

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Assembly Monday 13th May 2013

Present: Sean Ryan, Dries Hagen, Alan Bloor, Rollo Duckworth, Jo Scriven, Anna Sugden and Alison Banks. 25 members of the public.

Annual General Meeting

1. Elections

Nominations were received for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Chairman - Sean Ryan - nominated by Rollo Duckworth and seconded by Jo Scriven. Duly elected.

Vice Chairman – Dries Hagen - nominated by Sean Ryan and seconded by Rollo Duckworth. Duly Elected.

Treasurer – Jo Scriven - nominated by Sean Ryan and seconded by Alan Bloor. Duly elected.

2. Apologies

George Chandler, John Mountford

3. To receive any changes to Declarations

None received.

4. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 14th May 2012.

Signed as a true record.

5. To receive the Parish Council's Annual Return years ended 31st March 2013 and approve same for submission to audit.

Received and submitted.

Parish Council Account

The PC account opened last year with £6969 and ended with £3357.

The reason that the account has decreased so much is due to much lower income/receipts. There was no large amount of VAT to claim back (from the £20k tennis court refurbishment project) this year so income was just from advertising and the Precept (Total £2800).

Payments out were as last year about £5k. This year we spent out on the war memorial (£2400) and also the clerk's salary came out twice this year due to a timing issue.

The annual Precept of £2515 was frozen again and remains as unchanged for the last 6 years.

We have also pledged two further Broadband instalments (£500/year) and £2353 is ring fenced for The Play Area and £500 for WIN (from their advertising). Hence the account only has a buffer of £500. This needs to be considered when offering donations to committees.

Looking forward our expenditure next year is approximately £1850 (£500 Broadband, £500 Insurance premium and £850 Clerk). I hope to claim back another £500 of VAT this year.

6. Annual risk assessment

Insurance policy covers all likely risks. Of our assets, the War Memorial, the village seats and notice boards are inspected regularly by members of the Parish Council, as is the gazebo. The playground is inspected annually by ROSPA and by members of the Parish weekly. The Clerk also provides a full financial risk assessment – all approved and minuted.

7. West Ilsley Trust. Trustees' Annual Report and approval of accounts year ended 31st March 2013.
Received and approved

West Ilsley Trust

The Trust opened the year with £891.93 and ended with £441.93. Donations were awarded to the village for their highly successful Jubilee party of £500 and to the Village Hall committee for the firework display (£150). There was a payment of £200 from the fete committee to the Trust for future good causes including the above fireworks.

Sine the Trust was launched in 2006 and charged with £500 plus £3000 from the parish Council Barn Dance in 2007, many donations to support good village cause have been made. Regular small annual payments are received from the Fete. However funds are now relatively low and will need replenishing soon if generous donations are to continue.

8. Matters Arising

Parking issues with respect to the bus turning by The Harrow. Recently on Tuesdays and Fridays the bus could not 3 point turn due to parked cars. Mr Dray from the Cricket Club offered to put out cones. The Clerk has 2 cones available to lend out.

9. Village Hall – to be discussed in The Assembly
10. Parish Plan – to be discussed in The Assembly
11. Transport and Safety/environmental issues

The drains had been cleaned.

Mr Elliot presented some SID data. Cars are still speeding on the approaches into the village. This data will be used to expose regular offenders and to continue to ask West Berkshire Council to consider moving the 30mph sign over the hill towards East Ilsley.

A Parishioner mentioned that the farm traffic often travels too fast through the village. A quiet word with the local farmers was required.

12. Accounts for payment/receipts received/Planning Applications

The Insurance premium is due - £571.64. The Clerk asked The Treasurer to raise payment. All agreed

13. Dates of next meetings as follows: Mondays July 8th, September 9th, Nov 11th, Jan 13th, March 10th and May 12th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
14. Open forum

There followed a discussion of the village precept, which had been frozen at £2,515 for six years because councillors favoured fund-raising for village amenities rather than increasing the general burden of tax in difficult economic times. Several councillors spoke in favour of continuing this approach but the majority of speakers from the floor were in favour of raising the precept. Their arguments that the parish council should have enough money to support village organisations in the future as it has in the past were broadly accepted by councillors. The debate will inform the next decision on the precept, which is due early next year.

