new sources of income have continued. The changes have included staff reductions, reductions in grants to local charities and good causes, finding cheaper ways of providing services, sharing services with other councils (for example trading standards) and investing in property. The reduction in staff has led to some non-essential services being severely stretched – for example planning enforcement. A council can borrow money very cheaply, so in common with many other councils, West Berkshire is

borrowing to buy commercial properties as a way of generating income. This should yield about £500K per year.

To balance the books the Council raised the Council Tax in 2017 – 18 by 4.99%. 3% of this was dedicated to social services. This year, 2018 - 19 it raised it by 5.99% again with 3% for social services. From time to time the government has come up with grants for special purposes, recently one for road maintenance.

The Council has joined a government scheme for the retention of the business rate. This in reality is the forthcoming increase in the business rate. 70% of this will go to the Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership to fund large infrastructure projects across the county and 30% will come to the Council and this is estimated to be £1.6M. This is most welcome and led to the increase of the grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau from £40K to £80K and that together with a grant from the Greenham Trust of £80k has preserved this vital service. CAB will therefore now receive a total of £160,000, which is a considerable increase from the £40,000 available following the budget review.

## **Communities**

With the restrictions on funding the Council is concentrating on helping communities to help themselves by devolution. Much of this work has been with parish and town councils.

An example of this is the transfer of the Hungerford library building to the town council, where in addition to providing a library, it is used by the local community led by the Friends of Hungerford Library. In Thatcham the play areas are being transferred to the town council.

Incidentally all the libraries apart from Wash Common are open. In many cases the local communities have put in a lot of voluntary effort and grants from parish councils. A group has been set up to try and reopen the Wash Common Library which shows some sign of success.

The numbers of volunteers at libraries, Shaw House, Newbury Town Museum, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program and other areas has risen from about 200 to over 500. As a by-product, many people get a lot of enjoyment and fulfilment from volunteering.

The Civil Contingencies Team now have a Vulnerable People Plan to help identify vulnerable people if there is a major incident.

Locally the 'kitchen garden' at Shaw House is being developed to allow and encourage local residents to enjoy healthy eating.

## **Social services**

The Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults has been simplified with a single telephone number for help. There was an encouraging Ofsted inspection that there had been

a lot of progress in working with partner organisations to improve the safeguarding of children. The priority is to ensure a quick and appropriate response.

A previous Care Quality Commission inspection had found the Willows Edge adult social care home as 'inadequate' a recent inspection now shows it to be 'good'.

There has been a problem with recruiting and retaining social workers with 50% vacancies. This caused a lot of expense in employing agency staff. This has now improved to a 10% vacancy rate.

## **Education**

The Council's priority is to improve educational attainment.

Currently, the schools judged by Ofsted to be at least 'good' has risen to 95%. The remaining four schools are improving. Some of the schools are Academies and therefore not under the Council's control. Further capacity has been and will be needed to meet the growing population.

There has been a good improvement in attainment of learning of disadvantaged pupils and this is an area of priority for the Council.

£4.8M has been spent on school improvements. At Fir Tree Primary School additional places for Autistic children have been provided. At Speenhamland School there are 60 new places for reception children. A new primary school will be built at Highwood Copse and next year there is hope that the Theale primary school will be replaced. Also a new school is expected as part of the North Newbury development.

## **Roads**

About £6M has been spent on the District's roads with a further £6M next year. About 100 roads were resurfaced. The roads are in good condition although the recent snow caused quite a lot of damage that is taking time to repair.

A new road from the A339 into the London Road Estate had been built in preparation for the Estate's redevelopment. Next year a link should be provided from the A339 into the expected Sandleford development. These were financed from the Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

17 more flood alleviation schemes have been completed with the remaining work being of a more minor nature.

95% of Berkshire now enjoys super-fast broadband with 99% still being the target.

## **Waste Collection**

WBC will charge an annual subscription of around £50 per household for the collection of garden waste from July 2018. This works out at less than £2 per collection.

Residents will be able to opt in to the subscription service. Subscribers will continue to use the green bin and will receive a bin sticker to show that the service has been paid for. The green bin can be put out with recycling every fortnight.

Subscribers will still be able to put food in the green bin for recycling.

Non-subscribers will stop receiving a garden waste collection, however, if desired, WBC will still collect food for recycling and will provide a kerbside food caddy on request. Caddies can be put out with recycling every fortnight.

The existing extra chargeable green waste collection service will stop. Residents will be able to request additional bins as part of this subscription service and additional charges will apply.

There will be no service concessions.

