

WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)
held at the West Ilsley Village Hall, West Ilsley
on Monday 8 January 2018 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

Present: Rollo Duckworth (Chair)
Alan Bloor
Justin Pilditch
Alan Beaumont
Inna Fauler (Secretary)
Justin Gilbert
Graham Woods

Apologies: Anna Sugden
Clive Hooker (District Councillor)

In attendance: Various 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 and noted the apologies received.

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 November 2017

3.1 The draft minutes of the Meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 13 November 2017 (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 noted below:

- Graham Woods (“**GW**”) will report regarding the playground during the Meeting;
- Justin Gilbert (“**JG**”) will report regarding the speeding issue during the Meeting;
- Alan Beaumont (“**ABe**”) informed that he had drafted a letter regarding flooding in the Village and the potential resolution of the problem by remedial action on Mike Channon’s property.

Actions

IF to file the Minutes from the November 2017 Meeting in the WIPC archives.

IF to post the letter to Mike Channon

5 Correspondence

- 5.1 RD informed the Meeting that he had been contacted by a local small property developer interested in using the Rural Exception Policy, to build 12 affordable houses on the land behind the Rowles Farm and wanted to give a presentation to the WIPC regarding this issue. The owner of the land was not interested in the project and so it was decided that RD would let the company know accordingly.

RD to inform the company accordingly.

6 Community Matters

- 6.1 Finance: There was a discussion regarding the precept for the 2018-2019 financial year. Last year's precept was £10,250.00. RD opened the discussion by suggesting an increase to £10,500.00, which represents a rise in line the 2018 forecast Consumer Price Index (CPI). There was a healthy debate with the council initially divided between no rise and this 2.5% rise. After discussion, it was decided to request a precept for 2018-2019 in the amount of £10,500.00.

IF to send to WBC request for the 2018-2019 precept.

- 6.2 WIN, website and communications: RD informed the Meeting that he had been contacted by West Berkshire Council regarding the Transparency Code. WBC considered that our Village website was not transparent enough. RD thought that we encourage a move away from Facebook (fb) to our Village website, as Facebook was not an official way for communication. RD stressed that the issue had nothing to do with the West Ilsley News, and that this appeared to be more an issue for people outside of the Village who did not have access to the WIN. The Meeting decided to keep discussing this issue.

Justin Pilditch ("JP") volunteered to deal with our obligations under the Transparency Code

- 6.3 Church: RD informed the Meeting that the church café, which had been organized in the Church one Sunday a month, had continued to be a big success.

- 6.4 Village Hall: Alan Bloor ("**ABI**") informed the Meeting that the garage door for the Village Hall was installed.

7 Environment and Upkeep

- 7.1 Planning Applications: RD raised a question about the new premises which were built next to the Harrow. As is now apparent after construction, many of the conditions had not been complied with, and no additional permissions or waivers had been granted. RD asked the Meeting whether we were happy about that. Alan Bloor ("**ABI**") also complained about the amount of soil which was falling onto the footpath.

RD to write a letter to WBC regarding this matter.

- 7.2 Footpaths and Bridleways: There was a discussion regarding the paving slabs which lead from the tennis court. ABI said that the steps from the tennis course had been taken away because there weren't any rails and this was against Health and Safety regulations. Andrea Cook ("**AC**"), as a member of the Tennis Committee, suggested that the remaining paving slabs be removed entirely and that tennis players be directed to the tennis court around the side of the mound. The only issue here was there were frequently a lot of grass trimmings. AC asked the Cricket Club whether it would be possible to remove the grass trimmings accordingly. Justin Pilditch ("**JP**") indicated that the Cricket Club would be ok with that. Some members of the Council noted that some people would still use the direct route up the steep bank, and it was suggested that a sign be erected to direct people along the correct path. The Parish Council was in favour of this idea, and the Cricket Club would like have no objection either. AC said that she would brief the Cricket Club on the proposals at its next Committee meeting.

7.3 Playground: GW updated the Meeting on the playground repairs. He said that there would be an 8-12 week delivery wait, but that the work would hopefully be finished by the middle of February.

8 **Safety and Services**

8.1 Speeding: Justin Gilbert (“JG”) informed the Meeting that he had prepared a draft letter asking people to voluntarily observe a 20 mph speed limit and circulate it to villagers. All Councillors agreed to do that and inform villagers via the WIN. The question was then how to make other drivers know. There was a suggestion to put adhesive 20 mph speed signs (“20 is plenty”) on the permanent bins along the road and the pub door.

JG will circulate the letter regarding a voluntary 20 mph speed limit to the Village via WIN.

8.2 Roads and Gritting: The Meeting was informed that there would be a delay in repairing the road in the front of Old Chapel because of budget cuts. JG said that WBC had promised to grit all the way though the Village but they did not to this to the end of the western border.

9 **Any Other Business**

9.1 ABe raised a question regarding replacement of the lawn mower as it was in very poor condition at the moment.

ABe will get some quotes.

Open Forum

10 There was a discussion that the wards boundaries in West Berkshire were being redrawn and West Ilsley Village could find itself included in another ward.
10.1 AFTER NOTE: The published recommendation is that West Ilsley will form the northwestern end of a newly created ward called Ridgeway

10.2 A member of the public complained that the vegetation is overgrown along Main Street in places. Another member of the public noted the continued presence of the skip in the front of Match Box house.

10.3 There was a suggestion to publish the Minutes and Agenda via the WIN. All agreed that IF will circulate the Minutes and an Agenda via the WIN.

11 **Date of Next Meeting**

11.1 The next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 12 March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

All to attend.

11.2 There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chair