

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting

Monday 9th March, 2009

Present: Cllrs: Sean Ryan, John Mountford, Fred Carter, Dries Hagen, Sue Simmons, Jo Scriven and Alison Banks (Clerk) plus approximately 15 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence
Alan Bloor

2. Guest Speaker – Neil Sanderson – Peasemore Parish Council – Parish Planning

There followed a very informative talk from Neil Sanderson on Peasemores' experiences of producing and implementing a Parish Plan. The audience was most appreciative of his personal experiences. It is now hoped that West Ilsley will start their own Parish Plan and 5 volunteers stepped forward.

3. To Receive any changes to Declarations
None

4. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 12th January, 2009

Signed as a true record

5. West Ilsley Cricket Club

Dick Beech, Chairman of West Ilsley Parish Council gave us a summary of the plans to knock down and rebuild the changing areas of the Cricket Pavilion. This is likely to cost at least £35K. They are very keen to tap into any grant opportunity and have already tried with some – so far unsuccessfully. They also hope to obtain Club Mark Accreditation, which should help with grant applications. They wish to know if the charitable status of the West Ilsley Social and Recreation Association (current charity) or the newly formed West Ilsley Trust could be used to enhance grant applications. The Council was unsure if this was possible. Cllr Carter thought not as the Cricket Club was a commercial concern. It was also unclear if the Pavilion was an Asset along with the Recreation ground and under the responsibility of the Charity. The Clerk would ask Lockinge Estate and also obtain a copy of the Lease. Cllr Ryan offered to confirm to Mr Beech within the next week.

Discussions followed regarding the growing size of the Cricket Club and the lack of cricket-free time on the Recreation ground. Also, some comments were made regarding the strategy of the club regarding its size and status as a Cricket Club and the regard for the infrastructure and views of residents of West Ilsley (parking, litter etc). Mr Beech and Mr Scriven took note of these comments.

6. Matters Arising

The pedestrian gate to the Recreation field - Cllr Hagen offered a quote for a Hunting Gate at £270 + VAT. The Cricket Club had previously quoted at £750. Mr Beech confirmed that the difference was due to the necessary excavation work and disposal of the spoil. Discussions followed as to the necessity of a gate (previously thought to keep cars out and children in). However cars are regularly allowed in on match days. One suggestion was just to put up a sign to shut the gate, another was to erect a second gate post to which the gate could be tethered. Cllr Hagen to follow up.

Church Way road surface – 3 quotations are now available. As agreed by West Berkshire Council they are prepared to provide the materials Free of Charge with the residents laying the gravel or employing workmen to do this. KNG were asked to provide a daily rate for helping. Mr Piggot offered a Wacker Plate and Mr Fewtrell Smith will estimate the quantity of aggregates required.

Cllr Bloor reported that the drains along Main Street had been cleaned out, including those near the Old Post Office. Mr Coakley had pointed out to the Clerk that the drains by his pond were blocked and regularly were missed. The gulleys along Catmore road have been redug. In the meantime there is still a plan to build up a bank at the back of the pond. Cllr Bloor would approach the landowners for access permission.

The section of road on Main Street at the bottom of Bury Lane has still not been repaired. Cllr Bloor is following this up and still awaits a response.

Gritting of Bury Lane. Following little progress on this issue via Streetcare, the road still remains a secondary gritting route (requiring 72hrs of continuous frost for gritting to take place). DCllr Chandler offered to follow this up with West Berks Council.

The condition of Post Office House was discussed. The Land Lords had responded to the Council, but are still refusing to cooperate. They will not help in providing a regular cleaning regime/blinds or to incorporate the room into the house. In the mean time, it had been cleaned by the tenants living next door in the Post Office House. Many thanks to them.

Cllr Carter had completed the Freedom of Information document and it was to be posted on the Website and in WIN. Terms of Reference for all village committees are still required. Cllr Carter offered to prepare.

7. Correspondence received

West Berks Countryside Agency has offered us £294 for public open spaces. This may be used for the new post for the Pedestrian gate to the Cricket Club.

8. Transport and Safety

The Chairman read out that Cllr Bloor had had little joy regarding the implementation of a weight restriction limit for vehicles through the village.

Cllr Mountford reported that one bus service is ceasing and several others are at risk. This will be monitored and it seems that all services are under constant review. Cllr Mountford will continue his efforts.

9. Environment

Village Maintenance Rota. Cllr Hagen plans to call for volunteers (via WIN) to join the rota. The rota would not only include grass cutting, but also weeding and leaf collection.

10. Play Area

The ROSPA inspection will take place in April.

11. West Ilsley Trust

There was a request for a donation from the Church. They asked for an unspecified amount towards the cost of insurance. All agreed to give £500, proposed and seconded. The account had £2500 approx. The Clerk will raise a cheque and forward to Mrs Sugden.

12. Village Hall changes

The building of the new porch is well underway.

13. Requests for donations (West Ilsley Parish Council)

There were no requests for donations.

14. Accounts for payment/receipts received

The Treasurer reported that the account was at £4200. The VAT return had been done and £3429 was due back to us. The large amount is solely due to the claim back on the Play Area spend last year. This money will be kept for Play Area expenditure. The Clerk's salary was agreed to remain at £850 and not increased for inflation (so small an amount the Clerk was happy not to worry). A cheque will be raised.

15. Planning Applications

Mr and Mrs Hanbury – extension, outbuildings have been approved.

16. AOB

Mr Palmer and Cllr Simmons reported that the school bus from East Ilsley to the Downs school is to cease from 1st April. This is due to cost cutting. The children have been asked to walk along the Ridgeway for 1 hour 20mins each way to school. Everyone was appalled and offered support. Many signed a petition and The Clerk will write to West Berkshire Council offering support to the families of East Ilsley. There is a web site www.eisbag.ning.com for anyone to view. The Clerk has since learnt that this decision has been overturned.

Open forum

The next PC meeting is Monday 18th May, 2009 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall. This is also The Parish Assembly.

Alison Banks
Clerk to The Parish Council