The Annual Parish Assembly

1. To receive and if approved, confirm the report of The Parish Assembly held on Monday 14th May 2012. Received and approved.

The Village Hall Discussion

Cllr Dries Hagen introduced the current issues – namely the shortfall of available funds to continue to maintain the Village Hall. The current committee are not committed to fund raising and therefore the village face losing this Asset.

There are several issues – the Hall needs upgrading a little to attract users back and new users. The Parish Council cannot underpin this Asset. A new committee is required urgently to fund raise, carry out minor maintenance and plan ahead for larger projects, whilst marketing is required to bring in new users and keep the regulars.

In general everyone wanted to see the Village Hall continue and there was hope that a new committee would come forward.

Cllr Hagen chaired the discussion and a summary will appear in WIN.

The Village Questionnaire (a part of a potential Parish Plan)

The Chairman presented the findings, which had been summarised and e mailed to all households. Anna Sugden indicated that up to £5000 could be available should the plan be adopted. This would only happen if the village could produce a vibrant Parish Plan committee to take the findings further. Volunteers welcome.

2. Chairman's Annual Report – Sean Ryan

The chairman said that the biggest issue for the council over the past year, other than the village hall and the parish plan questionnaire, which had already been discussed, had been speeding. SID data showed that some vehicles were travelling as fast as 46mph near the recreation ground and the police would be encouraged to intervene. At the other end of the village, West Berkshire Council had improved road markings to emphasise the speed limit and the need to drive slowly, but was still considering another request from the parish council to move the 30mph sign further up the hill so that drivers coming from East Ilsley would have more time to slow down before they reached houses. The council was also considering a warning from the council that the dangerous lay-out of the East Ilsley / West Ilsley junction off the A34 had led to a number of near-misses. In the centre of the village, West Berkshire Council had improved road markings at Morland Close after two cars hit the same wall in separate incidents.

The parish council had also agreed to fund improvements to broadband, due in 2015, to the tune of £1,500 spread over three years. Among other work, it had helped with the cleaning of the war memorial, the cost of running the church, the cleansing of gulleys that might otherwise have caused flooding, the rowing mota and the monthly inspections of the play area.

The parish plan questionnaire had shown a very high approval rating for the parish council which was a tribute to the community spirit of the councillors - Dries Hagen, the vice-chairman, Jo Scriven, the treasurer, Alan Bloor, the environment specialist, Anna Sugden, the parish plan person, John Mountford, who concentrates on speeding and bus services, and Rollo Duckworth, the newest councillor.

Alison Banks, the excellent clerk, was congratulated by the chairman and cheered by a packed hall for another fine year's service to the village.

Reports from Representatives of Village Organisations

The Chairman thanked everyone for their excellent contribution to their committee and to village.

West Ilsley Cricket Club – Adrian Dray reported.

All Saints Church – Will Axtell reported.

Downland Volunteer Group – Andrea Cook reported.

West Ilsley Village Hall Management Committee – Philip Knight reported.

Ilsley Evergreens – Report read out.

Ilsley Under Fives – Flick reported.

West Ilsley Fete - Alan Bloor reported.

West Ilsley Tennis Committee – Lousie Beaumont reported.

West Ilsley Table Tennis Committee – Steve Cobrin reported.

West Ilsley News and website – Andrea Cook reported.

West Ilsley Web site – Martin B W reported

West Ilsley Poorswood Charity – Anne Butterworth (she asked if the charity should continue asked for donations. It was agreed that donations would cease but the current funds would be handed out to the needy as required)