It is estimate this proposal will create an income of up to £600,000 this year and £900,000 every year thereafter. This additional income will assist in paying for the rubbish and recycling collection service.

## **Planning**

The Council believes in being a plan led according to the Council's Development Plan Document. To this end, the plan takes us up to 2026 and defines where development should take place and what polices are required to control that development. Several developers have tried to claim in appeals with Her Majesty's Inspectors that we do not have a 5 year land supply for housing but, in all but one case, the Council has won the appeal. There is a rule that 30% of dwellings on a brown field site and 40% on a greenfield site should be affordable. Regretfully government decided that if developers could claim that proving the affordable housing would make a development unviable they could omit it. There is now an industry exploiting this loop hole and therefore the provision of affordable housing is disappointing. The expected delivery was 1000 units by 2020 that now looks more like 685. As an aside, government edicts are littered with "unintended consequences" with viability being one, and the conversion of offices to housing without the need for permission another.

Disappointingly the Sandleford development still does not have planning permission following two refused planning applications due to disagreements between the two developers and the Council insisting that it should be done according to the local plan. A third planning application has recently been submitted, which will be considered by Officers shortly. Should the disagreement continue after the third application has been submitted, the Council will seriously consider a compulsory purchase of the site.

It was a pleasure to see a start being made on the Stirling Cables site. It is heavily contaminated and it will take some time to clear this prior to development.

Plans for the redevelopment of the site between Market Street and the railway station are in place and the first visible sign of this will be the move of the bus station to the Wharf later this year.

There is now a proposal for a very large development at Grazley on the West Berkshire Wokingham border. This straddles the two districts. If this goes ahead, it will take a lot of the development pressure in the future.

All the Berkshire councils are rolling forward their local plans and transport plans to 2036. The policies have just completed consultation. There has been a call for sites that has ended and the results are being analysed and will go out to consultation in a few months, after which a decision will be taken as to where development will take place. It is understood that the Christmas Tree Field and land north of Vodafone are being put forward.

During the past year my Council responsibilities have included:-

- Chairman for the Western Area Planning Committee
- Deputy Portfolio Holder for Planning
- Member of the District Planning Committee
- Member of the Planning Advisory Group
- Member of the Development Industry Forum

Outside duties include:-

Saunders Wynn and Coventry Trust at Chaddleworth

I have attended most of the West Ilsley, East Ilsley, Beedon, Brightwalton, Chaddleworth, Leckhampstead Parish Council meetings and the Farnborough Parish assemblies.

Clive Hooker  
District Councillor for Downlands Ward  
May 2018

## **Attachment 3&4 (WIN and Tennis Committee)**

### **West Ilsley News**

Andrea Cook and Liz Dray

Once again we would like to extend our thanks to villagers who continue to print the monthly West Ilsley News for neighbours who do not have internet access.

We currently have 5 paid annual advertisements and various ad hoc ones. As always please could you let us know if you have a change of neighbour and encourage them to get in touch if they would like to receive the WIN.

### **Tennis Club**

Alison Banks, Louise Beaumont, Martin Briggs-Watson, Andrea Cook, Liz Dray, Elisa Ferguson, Anna Sugden, Katie Simpson

This year we have 21 members so far – 19 families and 2 single memberships but we anticipate that this should increase by the summer holidays. 17 families live within the village.

The online booking system seems to be working well for members and also for those using the pay and play system. We kept our membership fees at £45/family and £25/single membership this year but increased the pay and play court fee to £10/hour as this was felt comparable to neighbouring courts.

Louise Beaumont once again organised some very successful coaching sessions for 16 junior players in the Easter holidays over 3 days.

All of this means that finances continue to be healthy and enabled us recently to make some improvements:-

During the playground renovations Graham Woods was able to assist us in removing the paving slabs towards the court. It was felt that the path encouraged court users to use the steep side of the bank for access and so we have now re-seeded this area. In order to make a safer access to the right of the bank the cricket club agreed to move the existing mowing pile (for which thanks) and we are meeting with them on 21 May to discuss the proposed siting of cricket nets in this area. We have also agreed with them the division of mowing in and around the court area.

If anyone who hasn't joined would like to do so or to pay and play please contact Liz Dray on 281688.

## **Attachment 5 (Cricket Club Committee)**

This is the annual report for the West Ilsley Cricket Club. It covers developments during the 2017 playing season, together with recent events from the beginning of the 2018 season.

