

# **West Ilsley Parish Council**

## Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Present: Dries Hagen(Chair), Rollo Duckworth, Alan Beaumont, Alan Bloor, Jo Scriven, Anna Sugden and Alison Banks (Clerk). 11 members of the public.

1. Apologies  
Sean Ryan

2. To receive any changes to Declarations  
None received.

3. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014.  
Signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising  
The Parish Council had received a copy of the Cricket Club's Insurance cover. The exact cover will be clarified. Dries offered to contact Geoffrey Brown from West Ilsley Cricket Club.

5. Correspondence received  
To be taken in the minutes

6. Improvements to existing open spaces  
Following the results of the village survey, the top 4 choices had been selected by villagers. As follows;

Two heavy benches for outside the tennis court (Alison and Andrea to purchase)  
Replace the fence around the Recreation ground (Alan Bloor)  
Remove the dead trees around the tennis court (already done – pay back the tennis committee)  
Purchase two mobile rugby/football posts (Anna)

Quotes had been received and would be followed up. Additional quotes were requested for the fence work, including perhaps a kick board and if possible a new fence for in front of the village hall (Cllr Bloor).

All invoices to the Parish Council and VAT would be claimed back. Once purchased they would be added to the Asset Register and added to the PC insurance.

The Clerk had requested details of how the other monies (from the development) had been spent by the Council eg Education – The Downs School, NHS Property Services, Library and Highways all had received some of the developer's money. Details received were vague but they are to be used in the Parish.

#### 7. Precept

West Berkshire Council had requested our Precept request for 2014/5. Following last year's large increase there was no desire to increase the Precept by a large amount. A small inflationary increase was proposed to ensure that funds were keeping up to date and there would be less need for large increases in the future. All agreed in principal for an Inflationary rise and the Clerk would check back to last year's minutes that no previous amounts had been minuted.

Following the meeting The Clerk has checked and there were no stipulations set. Hence The Chairman was asked to propose the small rise. This was done by e mail and the Councillors were asked to consider a proposal to uplift the precept by 0,5% in line with the current Consumer Price Index as published by the ONS.

The responses had all been positive. Hence the Clark will request this from West Berkshire Council.

#### 8. Village Funding Update

The proposed new procedure for allocating any precept money to village committees was underway and 2 applications had been received: All Saints Church and Village Hall.

All Saints - up to £6100 to replenish reserves after repairing the church roof plasterwork. The PC felt they would be able to offer support now. This was agreed and a cheque for £5000 was handed over.

Village Hall - £5000 to match grant received and to be used for upgrading heating, insulating and lighting. The Parish Council requested some quotations for lighting, insulation and heating. These were imminent and were to include some costed ideas to improve the acoustics. This is still being evaluated by the Village Hall Committee.

#### 9. Village Hall Update

As described in the funding item, the Hall is undergoing Phase 1 improvement: internal decoration and new curtains were complete and external decoration underway. This has already improved the look and feel of the Hall. This would be funded by the Village Hall reserves. Phase 2 would involve upgraded heating, insulation, lighting and acoustics. A grant of £5000 had been received from West Berkshire Council.

#### 10. Community Led Plan

Cllr Duckworth reported that the Plan had been viewed by the majority of the village at several events and so was going forward to Tessa Hall for endorsement. All agreed that it should be submitted. Cllr Duckworth and Sugden would prepare the document (there were several offers of help).

## 11. Transport and safety

The illuminated 30mph sign continues to be broken. Tony Elliot had tried unsuccessfully to make progress with West Berkshire Council. D Cllr. Chandler offered to follow this up. The Clerk will chase D Cllr Chandler for an update. All suggested that the sign should be relocated (near the Chapel House area). Mr Hanbury suggested that the village gates could do with painting and maybe signs added (“please drive slowly – thank you for driving slowly, children playing” etc). The Chairman offered to follow this up with Highways at West Berkshire Council.

## 12. Environmental

The Chairman had met with Highways and voiced our concerns. The pipe lining is to start on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January. This was the last part of the urgent repairs. Going forward there is 18k available for design work for further improvement. There are still issues regarding who is responsible for maintaining and repairing pipes and ponds. The Highways team are insisting it is the riparian owner (Lady Huntington for Keeper’s pond, The Banks’s for the pipe under The Poplars, WBC for the Duck Pond and Mick Channon for The Stables). However in contrast Highways do and have offered support for some projects eg they have replaced the pipe under The Poplars and dredged the Duck Pond (7 year’s ago) but clarity is required. The Chairman was going to take legal advice.

The well reading was rising following a wet period but was still behind this time last year.

The next Pang Valley Flood Forum will be in February – West Ilsley PC will be represented.

## 13. Cricket/Tennis/Play Area

The tennis court trees had been removed and the windbreak would be put up in the spring. The tennis Committee thanked the PC for their cheque as reimbursement for removing the dead trees.

## 14. Accounts for payment/monies received

Cheques raised for Tennis Committee 990 pounds, All Saint’s Church 5000pounds. Invoices were requested for safe keeping with The Treasurer.

## 15. West Ilsley Trust

1500 pounds had been raised for the village defibrillator. Cllr Beaumont had applied for a grant from the British Heart Foundation but reported that it had been unsuccessful. All agreed that it should be purchased. It would be in a cabinet which would be left open (with the option to lock) near the newspaper box outside the Village Hall. Cliver Hooker offered to organise the How to use a defibrillator course. This would be advertised in WIN.

The Clerk would confirm with Cllr Beaumont if it was purchased from WI Trust funds as it was understood VAT could be recovered.

The Clerk would ask Hampstead Norrey's and Peasmore Parish Councils how their Defibrillators were working.

16. Planning Applications

Several had been received and were on circulation.

17. AOB

The PC asked for the rubbish around the Village Hall to be removed. A skip was suggested.

More dog fouling signs were requested – Cllr Sugden offered to look into this.

Public rubbish bin survey for West Ilsley – Julie Savage offered to check all and report any defects to West Berkshire Council.

**The next meeting will be on Monday March 9th at 7.30pm**