

# **West Ilsley Parish Council**

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 11th November 2013

Present: Sean Ryan, Alan Bloor, Jo Scriven, Alan Beaumont, Anna Sugden and Alison Banks. 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence  
Rollo Duckworth, Dries Hagen and John Mountford
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 9th September 2013.  
Signed as a true record.
4. Matters Arising – to be taken in the meeting
5. Correspondence received – A34 closure. This had been circulated to the village.
6. Village Funding

Further work had been done by Andrea Cook and she reported that raising the Precept by £48/year would bring significant funds into the village. These would be used to assist all village organisations look after their assets. The suggestion was to raise the precept to £10,000 per year and this was in line with many other local villages. There was a lively discussion, which resulted in the Chairman proposing that the Precept should be increased. He would summarise this for WIN and there would also be a leaflet drop before the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January. The Parish Council would decide the outcome at this meeting and then request funds from West Berkshire Council by their deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January.

It was envisaged that the village organisations would then have the opportunity to apply for financial help from the Parish Council. A procedure would be needed for this next stage.

7. All Saints Church

There was no one available to comment.

8. Village Hall

James Hanbury (acting Chairman) summarised that the Hall committee had met several times and agreed a plan for going forward. They were waiting on quotes for immediate maintenance, plus ones for longer term maintenance projects. New customers were also being sought. They had a 6 week plan of action and then another review would take place as to its viability.

## 9. Community Led Plan

The Community Led Plan follows on from the Parish Plan, which many villages have completed. In West Ilsley we are part way to completing our Parish Plan (now to be known as Community Led Plan). Cllr Anna Sugden informed us that the team were meeting shortly on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Projects being considered for the Action Plan : Village Hall modernisation, A Church project, Play Area – additional equipment, tennis court tree removal/new hedging/wind break plus others as detailed in the questionnaire.

## 10. Village Broadband improvements

Steve Cobrin reported that West Ilsley, unlike East Ilsley were firmly in the scheme and the village would see a start in Dec 2014 with completion in 2015.

## 11. Transport and Safety

The roads had been swept and the drains cleansed. The white lines had been repainted including the junction at Bury Lane and the Moorland Close lay-by. We were all surprised that they had repainted the central road lines where they had specifically indicated it was a safer strategy to let them fade out. The Clerk would query this.

Correspondence had been received concerning the village bus service. The West Berkshire Council are suggesting that unviable routes would need to be subsidised or cut and have highlighted the Friday service to Reading. We learnt that this bus route is used by several people (3-13 and average of 8) but only one or two from this village. We shall continue to fight for the continued service of this route. Cllr Mountford is progressing.

Mr Cobrin had noted that he thought our VAS speed sign was not working. This would be reported.

## 12. Environmental Issues

None reported.

## 13. Cricket Club/Tennis Court/Play Area

Juliet Ryder spoke for the Play Area and confirmed that new bark would be delivered and spread on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November with the help of several villagers. The invoice was approved and funds would come from those ring fenced for the Play Area. A bird deterrent wire was also planned.

14. Accounts for payment

Play Bark for Play Area approved for payment.

A request from The Autumn Group (over 55s) who meet in Compton and gather people from many Downland villages. We offered £50, proposed by Cllr Ryan and Seconded by Cllr Bloor. The Clerk would raise a cheque. Cllr Bloor had asked them to consider returning to West Ilsley Village Hall, once the heating issues had been resolved.

15. West Ilsley Trust

No donations requested but a thank you note had been received from The Autumn group who we had received a £50 donation from the Trust.

16. Planning Applications

None received

17. AOB/Open Forum

Fireworks – These had been very successful and £400 profit was made on the night. James Hanbury has kindly offered his field again and there were brief discussions as to location of the bonfire, fireworks and BBQ. Many thanks to all.

**The next meeting is on Monday January 13th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**