

# WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Interested Parties followed by Assembly held at the West Ilsley Village Hall, West Ilsley on Monday 13 May 2019 at 7.30pm (the "Meeting")

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

**Apologies:** Justin Gilbert

**In attendance:** Several members of the public

### 1 Chair and Apologies

1.1 Rollo Duckworth ("RD") acted as Chair of the Meeting. Inna Fauler ("IF") kindly 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 Meeting in order to allow plenty of time for the annual reports.

### 2 Status of the Meeting

2.1 RD explained that West Berks Legal Services had telephoned him earlier in the day to explain that since West Ilsley had not participated in the 2 May 2019 local election, West Ilsley Parish Council was dissolved and a new election would have to be held. The outgoing chairman was to remain in post until a council was elected. Meanwhile tonight's meeting was of "interested parties", not councillors, and the AGM was to proceed.

### 3 Minutes of the Meeting of the West Ilsley Parish Council held on Monday 14 March 2019

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 14 March 2019 (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 the action items had been completed, as per the following notes:

- IF had filed the Minutes from previous Meeting.
- It appeared as though a solution to the issue concerning British Telecom could not be found.
- Justin Gilbert ("JG") was continuing to discuss the speeding issue in the Village with West Berkshire Council and the Highways Authority, and he was making good progress. It was agreed that an improved "slow down"

### Actions

**IF to file the Minutes from the March 2019 Meeting in the WIPC archives.**

sign would be installed by the eastern entrance to the Village. It was also possible that a better speed limit sign would be installed. It was noted that the Parish Council could not afford to purchase privately an electronic speed awareness sign.

## **5 Correspondence**

5.1 No correspondence received.

## **6 Community matters.**

6.1 Finance: IF informed the Meeting that she had a number of cheques to sign: (i) clerk's payroll preparation, (ii) the annual insurance renewal, and (iii) the Village Playground annual inspection.

6.2 IF also informed the Meeting that she had completed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the 2018/2019 financial year. The West Ilsley Parish Council can claim the Certificate of Exemption as a smaller authority (being applicable in cases where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure for the authority did not exceed £25,000 in that year).

6.3 IF also informed the Meeting that she claimed the VAT return for the Parish Council.

6.4 WIN, website and communications: Unfortunately the problem with BT internet issue had not been resolved.

6.5 Cricket Club: Justin Pilditch ("JP") raised a question regarding the placement of advertising banners on the fence surrounding the cricket pitch. The Cricket Club was considering introducing such advertising banners as a means of raising money. The Cricket Club wanted first to approach the Parish Council to find out its views. RD responded that he did not think that this was a good idea. He noted that people would not want to see torn and dirty banners, however if they were clean and good looking, that would be fine. He also raised couple of questions: was the advertising intended to be permanent or on match days only, and were they going to face the road or the pitch. JP did not have this information at the current time.

Alan Bloor ("ABI") reported that comments had been made about the surrounding space around the pavilion, particularly when viewed from the pub, that it was occasionally untidy and spoilt the vista. IF agreed to write to the Cricket Club about this.

IF

## **7 Environment and Upkeep**

7.1 Footpaths and Bridleways: The issue with the public pathway behind Giles North's house had still not been resolved. Officially, the pathway was still closed by West Berkshire County Council, but it was noted that some villagers were still using it at their own risk.

7.2 Play area: The RoSPA report was good, and the result of the risk assessment was low. There was a comment from one of the villagers that the slide on the playhouse was broken and a couple of wooden boards on the floor were missing. Ed Ryder had been asked to give a quote for the replacement. Meanwhile it had been decided to remove the slide and close the playhouse.

Graham Woods ("GW") recommended that we did not change the play area reporting agency that we currently use for the annual RoSPA report, and this

was agreed,

- 7.4 Pond: It was noted that the pond area looked good, following a spring tidy-up. ABI raised the concerns of a householder beside the pond where a tree from the pond is intruding onto his property. RD will establish how this can be dealt in the light of it being in the conservation area.

**RD**

Village Hall: It was noted that the Village Hall's finances were in a much better state than a year ago.

## **8 Safety and Services**

- 8.1 Speeding: RD noted that JG had been doing a great job on this issue. He had had a very constructive conversation with the Highways Authority. It might even be possible to find a positive outcome with respect to the electric sign.

- 8.2 Signage: It was noted that there was no sign indicating Church Way from Main Street, and delivery drivers were accordingly struggling to find their way. JG agreed to talk to the Highways Authority regarding this issue.

**JG to talk to Highways regarding the Church Way sign.**

- 8.3 Roads and gritting: It was noted that there appeared to be an offending odour of sewage along Main Street. Alan Beaumont ("**ABe**") agreed to approach Thames Water regarding this issue.

