

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 13 March 2018 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

Present: Rollo Duckworth (Chair)
Alan Bloor
Justin Pilditch
Alan Beaumont
Inna Fauler (Secretary)
Justin Gilbert
Graham Woods
Anna Sugden

Apologies: None

In attendance: Clive Hooker (District Councillor)
Various members of the public

1 Chair and Apologies

1.1 Rollo Duckworth (“**RD**”) acted as Chair of the Meeting. Inna Fauler (“**IF**”) 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 8 January 2018

3.1 The draft minutes of the Meeting of the WIPC held on Monday 8 January 2018 (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 asked IF whether all the actions that had arisen from the Minutes of the previous Meeting had been completed. IF confirmed that the action items had been completed, as noted below:

- Graham Woods (“**GW**”) would report on the playground during the Meeting;
- Justin Gilbert (“**JG**”) would report on the speeding issue during the Meeting;
- Rollo Duckworth (“**RD**”) informed the Meeting that he had received a response from Mike Channon to the WIPC’s letter to him regarding flooding in the Village and the potential resolution of the problem by remedial action being taken on his property. The response confirmed that such action had been taken.

Actions

IF to file the Minutes from the January 2018 Meeting in the WIPC archives.

5 Correspondence

- 5.1 RD informed the Meeting that the WIPC had received two requests for charity applications. He considered that the West Ilsley Parish Council was not a grant making authority and it needed to raise money itself to cover Village projects. Because of that, he proposed that, in future, we should always politely decline any charity appeals. All agreed.
- 5.2 RD also informed the Meeting that in future we would be receiving all correspondence in electronic format due to West Berkshire Council's proposals to help save money.
- 5.3 RD also said that, of the three Village Trusts that he mentioned at the previous Meeting, only West Ilsley Trust was up to date. The other Village Trusts established by various members of the village still needed to be updated.

6 Community Matters

- 6.1 Finance: RD informed the Meeting that West Berkshire Council had increased his personal council tax by 5.8% compared with the previous year, while the Parish Council had increased its precept amount by merely 0.8%. He thought that WIPC could be more decisive in future years.
- 6.2 RD also informed the Meeting that he and IF had gone through all the invoices and finance records of the WIPC prior to the Meeting. He could confirm that everything was up to date. The bank signatories for the cheque book were up to date as well.
- 6.3 IF noted that the last invoice for £1,581.00 to "Active Toys Company" for the village playground repair work had been paid.
- 6.4 Alan Bloor ("ABI") noted that he thought that the Village Hall Committee was still holding some of Parish Council money that ought to be returned following the Village Hall repair work.
- 6.5 WIN, website and communications: RD informed the Meeting that he had submitted the documents applying for a grant in connection with the Transparency Code. He was pleased to announce that the West Ilsley Parish Council's Transparency Code Fund application for a grant of £1,525.00 to enable the WIPC to purchase equipment to comply with the Transparency Code had been approved. The Parish Council could spend this money on: a) the purchase of a new, compliant Parish Council website; b) to assist with staff training; c) to purchase a new Parish Council laptop; d) to purchase software; and e) to purchase a printer / scanner.
- 6.6 The Berkshire Association of Local Councils ("BALC") has some recommendations on which companies the WIPC should use for the website, but RD said he would still prefer to use Martin Briggs-Watson's "JustHostMe" Company (the current website host).
- 6.7 There was a discussion between the Councillors on whether WIPC needed a new website or an improvement of the current one. ABI also suggested that the WIPC discuss this with Martin Briggs-Watson "JustHostMe" (current website host) for his views.
- 6.8 Maps: RD informed the Meeting that he inspected the public displays of the village's maps which you can find next to the Church and the pond. He did not

IF to talk to Rachel Hudson to consider and resolve.

RD is to talk with Martin Briggs-Watson "JustHostMe" Company.

RD to write to WBC re the Village maps.

think that they were correct and up to date. He said that he would write to WBC to report the issue.

