

# WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the  
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)  
held virtually  
on Monday 13 July 2020 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

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**Present:** Rollo Duckworth (Chair)  
Justin Gilbert  
Alan Bloor  
Graham Woods  
Anna Sugden  
Alan Beaumont

**In attendance:** Several members of the public

**1. Chair and Apologies**

1.1 Rollo Duckworth (RD) chaired the meeting, via Zoom hosted by Graham Woods (GW). Apologies from Carlyne Culver, Ward Councillor. There was no clerk present as the post is vacant. West Berkshire Council, Democratic Services are content for the meeting to be held without a clerk.

**2. Changes to Declarations of Interest and Councillors, and policy documents review**

2.1 No changes to declarations of interest were received nor were there any changes to the Councillors at that time. The council’s policy documents were reviewed, and no councillors had any comments.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of the West Ilsley Parish Council held on Tuesday 26 May 2020.**

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting held on 26 May had been circulated prior to the meeting. The draft minutes including two minor amendments were approved and signed by RD as a true record.

RD to  
publish  
minutes

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

4.1 RD confirmed that all matters arising will be covered in the rolling agenda.

**5. Correspondence.**

5.1 Simon Tarrant and several other residents have emailed a letter to the council, copied to the Ward Councillor concerning the VAS intended to be sited at the eastern end of the village. RD explained the legal position: that for traffic calming measures, the parish council has the power only to contribute financially to projects. The parish council is not the determinant of the technical aspects of traffic calming. West Berkshire Council are now aware of the residents’ views, which JG summarized as a “no VAS is better than a bad one”. This will be picked up later in the meeting.

**6. Community Matters.**

6.1 Finance. The council has now gone to online banking and has paid all

<p>outstanding invoices, after a change of bank account signatories. RD is to get JG added as a signatory to the online access. RD will speak to the payroll accountants regarding the vacant clerk's post. The CIL money held by the council will be largely spent on the playground renovations.</p>	RD
<p>6.2 WIN, Website, and communications. RD commended the editors of the WIN for their continual good work in holding the village together. Justin Pilditch is to supply an up to date web address for the cricket club so that the website can be amended.</p>	
<p>6.3 Most other village activities are still suspended, though the tennis club and cricket club are restarting with permitted activities.</p>	
<p>6.3.1 Cricket nets project. A submission by the cricket club for funding was discussed. The cricket club would like the project seen as an investment in the future, a facility for younger players in the village to get involved. It would also be a facility useful on match days and by the club itself. The club's proposition is that the council could place the order and then the club would manage the construction and upkeep of the nets. In this way, the council could reclaim any VAT involved as well. RD explained the council's policy on grants and donations which favours village-wide benefits and is hesitant where special interest groups are concerned. The meeting felt unable to opine on the VAT status of such a project. More information was needed by the council. Discussion between attendees and the council covered control and usage of the nets for which the club did to give more thought, and it was established that there has never been any precedent for support from the precept for the cricket club. (The meeting was unsure whether the council might have provided support to the tennis club in the past in case there was precedence for council support for other interest groups.)</p>	All councillors
<p>6.3.2 West Ilsley Trust. In a recent review of the council papers, it has come to light that the West Ilsley Parish Trust has only one trustee registered with the Charity Commission. Good governance might suggest that two or more would be better. Also, there are three signatories to the Trust Bank account which should perhaps be reviewed to confirm this is as it should be. ABI undertook to investigate this, and RD will pass to ABI the papers that have come to light.</p>	ABI
<p><b>7. Environment and Upkeep.</b></p>	
<p>7.1 Pond water level. ABI is going to inspect and organize dredging if thought necessary.</p>	ABI
<p>7.2 Playground. GW gave the meeting an update on playground repairs which unfortunately mean that the playground must remain shut. In summary the surface is too thin, some structures are rotten, and the large slide is broken. GW is working extremely hard to fix all these items, the largest of which is the movement of 38 cubic metres of surface material across the cricket outfield. Patrick MacKenzie-Charrington agreed to help GW with this.</p>	GW
<p><b>8. Safety and Services.</b></p>	
<p>8.1 Vehicle activated signage. Since the council's decision to go ahead with the VAS taken at the last meeting, residents at the eastern end of the village who stand to be affected by it, have written to both the parish council and West Berkshire Council disputing most aspects of its installation. In the light of this, the council is withholding its financial support for the VAS until these issues are resolved. There was a wide-ranging discussion about traffic calming, however it remains the case that parish council powers are very limited in this respect. Beside the detail of the VAS installation, residents are keen that there is a Speed Review on the stretch of</p>	

road approaching the entry into the village. The council is happy to support the request for a speed review. There is also a tangential issue concerning planters that had been placed on the pavement outside the old Chapel. The parish council has not been consulted or involved in the correspondence between the householder and Highways Department of West Berkshire Council. The village does not have any issue with the planters, believing they add to the village, however Highways obviously have a view about them. ABI suggested that retrospective planning permission could be applied for, and he volunteered to help with the submission. This, it is hoped, would replace the permission previously granted for bollards to be placed at the same location.

ABI

**9. AOB.**

9.1 Ducks. RD volunteered to speak to residents at the western end of the village to discourage them from feeding the ducks which are feared to be encouraging rats in the village.

RD

8.2 Parish clerk. We will be advertising shortly once we have established the requirement.

**10. Open forum.**

10.1 No points were raised.

There being no further business RD closed the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 14th September 2020 at 7:30pm.

**Chair**

**Date**

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