

West Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ilsley Parish Council held on Monday 9 November 2015 at 7.30pm

1. Apologies:

Jo Scriven.

2. To receive any changes to Declarations:

None received.

3. To receive and, if approved, confirm the minutes of the meeting of the West Ilsley Parish Council held on Monday 14 September 2015:

Signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising:

Chairman Hagen noted that Councillors Dries Hagen, Sean Ryan and Jo Scriven had given notice of their intention to resign from the West Ilsley Parish Council ("WIPC") with effect from the date of this Meeting. He discussed the need to co-opt new Councillors in their place as a result of these resignations.

District Councillor Hooker noted that the WIPC should give prior notice of the three forthcoming councillor vacancies by publicising the same on the village notice board for 14 days in order to give villagers the opportunity to inform the West Berkshire Council ("WBC") if they wished elections to take place to replace the Councillors. If ten electors informed the WBC of their desire for an election, then an election for new Councillors would be required to take place. If there was no such desire for an election, then the path was open for the WIPC to co-opt new Councillors. There were four people who had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the WIPC: Roger Sinclair, Graham Woods, Justin Gilbert and Justin Pilditch.

It was agreed that the WIPC Clerk would post notice of the vacancies as noted above on the village notice board outside the Village Hall.

5. Correspondence received:

The WIPC discussed the situation regarding the property at No. 3 West Ilsley House (on Main Street). Neighbours were concerned because the owner had started the renovation of their windows (by boarding them up) 18 months ago and it seemed that nothing had happened since. There was a concern that the temporary boarding could cause damage to the structure and integrity of the whole building. District Councillor Hooker had contacted the WBC accordingly, and the WBC had, in turn, contacted the owner. The owner has now agreed to resolve the problem with the windows by December 2015 / January 2016, and they have also promised to remove the portaloo outside the garages in the nearest future.

The WIPC Clerk reported that she had received a letter from David Holling (Monitoring Officer, Head of Legal Services, WBC) regarding the need for WIPC Councillors to provide updated Declarations of Interest. He asked that fresh Declarations be completed by Councillors no later than 1 December 2015. The WIPC Clerk will coordinate this.

6. Improvements to existing open spaces:

There was general discussion about how to spend the remaining money available for the improvement of green spaces in the village (about £1500):

- Cllr Bloor noted that he was still waiting for quotes for materials for tidying up the pond area (top soil, grass seed, gravel, etc). He also suggested that the broken post be repaired or replaced.
- Rachel Hudson had withdrawn her request for the purchase of an outside tennis table.
- Cllr Sugden requested that the rugby goal posts be repaired. (approx £50)

7. Village Funding applications:

No new applications.

8. WB Council Community Grants 2016:

No new community projects had been proposed before the deadline of 16 October 2015.

9. Village Hall update:

Following discussions regarding the village hall work programme, it was reported that:

- a) the insulation had been fixed;
- b) the ceiling panels (tiles) had been installed; and
- c) the light had been fixed.

Tony Elliot said that the first stage of the village hall improvement project had been completed.

10. Transport and Safety (VAS update):

It was discussed that the cutting work with respect to the overhanging foliage had been undertaken at Catmore Road, but that the debris had not been removed. WBC will arrange for this to be undertaken but it will have to be combined with other machine work. The work is expected to be completed by 20 November 2015.

11. Environmental issues:

It was announced that feedback on the groundwater flooding maps had been given to the Highways and Transport Department of the WBC by Councillor Alan Beaumont.

Dries Hagen said that he was going to meet with the Chairman and Clerk of East Ilsley PC in order to discuss the dredging of the pond. He will pass all information on to Alan Beaumont.

12. Cricket Club/Play Area/Tennis:

No matters for discussion.

13. Accounts for payment/receipts received:

The following invoices were presented for payment and **approved:**

- A cheque for £25.46 to pay to Thames Water;
- A cheque for £100.00 to pay for the rubbish skip outside the Village Hall;
- A cheque for £265.50 for World Mental Day events in West Ilsley;
- A cheque for £100.00 for World Mental Day events in West Ilsley;

- A cheque for £43.46 for services West Ilsley website hosting; and
- A cheque for £360.00 for Inspection of the electrical installation.

14. West Ilsley Trust

There were no requests for donations.

The WIPC Clerk said that she had submitted the WIPC Annual Return for 2015.

15. Planning Applications:

There were no new planning applications.

16. Consultations: Budget Proposals for 2016/17

There was a general discussion about the new proposal for budget cuts for the 2016/17 financial year. Councillor Bloor was especially concerned about potential cuts with respect to the salt bins. Everyone agreed that the salt bin located on Bury Lane should stay because of the amount of traffic that used the thoroughfare in the event of any problem on the A34. It was **agreed** that Councillors would leave their concerns on the WBC site especially opened for this purpose.

17. Co-option of Councillors for West Ilsley Parish Council, appointment of the Chairmen:

Rollo Duckworth was nominated as the Chairmen of the WIPC by Alan Bloor, and this was seconded by Alan Beaumont. Rollo Duckworth was duly elected as the Chairman of the West Ilsley Parish Council.

18. AOB:

None.

19. Open forum:

District Councillor Hooker discussed the BALC AGM which was held on 11 November 2015 and which he attended. He also summarised what had been discussed at the WBC AGM. Most importantly, it had been agreed to increase the BALC subscription to in order to find and hire a full time County Officer.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.00pm.

Next meeting: Monday 11 January 2016 at 7:30.