

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 9 March 2020 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

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

Apologies: Anna Sugden
Alan Beaumont

In attendance: District Councillor Carolyne Culver
One member 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 13 January 2020

3.1 The draft minutes of the Meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 13 January 2020 (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: (1) IF confirmed that the precept had been submitted to West Berkshire Council (“WBC”) as agreed previously. (2) Graham Wood (“GW”) confirmed that the WIPC’s outstanding VAT issues with HMRC had been sorted and that the WIPC would accordingly receive a payment for VAT returns shortly.
- b) Road Signage: RD said that Justin Gilbert (“JG”) would report later during the Meeting regarding the road signage and speeding in the Village. An issue about potholes would also be discussed later on during the Meeting.
- c) Flooding: To be discussed later during the Meeting.

Actions

IF to file the Minutes from the January 2020 Meeting in the WIPC archives.

5 Correspondence

5.1 RD reported that the following correspondence had been received:

- a) Flooding: It was noted that flooding was still seen as a threat to the Village, and the Clerk had received emails from some concerned residents. This issue would be covered later during the Meeting.

6 Community Matters

6.1 Finance / Accounts:

- (a) AGAR filings: RD informed the Meeting and asked the Clerk to prepare the end of the financial year Annual Governance and Accountability Form (AGAR) and post it on to the Village website so that all residents of the Village could see it.
- (b) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): There was a discussion regarding the CIL – in particular, how the Village should use the CIL money which the WIPC had received from WBC to spend on community related matters (including, for example, the Village Hall, playground and green spaces). It was agreed to put a short list of ideas and circulate it through WIN. All agreed.
- (c) Website Invoice: It was noted that Martin Briggs-Watson had invoiced the WIPC for his work in developing the new Village website. It was working well. There were no other invoices or receipts for payment.

IF to prepare AGAR form and disseminate

RD to prepare short list of ideas for use of CIL money and disseminate first to the Council for agreement.

IF to arrange for Martin to be paid

6.2 WIN, website and communications:

- (a) RD reported that Martin Briggs-Watson had finished the new Village website and that it was working well. Martin was pressing the various Village Clubs and Committees (e.g., the West Ilsley Cricket Club, the Harrow and the Under 5s group, etc.) to obtain editing rights for their respective sections. Most of the Village Clubs and Communities were fine with this, although the West Ilsley Netball and Gin Club ("**WINGS**") had declined.
- (b) Justin Gilbert ("**JG**") mentioned that the new Village website was somewhat difficult to read on a mobile phone, and he was concerned that this might put people off from using it. There were no problems in reading the website on a computer screen which looked absolutely fine.

RD to enquire about changes to the mobile screen interface for the Village website

6.3 Cricket Club: Pavilion: It was noted that the Cricket Club pavilion had been formally named (via a submission to WBC) "The John Verney Pavilion".

6.4 WIRSA: It was noted that Neil Fowler had submitted a revised plan and structure for the WIRSA and the various underlying management arrangements delegated from it for the maintenance of the recreation ground (playground, cricket club, tennis and netball court) and the Village Hall. This was known informally as the "Documentation Project". It was noted that this had been the subject of a separate meeting between interested parties in October 2019. The overall plan was confirmed, and work should proceed accordingly.

NF to proceed with the Documentation Project in conjunction with Alison Banks and other stakeholders

7 Environment and Upkeep

7.1 Planning applications: No new planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

7.2 Footpaths and Bridleways:

- a) It was reported that the works and repairs to the footpath alongside 16/1 Main Street had been completed, and the closure of the footpath had been lifted accordingly. It also noted that the footpath looked very good now.
- b) There was a discussion regarding the railing (with sharp spikes) in front of the so-called Barns along Main Street. One resident in the Village had expressed his or her concern that the sharp spikes might not be dangerous in the event of a cycling or horse riding accident. JG had inspected the railing and reported that they were placed reasonably well back from the road, and were not therefore dangerous for the public in his opinion. Moreover, the railing had been there for a very long time and there had never been any incidents of this kind. It was nevertheless agreed that all other WIPC members will go and have a look at the railings and discuss this issue at the next meeting.
- c) It was also noted that the Gallops look flooded, however it was noted that David and Peter Carlisle had said that they would look after them.

All WIPC members to inspect the offending railings and report

- 7.3 Recreation Ground: The Cricket Club had proposed that sheep again be used to trim the winter growth of grass on the recreation ground before the gang-mowers would be put to work. Alan Bloor (“ABI”) expressed his categorical objection to this proposal, noting that sheep (and their excrement) presented a very real and present threat to the health of the Villagers (in addition to causing Villagers not to be able to use or even access the recreation ground during the period of infestation), and that a risk assessment report in this regard needed to be prepared by the Cricket Club confirming that any such proposed action was without risk. The proposal was therefore declined, and RD said that he would inform Peter Carlisle of the decision accordingly.

RD to inform Peter Carlisle of the WIPC decision not to permit sheep on the recreation ground

- 7.4 Pond: There was a discussion regarding the large tree by the pond which had been damaged during a recent storm. It was noted that WBC had agreed to cut down the tree and an officer would be attending to this shortly.

- 7.5 Village Hall: No new quotes for the Village Hall work had been received. ABI said that the Village Hall Committee had registered with a charity to assist it in applying for and receiving grants, including with respect to the flooring costs. Carolyne Culver would discuss this further with ABI.

8 **Safety and Services**

- 8.1 There were three points of discussion regarding the issue of speeding in the Village:

- (a) Location of the VAS: JG informed the Meeting that WBC had a detailed proposal and explanation regarding the proposed location of the VAS sign on the eastern side of the Village. In short, the Council was convinced that it should be placed in the front of the Old Chapel. The sign needed to be located on 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. However the owners of the Old Chapel were still unhappy with that and were seeking independent advice on the matter. ABI commented that it appeared as though the owners of the

Old Chapel were not sure what they wanted and that, if WBC had said the location should be in front of the Old Chapel, then the WIPC ought to agree and support it. All agreed.

- (b) 20 mph zone: There had been a meeting with representatives of East Ilsley regarding a 20 mph zone within the Village. They said that in theory we could apply for a so-called "buffer zone" of 40 mph before entering the Village, and a 20 mph speed limit within the Village. However, the main outcome of the meeting was that this securing the relevant permissions would be extremely unlikely to succeed and the whole process would require a lot of work. It would not affect any proposed location of the VAS.
- (c) SID training: The Village had managed to get a handful of kind volunteers for the SIDs training, but it was noted that this would also not affect the location of the VAS.

8.2 It was also noted that the VAS sign on the western side of the Village was not working. No one knew who was responsible for repairing it. Clive Hooker proffered that it should be the WIPC..

AS and JG to investigate

8. Roads and Gritting: It was noted that the gutters in front of *The Clements* property in West Ilsley were blocked with silt and needed to be cleared. Carolyne Culver undertook to look into the issue. It is noted that the problem has been resolved since the Meeting.

9 Any Other Business

10.1 Harrow Pub: ABI reported that he was still working on the issue of registering the Harrow Pub as an Asset of Community Value.

ABI to continue ongoing work

11 Open forum

11.1 Clive Hooker enquired whether the WIPC had been involved in giving feedback to the WBC's recent boundary consultation process. It was confirmed that the WIPC had not provided any feedback.

11.2 ABI commented on the state of the potholes and pavements around the village which should be discussed with WBC Highways.

JG to raise it.

12 Date of Next Meeting

12.1 The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11 May 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This would be a shortened meeting, as it was also the occasion of the Annual Village General Meeting at which the various Village organisations were invited to present their annual reports.

All to attend.

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

Chair
