

WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)
held at the West Ilsley Village Hall, West Ilsley
on Monday 13 January 2020 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

Present: Rollo Duckworth (Chair)
Inna Fauler (Clerk)
Justin Gilbert
Alan Bloor
Alan Beaumont

Apologies: Graham Woods
Anna Sugden

In attendance: 4 members of the public

1 Chair and Apologies

1.1 Rollo Duckworth (“RD”) acted as Chair of the Meeting. Inna Fauler (“IF”) kindly 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 11 November 2019

3.1 The draft minutes of the Meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 11 November 2019 (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 confirmed that the actions that had arisen from the Minutes of the previous Meeting had been completed as follows:

- a) Finance: As agreed at the previous Meeting, Graham Wood (“GW”) is still looking into the WIPC’s VAT issues and working on it. The Council was also thinking of inputting financial transactions from the payments and receipts book into an Excel format so that the WIPC’s accounts could be more easily reported and transparent to all.
- b) Website: RD reported to the Village that the new village website, which Martin BW had been working on for the last couple of months, was almost ready and would be launched within a week. The issue would be covered in further detail later in the Meeting.
- c) Road Signage: RD said that Justin Gilbert (“JG”) would report later during the Meeting regarding the road signage in the Village.

Actions

IF to file the Minutes from the November 2019 Meeting in the WIPC archives.

- d) Dog Bins: The WIPC decided not to proceed with the purchase of dog-poo bins. It was suggested that a post should be made in WIN, asking residents to pick up after their dogs and use the regular bins.

AS to ask the WIN to post.

5 Correspondence

5.1 RD reported that the following correspondence had been received:

- a) Precept: A letter inviting the WIPC to submit its proposal for the precept for the next financial year had been received. The amount should be discussed at this Meeting and the precept should be submitted by the relevant deadline.
- b) Flood Warden: A letter from West Berkshire Council regarding Flooding Consultations and Meetings had been received. Alan Beaumont (“**ABe**”) informed the Meeting that Mel Cook might step down as the Village’s Flood Warden and that ABe might help in assuming the role.
- c) Environment: A letter regarding Environmental Consultations had been received. Consultations had started and all were invited to participate.
- d) Defibrillator: ABe informed the Meeting that the Village defibrillator was due to be serviced. He will await the report, and would report at the next Meeting. It was noted that the defibrillator code was regularly published in the WIN.

IF to submit the precept request by the required deadline.

IF to ask the WIN to publish the link.

6 Community Matters

6.1 Finance: RD noted that the WIPC needed to agree the precept for the coming financial year. RD suggested perhaps a freeze on the precept at last year’s level, but other Councillors felt that it would be good to maintain reserves. After a short consultation it was agreed by the Council to raise the precept in line with the inflation rate of 1.82%. Applied to the current Precept of £10,500, rounded is would be £10,700.

6.2 RD reminded the Meeting that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which we had received from WBC last year, should be spent on Community related matters within 5 years, otherwise it is returned. Possibilities for example are: the Village Hall renovation, playground renovation and our green spaces. The amount of CIL awarded to the Village was around £6,000. It was agreed to hold a consultation process in this regard amongst the villagers to prepare a plan on how and what to spend it for.

WIN and Website: RD reported that Martin BW had almost finished a brilliant job on the new Village website. The launch would be in a week’s time. RD said that the new website could be the **go-to** resource for the village. It shows:

- a) all Parish Council matters, meeting dates, agendas,
- b) all Planning Applications within the village within the period asked for.
- c) all WIN editions down the years.
- d) it works on all devices, albeit the display might be different on some devices..
- e) there are different tabs, and sub-tabs for the diverse **Local Amenities** and

Sport & Leisure of the Village (e.g., Cricket Club, Harrow, Under 5s, etc.). Representatives of each will be encouraged to take editorial rights for their respective sections; and

f) all regulatory council documentation is published.

RD reported that, with the newly revamped website, the WIPC's work would be much more transparent.

6.3 Table tennis Club: Steve Corbin reported that the Club had purchased a new table tennis table.

6.4 Village Hall: Alan Bloor ("ABI") informed the Meeting that the Village Hall was looking to receive a grant which would help cover the Village Hall renovation expenses. Recent events which had been organized to support the Village Hall had been a great success.

7 Environment and Upkeep

7.1 Planning: It was noted that eight ongoing planning applications could be viewed on the WBC website.

7.2 Footpaths and Bridleways: It was reported that the works and repairs to the footpath alongside 16/1 Main Street (in West Ilsley) had been completed, and the closure of the footpath had been lifted accordingly. It also noted that the footpath looked very good now.

8 Safety and Services

8.1 Signage: It was noted that our Ward District Councillor, Caroline Culver, had done a lot for the Village already in terms of signage and signs. There were going to be new gates and signage installed on the western site of the Village, and new signs up Bury Lane. WBC had a very detailed proposal for the proposed VAS sign on the eastern site of the Village. JG also informed the Meeting that WBC had a detailed explanation regarding the proposed location of the VAS sign and the Council was convinced that it should be in the front of the Old Chapel. The sign needed to be located on the public "right of way" land (which was how the land immediately in front of the Old Chapel was designated) and that there also needed to be a certain stopping distance before the VAS sign. JG said that the letter from WBC would be circulated soon and this would explain the reasoning behind the proposed location of the VAS sign.

JG to continue liaising with WBC on this matter.

8.2 Roads and Gritting: Regarding the gullies on Bury Lane in West Ilsley which were blocked, JG said that he had registered the problem with WBC, and the Council were looking at the issue and had assigned the complaint to a senior Highways officer.

8.3 ABI noted that a couple of pothole issues needed to be reported to the WBC.

ABI to follow up appropriately.

8.4 Flooding: Returning to the subject of flooding, RD noted that there was a letter announcing a WBC run Flooding Forum for 27 February 2020. Many problems regarding this matter would be discussed there, including 7 outstanding items related to West Ilsley Village, which should be sorted. It was unknown whether the current West Ilsley Flood Warden, Mel Cook, wanted to continue in this role. ABe mentioned that he could perform the duties in an interim manner if required, but he was unsure whether he could assume the role full time. If Mel Cook no longer wished to perform the function, then the Village would need to find a volunteer who could represent the Village at the Forum, and the position should

ABe to consider assuming role of Flood Warden in an interim capacity.

probably be advertised in WIN. Generally, funds to finance preventative flooding work might be available. ABI said that he was very concerned about the situation, considering the fact that well readings were high, the amount of rain we were having at the moment and previous flooding history in the Village. The pond might need drainage soon to prevent flooding as well.

9 Working Village

9.1 Farming: David Carlisle reported that all was going well.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 RD produced a proposed Guide to WIPC Timetable and Schedules that he had drafted that attempted to outline the various regular outputs and filing deadlines for the WIPC and the responsible person(s). RD said that he would continue to work on improving the document and welcomed feedback.

RD to continue work on the WIPC Timetable and Schedule.

11 Open forum

11.1 One member of the public was very concerned about the traffic in the Village, especially on the eastern side of the Village. Cars were speeding in both directions.

11.2 David Carlisle also mentioned that it would be good to spend some money and clear the ditch going from the pond of leaves in order to prevent flooding. It was mentioned that it was the role of the WBC to clear ditches.

David Carlisle also raised the potential danger of the iron railings alongside the road by the barns.

12 Date of Next Meeting

All to attend.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 9 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chair