

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting

Monday 12th March, 2012

Present: Cllrs: Dries Hagen (acting chairman), Alan Bloor, Anna Sugden, Jo Scriven and Alison Banks (Clerk) plus approximately 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Sean Ryan and John Mountford.

2. To Receive any changes to Declarations

None

3. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 9th January, 2012

Signed as a true record

4. Guest Speaker.

PC Matt Allen, the new officer for our area spoke on policing matters and we thanked him for a very informative presentation

5. Matters arising

Will be covered in the minutes.

6. Correspondence received

The Salt bin has arrived for The Maltings after a great deal of poor service from the supplier (Shelter Store) who is not to be recommended. The Clerk has positioned it and will arrange for West Berks to put in some salt.

The repairs to the War Memorial were discussed and a second quote was available. Cllr Hagen had obtained one from AF Jones, who had previously repaired our memorial. Total from AF Jones £2200, whereas from G.Huntley the quote was £2070. Cllr Hagen outlined that one was more costly on cleaning and one more costly on repairs/stone replacement. He would follow up with both and see if it could be done in time for the Jubilee celebrations. The Council approved the spend. Proposed by Jo Scriven and seconded by Alan Bloor.

A request was received from All Saint's church requesting a donation for help with their outgoings and in particular the insurance. The Parish Council agreed (proposed by Cllr Sugden and seconded by Cllr Scriven) to pledge £500. This was to be paid from the Council bank account.

7. Village Broadband

Broadband Speed – There is some Government money to upgrade the broadband service to rural areas under the “Superfast Broadband” scheme. Currently West Ilsley has a “poor” rating so could do with the upgrade. However this was only possible as far as the exchange at East Ilsley, therefore restricting the improvements we would see. West Berkshire Council is looking for a £1663 contribution from West Ilsley. [This contribution is to be paid in three equal payments over three years at C. £555 per year]. The improvements would vary depending on where you live in the village from a 12-20Mbps down to 5-8Mbps west of Bury Lane.

Other neighbouring villages have signed up and we all agreed that West Ilsley should too. It may be that our service would improve further if the exchange box in West Ilsley is activated – this is still yet to be confirmed. The Clerk was asked to write to West Berks indicating our interest and the method of funding would be confirmed later. This could either come out of the Parish Council bank account or added to the Council Tax of each resident (£3.58 per household per year for 3 years). Some argued that this would be unfair to non-computer/broadband users.

8. Bury Down Car Park

The main issues are to prevent 4WDs from entering and damaging the surface and also to prevent rave goers from gaining easy access to their raves, usually in the subway further east

towards East Ilsley. Elaine Cox (who presented a proposal at the previous PCM) had proposed a plan whereby the car park is surrounded by a ditch and the spoil used to make a mound the far side. Along the nearside would be a low fence. There would be 2 gates and a Kent Carriage Gap. This allows carriages and bikes to pass, but not cars. Emergency services would also need access (Elaine would check that the Emergency vehicles could get through).

A meeting took place with all interested parties (David Carlisle, Mick Channon Jr, and Alan Bloor) and after much discussion it was decided not to proceed.

9. Parish Plan

Cllr Anna Sugden, reported that the returned questionnaires are being analysed but it is a very slow process. Offers of help were received from Louise Beaumont and The Clerk. The majority of the work has been completed and results were likely in time for the fete.

10. Cricket Club/tennis club

Extension work is progressing well.

The tennis court steps had been removed as previously reported for health and safety reasons and the grass would be made good and seeded very shortly.

The Clerk reported that the Tennis Club chairman and treasurer were resigning shortly. This was noted. However the club was in a healthy position. Many thanks to the Muirs.

11. Village Hall

Tony Elliot represented the Village Hall committee and reported that work was underway to clear around the garages, check the electrics and finance was being released to repair the roof.

12. Transport and Safety

The relocation of the Bus stop has been completed. Cllr Bloor reported that the closest residents were happy with its new position.

13. Environmental

Gulleys - The Clerk had heard back that the West Ilsley gulleys are cleansed 3 times a year in February, May and October. The ponding in the road on the way to Farnborough had not been cleansed. The Clerk reported that Stuart Clark had confirmed that this would be done shortly.

The kerbstones and grass in front of the church had been damaged recently by a large lorry. The Clerk was asked to see if Stuart Clark at West Berks could organise repair.

Cllr Hagen was planning to set up the church mowing rota again. Many offered their support.

14. Play Area

The Rospa inspection is due in April. Cllr Bloor commented that the tree needed trimming. Cllr Hagen to look into this and The Clerk offered to help.

15. Accounts for Payment/receipts received.

The current account has approximately £7400. The Clerk's salary was approved for payment via Douglas Tonks.

16. West Ilsley Trust

£500 was pledged (and agreed by all Cllrs) to Richard Gore for the village Jubilee celebration. The Clerk will raise the cheque. Richard Gore plans to have a beacon lit on the Ridgeway on Monday 3rd June at 10pm. He also plans a party for all villagers – more details to follow.

17. Planning Applications

None.

AOB

The village defibrillator was not discussed as Cllr Mountford was not present.

The next PC meeting is Monday 14th May, 2012. This is the AGM at 7.30pm, followed by the Parish Assembly at 8pm - in The Village Hall.

Alison Banks, Clerk to The Parish Council