

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Assembly Monday 9th May 2011

Present: Sean Ryan, Alan Bloor, Jo Scriven, Anna Sugden and Alison Banks. 9 members of the public.

Annual General Meeting

1. Elections

Nominations were received for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

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

Vice Chairman – Dries Hagen - nominated by Sean Ryan and seconded by Alan Bloor. Duly Elected.

Treasurer – Jo Scriven - nominated by Sean Ryan and seconded by Anna Sugden. Duly elected.

2. Apologies

Dries Hagen and 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 24th March 2010.

Signed as a true record.

5. To receive the Parish Council's accounts years ended 31st March 2011 and approve same for submission to audit.

Received and submitted.

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 Tennis committee have provided a comprehensive risk assessment and the village lawn mower (for the West Ilsley Mowing Rota) has also a full risk assessment. 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 2011. Donations were given to the Church, Cricket Club, the

firework display and for ditch clearance. Payments were received from the Fete committee. Requests for donation are always well received.
Received and approved

8. Matters Arising

All Councillors had been duly elected uncontested prior to the local elections. The village drainage system had been thoroughly cleansed from pond to pond. We thanked West Berks (particularly Stuart Clark) for his good efforts on our behalf.

The Play area had received some minor repairs and a delivery of new bark. Its RoSPA inspection was due anytime.

The tennis court had been refurbished and the final invoice was due for payment providing all was satisfactory. The court was open for use.

No response from the bus company regarding the moving of the bus stop post opposite the church.

Cllr Sugden reported that the £500 donation to run a village party for the Royal Wedding had been a great success.

9. Correspondence Received

Thank you letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire for our donation to Kate and William's wedding present.

10. Parish Plan

Cllr Sugden reported that the final questionnaire was nearly ready for circulation.

11. Transport and Safety/Environmental Issues

Following a previous meeting the council decided to see if a salt bin was required in The Maltings. In recent winters the road was virtually impassable.

The Clerk had asked all residents (14) and with 8 replies, 6 were in favour and 2 against (1 pending where the bin was sited and 1 was not in favour). The clerk suggested we followed up the remaining responses before a decision was reached. The main issue was the positioning of any salt bin.

12. Accounts for payment/receipts received/planning permission

All agreed the Annual Insurance to be paid. For next year it was suggested that competitive quotes were gathered.

Planning

Approval – Cricket club pavilion

Enforcement – Doug Brown –overhanging decking

13. AOB

The rapid response defibrillator was still under discussion.

Our local PC Dom Bartlett had left the Police and so Cllr Sugden was to ascertain his replacement.

14. Open Forum

Dates of the next meetings as follows: Mondays July 11th, Sept 12th, Nov 14th, Jan 9th 2012, March 12th and May 14th in the Village Hall at the time of 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Assembly

1. To receive and if approved, confirm the report of The Parish Assembly held on Monday 24th May 2010.
Received and approved.

2. Chairman's Annual Report – Sean Ryan

Much of the work of a parish council goes on behind the scenes so it's gratifying that in the past 12 months, we've had a hand in a couple of projects that nobody could fail to have noticed.

The first was the pond. It hadn't been cleared out for 20 years and it flooded in 2007. West Berkshire Council finally responded to requests for action and made a terrific job of removing hundreds of tonnes of silt and building a bank at the back and a channel at the front to prevent flooding. So far, so good on that score, although the new system has yet to be tested by any torrential rain. The bill for this work came to £12,000 and we were lucky to be asked for only £400 to cover the cost of clearing the ditch at the bottom of the recreation ground. The credit for overseeing it all goes to Alan Bloor, the only councillor not on holiday when the work was being done.

The second big project in the past year - one for which the parish council claims no credit whatsoever - was the resurfacing of the tennis court. Our role was limited to financial support - a small donation and a loan to cover part of the cost - for the tennis committee, which has made a great success of it. The court is now in frequent use. It's one of the most popular places in the village. Congratulations to all concerned and thanks to Jo Scriven for handling the money side for the parish council.

Bollards went up at the Ridgeway car park after concern was expressed at one of our meetings that it was becoming a truck stop. Not everyone likes the look of them - they're supposed to have been painted in a colour more in keeping with the surroundings - but there seems to be a lot less rubbish in the car park.

We've also seen the new gateway to the village on Bury Lane, the latest in a series of measures to slow traffic speeds.

A survey of speeds showed a slight reduction since the last one three or four years ago. West Berks Council believes we don't have a speeding problem in West Ilsley - there's been 'only' one injury in the past five years - but the parish council strongly disagrees. As we see it, the problem is worst at either end of the village and although we've succeeded in having the 30mph sign moved further up the road to Farnborough, giving drivers more time to slow down before they reach the recreation ground, a similar request for the sign to be moved some way up the hill on the road to East Ilsley has so

far gone unheeded. John Mountford has kept up the pressure all year on speeding and will continue to do so.

The play area remains very popular and in pretty good condition, thanks to Dries Hagen's hard work and his success in acquiring replacement parts where needed at very reasonable cost.

It exists in harmony with the cricket club, which in turn has had more harmonious relations with its neighbours than in the previous season. The club's new code of practice, which covers everything from the strimming times to the retrieval of balls from gardens, has made an enormous difference and reflects a new level of goodwill on all sides. One property where several balls used to stray during some matches had fewer than five in its garden in the whole of the last season. The owners have joined the parish council in thanking the cricket club for its sensitive resolution of what had become an acrimonious dispute.

The recreation ground also saw one of the social highlights of the year - the royal wedding celebration - supported by a donation from the parish council. It was very well attended - a credit to the organisers who worked so hard to make it a special day.

Other matters: a threat was averted to the prescription service which allows people to collect their medicines in the village rather than drive to the surgery, thanks to Fred Carter and the Elliots; and the parish precept - the bit of the council tax that covers our spending - was frozen for the fifth year in a row in line with our view that we shouldn't be adding to anyone's financial burdens in such difficult times.

Thanks were reiterated to Dries for his work on the play area and mowing rota, Alan for the pond and other environmental initiatives, Jo for managing the money, John for covering transport so assiduously and Anna Sugden, who's in charge of the most important project for the year ahead - the parish plan.

Alison Banks was applauded for a meticulous year's work as clerk - the person who actually runs the parish council.

3. Reports from Representatives of Village Organisations (full reports available from The Clerk and via WIN)

West Ilsley Cricket Club – Hugh Evans reported.

Downland Sports Centre – No report.

All Saints Church – Mr Fewtrell-Smith reported.

Downland Volunteer Group – Andrea Cook reported.

West Ilsley Village Hall Management Committee – Neil Slater reported.

Ilsley Evergreens – No report.

Ilsley Under Fives – Report read out.

West Ilsley Fete - Alan Bloor reported.

West Ilsley Tennis Committee – Polly Muir reported.

West Ilsley Table Tennis Committee – No report.

The Ilsley's School – No report.

West Ilsley News and website – Andrea Cook reported.