

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 11th March 2013

Present: Alan Bloor, Dries Hagen, John Mountford, Rollo Duckworth and Anna Sugden and Alison Banks. 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies
Sean Ryan, Jo Scriven
2. To receive any changes to Declarations
None received.
3. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 11th January 2013.
Signed as a true record.
4. Matters Arising
Taken in the meeting
5. Correspondence received
Taken in the meeting

6. Village Hall Update

Philip Knight, the Chairman of the Village Hall summarised his report which had been circulated around the Parish Councillors. Basically the village hall was unsustainable (increasing costs and maintenance bills, reduced rents) and as a village asset help and advice was being sought. The Village Hall is short £1300 per year with an additional requirement for £1500 for a sinking fund. Total shortfall £2800. The Village Hall was asking the Parish Council to provide these funds. The Village Hall has about £3000 in the bank at the moment.

There followed a discussion on the options which are summarised as follows:

To leave the Village Hall to fund raise, a strategy that had worked successfully for years eg Fete dances, bingo nights and fireworks, which could cover the immediate £1300. However it would not address any future long term strategy and sinking fund or address the problem of the current lack of enthusiastic fundraisers.

To receive a small donation from the Parish Council to help out for now.

To increase the village precept to enable funds to be diverted to the village hall. A £2300 requirement would add say £25 to each household. This could not be done until March 2014.

To return The Village Hall to Lockinge and close the facility.

There was a mixed reaction. It was decided to circulate the results of the Parish Plan questionnaire to all households, highlighting views within the Parish, especially regarding village assets such as the village hall.

An invitation to all Parishioners to attend the May AGM/Annual Assembly to specifically discuss the funding of Village Assets eg The Hall and The Church and to call all residents to attend and contribute to the discussion. To discuss having a referendum if increasing the Precept was the solution.

To resurrect the Constitution for the Village Hall, which requires greater management from The Parish Council eg The Hall Committee report into the PC annually. This always used to happen.

7. Village Broadband

Steve Cobrin reported that he had had several discussions with West Berkshire Council. There is now a project leader and project plan in place. The deadline for full implementation is 2015 and they are requesting their first instalment of £554 now. The Parish Council agreed to pay this invoice.

8. Parish Plan update

All agreed that the results of the questionnaire needed distributing and presenting at the May meeting. It should be sent to all households with an executive summary. This questionnaire will form the basis of a Parish Plan, which could be adopted by West Berks Council. It will only be adopted if the village have an active Parish Plan committee to take the results forward. Nevertheless the results of the questionnaire made interesting reading and will be presented at the next meeting.

9. Transport and Safety

Speeding – Tony Elliot and Fred Carter had collected some data. They had witnessed several cars over 46mph at Cold Harbour Farm approaching The Harrow. Several vans were identified as local tradesmen. Tony Elliot would forward their names so the Clerk could write to them.

The Clerk said that the painting of the lines and 30mph road markings had been done. Also there had been a note in WIN about poor parking at the end of Bury Lane and Church Way.

Mr Hanbury had asked The Clerk to contact the Bus company about the bus 3 point turning on his verge. It also 3 point turns at The Harrow, the last stop. The Clerk would contact the bus company and ask them to be more careful.

Dr Cleminger, at The Vet had asked the Chairman if we could stop ramblers parking in front of his property. Unfortunately no one was in favour of any cones or notices left in cars. The Clerk would let Dr Cleminger know.

10. Environmental

The lawn mower will need a service. Cllr Hagen to organise.

11. Cricket Club

A successful working party had been organised by Adrian Dray.

12. Play Area

No comments except that in March, prior to the RoSPA inspection a small working party and some expenditure may be required. Cllr Hagen to organise the RoSPA inspection and any minor maintenance.

13. Tennis Court Management

No comments

14. Accounts for Payment/receipts received

The Clerk's salary had been agreed and paid.

15. West Ilsley Trust – requests for donations

None requested

16. Planning Applications

None

17. AOB

Church Way potholes – an email was passed to Joe Clerkin offering comment from West Berkshire Council. There may be an offer of assistance.

Dates of the next meetings as follows:

NEXT MEETING AGM and PARISH ASSEMBLY May 13th

May 13th, July 8th, Sept 9th and Nov 11th in the Village Hall at the time of 7.30pm.

For Future Progress

War memorial. Unfortunately the lettering is hardly visible so it was suggested that a bronze plaque would be considered and costed. Action Cllr Hagen in conjunction with Ian Fewtrell-Smith.

The rapid response defibrillator was still under discussion. The Chairman offered to write his article for WIN

We await further photographic evidence of unsightly electricity cables from Alan Beaumont. An email had been received from Andrew Lord asking if the village was interested in joining a group in favour of underground electricity cabling. There is some funding available from SSE and there will be an initial discussion at the end of May. The Clerk has registered our interest, but photographic evidence was required. All agreed that further photos would be taken and then the Clerk would submit them altogether.

Football Goalposts for The Recreation ground. A great idea and all Councillors offered their support (and in part financially) if a volunteer came forward to manage it.