

# West Ilsley Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Assembly Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Present: Sean Ryan, Dries Hagen, Rollo Duckworth, Alan Beaumont, Jo Scriven, Anna Sugden and Alison Banks. 15 members of the public.

### Annual General Meeting

#### 1. Elections

Nominations were received for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**Chairman - Dries Hagen** - nominated by Sean Ryan and seconded by Alan Beaumont. Duly elected.

**Vice Chairman – Rollo Duckworth** - nominated by Dries Hagen and seconded by Sean Ryan, Duly Elected.

**Treasurer – Jo Scriven** - nominated by Alison Banks and seconded by Dries Hagen. Duly elected.

#### 2. Apologies

Alan Bloor, John Mountford

#### 3. To receive any changes to Declarations None received.

#### 4. To receive and if approved confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Signed as a true record.

#### 5. To receive the Parish Council's Accounts and to approve the Annual Return years ended 31st March 2014 and approve same for submission to audit.

Received and submitted.

### Treasurer's Report 2013/2014

#### Parish Council Account

The PC account opened last year with £3357 and ended with £3191.

The income was boosted this year by £546 of VAT claimed back along with the regular advertising income.

Payments out this year were less and only about £3.5k, mainly for the Clerk's salary, the Play Area bark and for Broadband. This was still less than last year which had the

£2400 for the War memorial and also the clerk's salary came out twice last year due to a timing issue.

The annual Precept of £2515 remains as last year but was reviewed and following months of discussion and consultation will rise for next year.

Within the £3191, we have £1375 ring fenced for the play area and £841 for WIN (from their advertising). Hence the account only has a buffer of £975. This needs to be considered when offering donations to committees and has been part of the discussions for future village funding and the decision to rise the precept.

6. Annual risk assessment, approval of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations specific to West Ilsley.

Insurance policy covers all likely risks. Of our assets, the War Memorial, the village seats and notice boards are inspected regularly by members of the Parish Council, as is the gazebo. The playground is inspected annually by ROSPA and by members of the Parish weekly. The Clerk also provides a full financial risk assessment – all approved and minuted.

Our Standing orders and Financial Regulations have been approved specific to our council.

7. West Ilsley Trust. Trustees' Annual Report and approval of accounts year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.  
Received and approved

### **West Ilsley Trust Report**

The Trust opened the year with £441.93 and ended with £791.93. Donations were awarded to The Autumn Group (£50) and £400 was added from The Toddler Group for their Quiz (ring fenced for their requirements).

Trust funds are now relatively low and will need replenishing soon if generous donations are to continue.

8. Matters Arising

The Clerk had received a section106 relating to a 2006 Planning Application for 2 new houses in the village. The developer had had to pay West Berks and this money had been redirected to the Parish Council specifically for use towards improvements to existing public open space. The sum of £9106 had been received into the PC account.

Discussions followed as to how it could be spent and The Clerk offered to contact West Berkshire Council for advice.

## 9. Village Funding

The proposed new procedure for allocating any precept money to village committees was discussed. All approved the concept whereby applicants would be asked to fill in a short form detailing, why, what and how they were planning to spend any additional funds from the precept. In this way all applications could be considered equally. The new system would be summarized in WIN.

## 10. Aftermath of the flooding

Dries Hagen reported that he was the village “Flood Warden” and continued to deal with flood related issues. The Council are heavily promoting their 3 surveys for flooding – residents were urged to complete them and the links would be published in WIN. The newly formed Pang Valley Forum had met and contained many of the agencies, who had had to address the way forward. The next meeting is taking place in West Ilsley on 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm. It is a closed meeting but Cllr Hagen and Beaumont will attend. Cllr Ryan was to meet Richard Benyon MP in the near future.

## 11. Parish Plan/Community Led plan

Final draft available shortly. Tessa Hall from West Berkshire Council was still concerned with some of the questionnaire data and was requesting additional consultation. Cllr Duckworth and Sugden were in discussion with her.