**ABe to approach Thames Water regarding the odour of sewage in the Village.**

## **9 Working Village.**

- 9.1 Pub: Alan Bloor ("**ABI**") noted that he and other villagers were concerned about the future of the Village Pub. Residents did not want to lose it, as it was a significant asset in our Village. Residents were concerned that the Pub could be sold by the owner as a residential dwelling. In the event of any potential sale, it would be very useful for the Village to have the first right of refusal on that sale, by listing the pub as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). This initiative was totally supported by the Meeting.

## **11 Date of Next Meeting**

- 11.1 The next Parish Council meeting (following the election of a new council) is to be held on Monday 8 July 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**All to attend.**

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

## **12 West Ilsley Annual Assembly**

- 12.1 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 far. They were unpaid, non-political volunteers, who gave their time freely. He thanked everyone for their hard work during the last year.

- 12.2 The following annual reports were presented:

- **Chairman's Report**
- **WIN**, read by Louise Beaumont
- **Tennis Club**, read by Alison Banks
- **Cricket Club**, prepared by Neil Fowler

- **Evergreens**, read by Tony Elliot
- **Table tennis**, represented by Steve Cobrin
- **Church Committee**, read by Ian Fewtrell-Smith
- **Village Hall**, read by Alan Bloor

### 13 **Open Forum**

- 13.1 Alison Banks announced that some people from the Village wanted to start a Netball Club using the tennis court. This would be advertised through WIN.
- 13.2 It was also noted that all villagers were automatically social members of the Cricket Club and were accordingly welcome to attend its events (including Friday BBQ).
- 13.3 Alison Banks said that there was the possibility of a grant for the Village Hall, and she noted that she would look further into it. However the grant was only 20% of the funds required, so the Village Hall might also need to ask for some financial assistance from the Parish Council.
- 13.4 There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

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**Chair**

# 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 10 June 2019 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)

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### Following the uncontested election of six Councillors

**Present:** Rollo Duckworth  
Alan Bloor  
Inna Fauler (Secretary)  
Graham Woods  
Justin Gilbert

**Apologies:** Anna Sugden  
Alan Beaumont

**In attendance:** Clive Hooker, Alan Muir

#### 1 Chair and Apologies

1.1 Rollo Duckworth (“RD”) acted as Chair of the Meeting. Inna Fauler (“IF”) kindly agreed to act as Secretary and take the minutes. RD thanked everybody for attending the Meeting, RD said that the purpose of the Meeting was to ratify the business of the meeting of Interested Parties of 13 May and the subsequent AGM. However before any person could undertake any council business, the newly elected Councillors had to sign Declarations of Acceptance of Office. All Councillors present duly signed, with four Councillors present, the Meeting was opened.

1.2 RD thanked Justin Pilditch for his contribution to the previous council. Justin stood down before the election since WIPC only requires six councillors.

1.3 There were the elections within the council for the Chairman and his or her Deputy. RD was elected as Chair and Alan Beaumont (**ABe**) was elected as Deputy Chair. These appointments were all proposed and seconded by Alan Bloor (**ABl**) and Graham Wood (**GW**), respectively.

#### 2 Business of the Meeting of Interested Parties and the AGM held on Monday 13 May 2019

2.1 The Meeting agreed and endorsed the business of the meeting of Interested Parties and AGM held on Monday 13 May 2019. RD expressed relief that good order was restored to the governance of the village.

#### 3 Date of next Meeting - amendment

3.1 The date of the next Meeting was re-scheduled for Monday 15 July 2019.

#### 4 Open Forum

#### Actions

- 4.1 Clive Hooker, a District Councillor and previously responsible for our Ward and known to all the Parish Councillors, expressed disappointment that only four Councillors were present as he had come specifically to meet them all. RD explained that he had received apologies from Anna Sugden and Alan Beaumont. With four Councillors present who had all signed their Declarations, the meeting was quorate
- 4.2 Alan Muir asked whether the previous Parish Council, inadvertently operating with seven members instead of six, had made any constitutionally incorrect decisions. RD replied that he could not recall an example of a decision that was not unanimous, and therefore the seventh councillor made no material difference, meanwhile the recent election had restored the Council to six members. Justin Gilbert (**JG**) reiterated the response, furthermore asking Alan Muir if there was a reason why he raised this issue. Alan Muir explained he was interested in good governance across the country, and went on to asked why West Ilsley did not participate in the 3 May elections. Clive Hooker suggested it was because the Parish Council had poor communications with West Berkshire Council. RD expressed his surprise that West Berkshire Council had not flagged up our accidental non-participation before the election, instead of eleven days after it. RD asked Clive Hooker, as a District Councillor who regularly attended our meetings, if he had been aware of the incorrect number of Parish Councillors in West Ilsley. Clive Hooker replied that he had known for some time, but he felt it was not his place to say anything.
- 4.3 Lastly, Alan Muir asked to see the Parish Council accounts. These are duly published, as required by law, by 1 July annually.
- 4.4 There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

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**Chair**