

# WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)  
held at the West Ilsley Village Hall, West Ilsley  
on Monday 14 January 2019 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

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

**Apologies:** Alan Bloor

**In attendance:** No one else.

## 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.

## 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 12 November 2018

3.1 The draft minutes of the Meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 12 November 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. It was confirmed as follows:

- a) Alan Beaumont (“**ABe**”) had cleared the vegetation and dirt from the village gates on Catmore Road.
- b) IF had written an email to Andrew Reynolds (West Berkshire Council) regarding the broken drainage on Main Street (in front of the Church) and it had been repaired.
- c) Alan Bloor (“**ABI**”) had provided updates to the Village (via WIN) regarding the repair of the generator. It has now been repaired.
- d) RD wrote to West Berkshire Council regarding the footpath behind Giles North’s house. The footpath had been inspected by WBC and was closed for six months as it was deemed unsafe for use by the public. WBC is doing

## Actions

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

some work to improve the footpath and it will be open as soon as it is safe for dog walkers and other users.

## 5 Correspondence

- a) RD informed the Meeting that he had received information about a cycling event which took place on the Ridgeway last year and which had created problems with car parking. The organizer of the event was working to try and avoid similar problems this year. The Meeting decided to delegate this issue to Peter and David Carlisle.
- b) IF had received a letter from West Berkshire Council regarding the consultation process for the School Holidays Dates in the 2020/2021 school year.

**IF to circulate the letter from WBC re school holidays via WIN.**

## 6 Community Matters

### 6.1 Finance:

- a) IF informed the Meeting that we were invited to submit a precept request on behalf of West Ilsley Parish Council. It was discussed at the Meeting. RD said that West Berkshire Council suggested that we base the amount of the precept on the tax base per household. However the Meeting decided to rely on the annual inflation rate. It was accordingly decided to increase the precept by 1.5 % for the next 2019/2020 year.
- b) IF presented one cheque for RD to sign. The cheque was in for the amount of £314.55 to West Ilsley Trust in order to separate the Parish Council account money from the “panto ringfenced” money. The Parish Council was currently hosting the remaining proceeds from the “panto fund”, but they were now going to be transferred to the West Ilsley Trust account instead.

**IF to submit the 2019/2020 precept request to WBC.**

6.2 Church: It was noted by RD that the monthly Sunday Church Café was a great and powerful fundraiser event. Turnout was excellent. One of the Councillors noted that it would be appropriate for the Church also to receive some of the money that was donated at the events.

6.3 Cricket Club: RD informed the Meeting that Neil Fowler had contacted him to request documentation relating to the ownership of the land and open spaces in the Village, as well as the cricket pavilion. The Cricket Club needed it for their nets project. ABe said that he might have some relevant information that he could provide.

**ABe to investigate documentation regarding the recreation ground and pavilion.**

6.4 Downland Volunteer Group (DVG): RD informed the Meeting that the DVG had taken part in a fair at the Corn Exchange in Newbury. They desperately needed more volunteers. Downland Volunteer Group runs the handy bus to help immobile residents in the Village and nearby get to the shops. They needed drivers in addition to support staff. RD suggested that it might be useful to advertise the DVG via the WIN in order to attract more supporters.

6.5 West Ilsley Trust: As noted above, the Parish Council would be transferring funds previously held by it on behalf of the “panto fund” to the West Ilsley Trust account instead.

## 7 Environment and Upkeep

- 7.1 Planning applications: No new planning applications had been received since the last Meeting.
- 7.2 Footpaths and Bridleways: As noted above, the footpath next to Giles North's house was still closed. The Parish Council would inform the Village when it is reopened to the public.
- 7.3 Play area Graham Wood ("GW") asked the Meeting if we should change the inspection Company for the playground (it had been RoSPA for many years). Justin Gilbert ("JG") thought that the inspection report and the points made in it were unreasonable and not fair, and did not reflect the real situation with respect to the playground's condition.
- 7.4 Open spaces / Pond: JG informed the Meeting that he was given the name of a man who may be able to help with clearing the pond. The initial idea was to organize a working party to clear the pond by ourselves, however current thinking was that we needed professional help to do this. The main idea would be to drain the pond and cut and trim the vegetation around it, so that it looked tidy and not neglected, and so that people could walk around it. Anna Sugden ("AS") noted that the pond had not flooded for a while now and that to drain it would likely be very costly. AS also noted that she thought that rainwater carried a significant amount of soil from the sheep yard into the pond. She wondered whether it might be worth asking David Carlisle whether clearing or sweeping the soil from the sheep yard would improve the situation. JG would continue discussing this issue with David Carlisle. For clarity, it was also noted that these discussions were in relation only to the pond next to the pub.
- 7.5 Village Hall: It was noted that the Village Hall was looking in great condition, although the room remained very cold even with the heaters on (there were issues with the cold temperature). The roof had been fixed. It was noted that an initial idea to put gravel around the Village hall had been discounted, as this was not friendly towards pushchairs users.

## 8 Safety and Services

- 8.1 Roads and Gritting: Justin Pilditch ("JP") noted that the grit bins within the Village were full at about 80% capacity. It was the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure that they were refilled regularly. JP had received quotes from different contractors, but he needed to know how much salt was needed to refill the grit bins. JP thought that an effective solution would be to purchase salt from the contractor who would charge us exactly for the refilled salt. There was a discussion between members of the Parish Council as to whether there was a need to refill the grit bins along Bury Lane as no one seemed to use them there, but RD confirmed that it was our duty to do so as West Ilsley Parish Council.
- 8.2 Signage: RD informed the Meeting that he had inspected the entrance gates to the Village. The gates from the western side of the Village were rotten and in a very poor condition. As noted previously, ABe had cleared the gates on Catmore Road. The gates at the eastern end were plastic and in a reasonable condition. It was discussed that we would probably need to replace the gates soon.
- 8.3 Neighbourhood Watch: AS informed the Meeting that the number plates from one of the cars in the Village have been stolen. It was a shame that no one had seen it. Maybe we need to be more vigilant to prevent such actions in our Village in the future?

**AS to contact WBC and find out if they can help with replacement of the Village's entrance gates.**

**9 AOB**

9.1 None.

**10 Open Forum**

10.1 Nothing raised.

**11 Date of Next Meeting**

11.1 The next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Monday 11 March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall **All to attend.**

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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**Chair**