## 12. Transport and safety

The illuminated 30mph sign is broken. The Clerk would ask Cllr Mountford to look into this.

## 13. Accounts for payment/receipts received/planning applications

The Insurance premium is to be paid and the invoice for the RoSPA inspection. All agreed.

## 14. Dates of next meetings as follows: Mondays July 14<sup>th</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup>, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

## 15. Open forum

There was a discussion on the desire to potentially have a defibrillator in the village as more and more seemed to be seen in other villages, mostly on converted phone boxes. Cllr Beaumont offered to look into this.

## **The Annual Parish Assembly**

1. To receive and if approved, confirm the report of The Parish Assembly held on Monday 14th May 2012. Received and approved.
2. Chairman's Annual Report – Sean Ryan

Giving his ninth and final annual report as chairman, Sean Ryan said the last year had been remarkable for three main reasons. First, for the work done by Rollo Duckworth and Anna Sugden towards creating a vision for our future in the community-led plan. Second, for an increase in the precept, initiated by Andrea Cook, from £2,500 to £10,000, providing the parish council with enough money to make a real difference in several areas of village life. But above all, for the 2014 floods.

With 16 properties flooded, it had been a time of hardship and exhaustion for those worst affected, and the lives of everyone in the village had been touched by road closures and freezing Portaloos. The crisis had brought out the best in West Ilsley, though. Everyone who needed help had got it, thanks to alerts put out by the WIN, which had been extraordinarily effective in keeping all of us informed of the latest developments, often several times a day. Dozens had volunteered to man the pumps and go to the aid of those in need. This had been a supreme effort, not just from the parish council but from the whole village. Nevertheless the contributions of two councillors in particular deserved to be recognised. Alan Beaumont had cleared water from some homes by energetically digging wells; and Dries Hagen had taken time off work to lead the relief effort and liaise with West Berkshire Council, the Environment Agency and Thames Water, managing the flow of flood water through Main Street and Church Way to Hodcott and out into the fields beyond. He was the natural choice of successor as chairman and had the support of all of us in taking on a tough agenda, dominated by the need for anti-flooding measures, for the year ahead.

The chairman also thanked Jo Scriven for her scrupulous work as treasurer, John Mountford for his effective lobbying on buses and speeding, and Alan Bloor for looking after the environment of the village so conscientiously. He was proud to be passing on the chairmanship of such a strong council at a time when the main amenities, including the church, the village hall, the cricket and tennis clubs and the play area, were so well managed. The sense of community, embodied in our response to the floods, had never been stronger in his 25 years of living in West Ilsley.

Finally, he thanked Alison Banks, the magnificent clerk, for being the person who had really run the parish council for most of the last nine years, and who deserved to be cheered as well as clapped, which she duly was.

Cllr Hagen and all the Councillor's thanked the Chairman very much for his excellent contribution to the village as Chairman of the Parish Council.

### **Reports from Representatives of Village Organisations**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their excellent contribution to their committee and to village. All reports will be e mailed via WIN to the village.

West Ilsley Cricket Club – Justin Pilditch reported.

All Saints Church – Report read out on behalf of Ian Fewtrell-Smith.

Downland Volunteer Group – Andrea Cook reported.

West Ilsley Village Hall Management Committee – James Hanbury reported.

Ilsley Evergreens – Reported.

Ilsley Under Fives – Juliet Ryder reported.

West Ilsley Play Area – Juliet Ryder reported.

West Ilsley Fete - Dan Hudson reported.

West Ilsley Tennis Committee – Liz Dray and Amanda Knight reported.

West Ilsley Table Tennis Committee – Steve Cobrin reported.

West Ilsley News and website – Andrea Cook reported.

West Ilsley Web site – Report read out on behalf of Martin Briggs-Watson

West Ilsley Poorswood Charity – Report read out on behalf of Anne Butterworth.