

# **West Ilsley Parish Council**

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 13th January 2014

Present: Sean Ryan, Alan Bloor, Dries Hagen, John Mountford, Rollo Duckworth (part), Alan Beaumont, Anna Sugden and Alison Banks. 26 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence  
Jo Scriven
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 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013.  
Signed as a true record.
4. Matters Arising – to be taken in the meeting
5. Correspondence received – to be taken in the meeting.
6. Village Funding

Prior to the Precept discussions it is a requirement to minute that the Parish Council has granted itself dispensations in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

The Chairman summarised the proposal of a rise to the village precept. This would bring additional funds into the village and would be used solely to assist all village organisations look after their assets. The proposal from last meeting was to raise the precept to £10,000 per year and this was in line with many other local villages. There had been thorough discussions at the last 3 Parish Council meetings, numerous articles in WIN and a leaflet drop this weekend. Future funding of village assets had been projected over the next 10 years as well as the possible funds coming in through the usual fund-raisers. Over 20 replies had been received and there were many at the meeting tonight.

There was a lively discussion covering all aspects from how the money would be allocated to a wish for fund raising to remain vital. The Chairman confirmed that all requests for funds would be considered so long as the organisation could provide a satisfactory, correctly costed action plan. It would be very likely that funds would have to be matched thereby encouraging the fund raising events to continue. Other comments referred to a concern that further precept rises might follow year on year – this was noted.

The Parish Council received many views from the floor (considerably more positive than negative) and from all Councillors and there was an overwhelming desire to increase the precept to the proposed amount of £10,000 (approx £1 per week per band D household). The proposal was passed unanimously and the Clerk will now 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

The new wire mesh is in place and has very successfully secured the loose plaster on the ceiling and the Church successfully opened for Christmas. This was exclusively funded by Church monies. The chancel ceiling will be given the same wire mesh treatment. Any future plans for the ceiling will now be less urgent.

#### 8. Village Hall

The questionnaire had been returned and showed support for the Hall. The committee will meet shortly to discuss the results and the plan their next steps. Dist. Councillor Chandler reported that he had hopefully secured £5000 from West Berkshire Council for Village Hall improvements. This would need to be match funded. This news was warmly received by Mr Hanbury, the Village Hall chairman and all Councillors.

#### 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 had met and were putting an Action Plan together for discussion.

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 and Compton were firmly in the scheme and the village would see a start in Dec 2014 with completion in 2015.

#### 11. Transport and Safety

The Clerk had queried the fact that West Berkshire had repainted the central road lines where they had specifically indicated it was a safer strategy to let them fade out. The response was that the team were under instruction to repaint what was there before. We will get guidance when they fade again.

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 – no 74. The Parish Council learnt that this bus route is used by very few if any from the village. Cllr Mountford

agreed to continue to fight for the continued service of this route, however we were not prepared to subsidise it.

## 12. Environmental Issues

Many residents and Councillors commented on how well the village coped during the recent heavy rains. There had been a blockage on the pond overview and Cllr Bloor kindly chased West Berks to come out. The pond held a greater capacity of rainwater (helped by the dredging in 2010) so the paddock behind and the Village Hall did not flood. Further down there was a large puddle outside Moreland Close (the first since 2007), The Poplars garden had a puddle as did Keeper's Stables and Mick Channon. However it was short lived. We acknowledged the excellent work done by West Berkshire in 2010. However The Clerk will write again to ensure improvements are continually made. Focus will be centred on getting Soakaways for Catmore Road, unblocking the gulleys outside the Vet plus regular cleansing all along Main Street plus something for Cold Harbour Road.

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

Juliet Ryder spoke for the Play Area and confirmed that new bark had been delivered and all was in order. We heard that East Ilsley's Play Area had been shut down by RoSPA. The Tennis Club was running well as was the Cricket Club.

## 14. Accounts for payment

## 15. West Ilsley Trust

No donations requested

## 16. Planning Applications

None received

## 17. AOB/Open Forum

**The next meeting is on Monday March 10th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**