

## West Ilsley Parish Council

Monday 12th March, 2001 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllrs T.Allan-Jones, R.Gore (Chairman) P.Bartaby, P.Carlisle, A.Morris, C.Sheppard, Dist Cllr J. Morgan, S.Manzie(Chief Executive W.B.Council) M.Edwards(W.B.Highways Dept) L.Gibson(Clerk) and 20 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 8th January, 2001, having been circulated to members were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

Cable Laying Highways Dept had written assuring the P.C. that on completion of the works, all verges will be re-instated by the contractors and inspected by Highways.

Bury Lane A letter from Highways stated that Bury Lane is designated a secondary route and therefore only eligible for gritting in times of extreme weather conditions. Clerk to write Highways requesting that Bury Lane be added to the next maintenance plan and emphasising that it is now a bus route and is used as an alternate route when problems arise on the A.34. Ms Manzie stated that not all bus routes are automatically salted in severe weather.

Silted Ditches These ditches have been promptly cleared by the Highways Dept.

Rural Housing Deborah King of the Rural Housing Trust, has agreed to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Cllrs Gore and Sheppard had recently attended the opening of a Rural Housing Development scheme in Beedon.

Parish Paths Map The finished map is now ready. Clerk to write to request framed maps for outside the church and near to the pond.

Management of The Village Hall and Recreation Field Village Hall Angela Hyde, representing the Village Hall, informed the Parish Council that the Charities Commission had rejected the new constitution thereby putting the matter back to square one. The Village Hall Committee and The Cricket Club Committee would meet to discuss the matter further. Angela Hyde asked the Parish Council, in the absence of a Village Hall Management Committee, to approve spending of approx £2500 to improve the kitchen area of the Village Hall. Cllr Bartaby proposed, Cllr Allan-Jones seconded, all in favour.

4. Correspondence

Watermill Theatre An appeal for donations has been received. It was agreed to maintain the policy of supporting only local organisations. Cllr Bartaby suggested that support could be given by agreeing to publicise events in the village. Clerk to write to Watermill with suggestion.

Village Playscheme West Berks had again written inviting West Ilsley to take part in the Summer Playscheme. Clerk to approach East Ilsley suggesting a joint venture.

Audit of Accounts The audit of accounts for 1999/2000 is due on 2nd May, 2001. Clerk to prepare accounts and attend the audit.

Oxfordshire Emergency Plan. Further to recent correspondence, Cllr Bartaby told the Parish Council that he had been assured that West Ilsley would not be at risk should there be an

emergency within the boundaries of Harwell.

5. Village Parking Cllr Sheppard reported that he had met Malcolm Bowler of the Highways Department to again discuss possible parking in Catmore Road. One possibility being explored was the creation of a Parking Layby that would accommodate 7 cars. Planning permission would not be necessary but approval from Highways would. The cost of such a scheme would be between £5000 - £8000 but once implemented, Highways would adopt and maintain the area. Clerk to write to Greene King suggesting they may like to contribute. Cllr Allan-Jones suggested it may be wise to gain the support of the landlady of the Harrow first. Cllr Gore to approach her. Cllr Sheppard to write to Tom Ingram of Highways asking for his support for the project.

6. Accounts for Payment Hire of the Village Hall 2000/2001 £30.00 - Cllr Morris proposed, Cllr Sheppard seconded, all in favour. Clerks salary £490.00 Clerks expenses £142.48. Cllr Allan- Jones proposed, Cllr Carlisle seconded, all in favour.

7. Planning Applications 01/00090 McNicholas Construction Services. Cllr Gore declared an interest and passed the chair to Cllr Sheppard (Vice Chairman). After meeting to discuss the application, the Parish Council came to the unanimous decision to object to the application on the grounds of its location and unsuitability and requested that the application be taken to Committee level. Stella Manzie confirmed that it would be going to Committee and that the Planning Office was in contact with McNicholas. Cllr Bartaby thanked Cllr Sheppard for his efforts in putting together an excellent case for objection to the plans. All agreed.

8. Date & Business for the Annual Parish Assembly. The date will be 14th March at 8.00p.m. preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00p.m. The Guest speaker will be Deborah King of the Rural Housing Association. Clerk to invite all relevant organisations to attend.

9. A.O.B. Cllr Morris suggested that, as the Gazebo was now taking shape, the Parish Council should request a litter bin for the area. Clerk to write to W.Berks Council. Cllr. Allan-Jones stated that positive feedback had been received from many villagers regarding supporting the Downland Sports Centre.

10. Open Forum Ms Stella Manzie said she was pleased to attend the meeting and she and Mark Edwards would be glad to answer any questions. Cllr.Allan-Jones presented a comprehensive case for necessary drainage works to be carried out in the village. Mark Edwards agreed that there was a problem and that minor maintenance works would be carried out early in the next financial year. Cllr.Allan-Jones requested that results of past inspections be made available to the Parish Council. Stella Manzie agreed, she also stated that an extra £200,000 had been promised for flooding works to the Downland Villages although the money had not yet been allocated. Following a request from the floor, Stella Manzie explained the proposed change of council set-up to the Leader and Cabinet style system. An hour of lively discussion followed during which several topics were raised including - reduced Mobile Library services, the Robin Hood roundabout, traffic calming, public transport, ragwort removal and dog fouling bins!

The Chairman thanked Ms Manzie and Mr Edwards for their time and said how pleasing it was to see so many people present from the village.

Date of Next Meeting 14th May at 7.00p.m. followed by the Annual Parish Assembly at 8.00p.m.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30p.m.