### Cricket

The Senior XI were promoted at the end of last season to Level Three in the Oxford Cricket Association league, having finished third in the league table. The Wednesday T20 team had also been promoted to Division 2. More regular Seniors Sunday cricket had also been played, with many teams being made up of fathers and sons.

### Juniors Cricket

The many highlights for last year's season included the U13s team winning their Division 2 league across the whole Berkshire region.

### Finances

The Club had made an annual surplus of £3888.

### Village Life

It is always a pleasure to see Club members and wider village participation at the Club's Friday night barbeques. Various teams also appreciated having spectators watch their games, particularly on Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. All villagers are social members of the Club.

### Developments for 2018

A major focus for the Club's activities in 2018 will be to raise funds for the replacement of the nets practice area. The Club was also keen to promote Junior membership of the Club, and had started participating in the ECB's All Stars cricket programme aimed at 5 to 8 year olds. Various renovation and repair work was being conducted at the pavilion, including the refurbishment of the kitchen and bar area (for which an ECB grant had been received), and the repair of the pavilion decking and railing.

Neil Fowler  
Hon Treasurer  
West Ilsley Cricket Club

**Attachment 8 (Church Committee)** represented by Ian Fewrell-Smith

**REPORT ON BEHALF OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH FOR THE**

**WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

Over the last year, our rector Revd. John Toogood has continued to be supported by Revd Douglas Dales and Revd William McDowell. Revd. Lady (Denise) Brown retired last year but still takes occasional services throughout the benefice.

At our recent annual parochial church meeting, Alexandra Axtell was again re-elected churchwarden with Ian Fewtrell-Smith. The electoral role membership now stands at 40.

All Saints' continues to hold three services every month on the first, second and fourth Sundays, two of them specifically aimed at families and children. A united service for the nine churches within the benefice is held in Chieveley every third Sunday in the month, part of which is Café Church and which is extremely popular with families.

The café in All Saints during the morning of the second Sunday in the month continues to be popular with all donations going to support a different charity each month. We purchased a new urn to make catering easier.

We continue to be very grateful for the support of various volunteers within the village, looking after the church and churchyard by keeping the grass cut, cleaning the church or providing and arranging flowers. We continue to have a working party at the time of Easter and Remembrance Day services.

All Saints' was very fortunate to again receive grants from the Fete Committee and donations from Christmas greetings in the WIN. We also benefitted from a donation of £130 from the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company due to a villager taking out home insurance with that company. This offer, advertised in the WIN each month, runs until the end of August of this year. There were also a number of individual donations, as well as gifts from our regular donors, for which we are extremely grateful.

As well as our usual Harvest Lunch in 2017, we also held the popular Winter Warmer earlier this year.

As usual, the collection of our Remembrance Sunday service went directly to the British Legion and we also donated the collection from our Carol service to our local Cruse charity. At the beginning of this year, we had cards and notelets of the village printed and which are on sale in the church and pub.

All Saints' hosted one funeral in 2017 and two baptisms in early 2018.

Outgoings had risen significantly last year, mainly due to the new boiler installed at the beginning of 2017. This resulted in a deficit at the end of the year of just over £8,000. As ever, we are grateful to Andrea Cook for examining the accounts.

Our church continues to be active, playing its part within the village and the wider community.

*Ian Fewtrell-Smith*  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## **Attachment 9 (The Village Hall Committee)**

West Ilsley Village Hall Committee

Chairman's report April 2018

The committee has worked very hard over the last 12 months and there have been successful fund raising events, notably the fireworks and the race night. Particular thanks to Tony Elliott, Ros Duckworth and Alison Banks. In addition there have been 3 bingo nights although I am concerned about the lack of attendees at the last one (Easter).

Hall bookings have been on the up throughout the year and I believe Hall improvements in terms of the internal décor and toilets have been appreciated. That said we must continue to ensure the Hall is well maintained and any necessary works implemented. With that in mind a review of the internal insulation –walls and floor is to be carried out and a recommendation put to the Parish Council.

It is of note that there are still improvements to be completed to the external appearance of the Hall – notably painting, attention to the gravel surface, maintenance of the garages and gutters.

The accounts for the year look good and thanks to Rachel for her hard work. I also note that the PC has been paid back for any outstanding monies owed following improvements to the village hall. We did experience a problem with one of the garage doors which took a while to repair (I own up to that!!) but it does appear that a successful and long term repair has been achieved. All the garages are occupied.

The village hall has a number of fund raising events proposed for the coming year which includes a village walk on the May Bank Holiday. Other events will be notified in the WIN Thanks once again to all committee members for their support and help during the last year.

Alan Bloor

18 April 2018