- 6.9 Tennis Club: It was reported that the steps leading to the tennis court had been removed.
- 6.10 Cricket Club: RD informed the Meeting that the Cricket Club had proposed to build new training nets. The new nets would be located next to the tennis court and would be constructed on a portion of the adjacent agricultural land. The new nets would be approximately the same size as the tennis court. The old nets would be removed. The placement of the nets by the tennis courts would mean that they could be used more frequently on match days. It would also improve the approach to the tennis court. It was noted that planning permission would need to be sought for the project, and that this would entail agreement between the Carlises (who owned the relevant land) and Lockinge Estate regarding the transfer of the land in perpetuity.
- 6.11 It was also mentioned that sheep had been placed on the recreation ground. ABI noted that the obvious benefit was that the sheep had eaten the grass, meaning that the difficult work of mowing the pitch after the winter growth had been eliminated. However, a negative aspect was that the sheep had defecated on the ground. Additionally, timing had not been ideal, as the sheep were on the pitch during mid-term break and children could not play on the pitch. It was also difficult to get to the playground and dog owners had stopped cleaning after their pets as well.
- 6.12 Village Hall: ABI informed the Meeting that some outside painting work still needed to be done, and Tony Elliott had been requested to attend to this.

7 Environment and Upkeep

- 7.1 Planning Applications: RD raised the issue of planning applications. WIPC had recently received two contentious planning applications, one of which had been a refusal. RD considered that the WIPC view as a Parish Council carried exactly the same weight as any individual in the village. Others said that the Parish Council did not seem to discuss the applications in detail. Given that West Berkshire Council would not be informing any neighbours of a planning application in future, the Parish Council needed to be very careful to serve all sides fairly – neighbours and applicants. The views of all interested parties should be aired, considered and taken into account. The Parish Council view should be discussed and made known at any meeting and recorded in the minutes. District Cllr Clive Hooker considered that the Parish Council view on a planning application does carry weight and is considered by WBC in coming to its own conclusions. Applicants and neighbours should be served correctly.
- 7.2 There was a discussion as to whether the Parish Council should call a site visit meeting in the event of contentious planning applications. In such cases, the Parish Council needed to do it correctly as a proper meeting. Any such meeting to discuss planning applications should be quorate and held in public. It was stressed that the WIPC did not need to hold such a meeting in each case, but only in those circumstances where the planning application was contentious. It was agreed to adopt such a policy for contentious planning applications.
- 7.3 Footpaths and Bridleways: The Parish Council had received a concern from one of the villagers about the footpath behind the Maltings. The villager concerned thought that the pathway was not walkable and blamed the residents of the Maltings that they had seized public land unlawfully. Some members of the public recalled that the footpath behind the Maltings used to be wide and went

RD to write a letter to WBC regarding this matter.

through the trees. However, the footpath had been formally relocated after the new houses in the Maltings had been constructed.

7.4 At the moment, the Parish Council was able to confirm that the border of the footpath was correct, and that all of the fences had been erected in accordance with the title deeds.

7.5 Playground: RD thanked Graham Wood (“**GW**”) again for his great work on the playground. GW said that all the work had almost been completed. There was a discussion about the tree on the playground. It was overgrown and needed to be trimmed.

GW is to organize the tree trimming.

8 Safety and Services

8.1 Speeding: Justin Gilbert (“**JG**”) informed the Meeting that he had purchased some adhesive 20 mph speed limit signs to circulate them to villagers. There was a suggestion to leave the 20 mph speed signs (“20 is plenty”) at the pub so villagers could take them for a donation and stick them on their wheelie bins. JG stressed that this was all on a voluntarily basis.

8.2 Flooding: RD informed the Meeting that we received a response from Mick Channon regarding remedial flood alleviation works on his property. In his letter Mick Channon informed the Parish Council that, following an inspection of the drainage through his property, he had been advised to install additional pipes. This had been done and, since then, they have not experienced any issues with standing water. He is confident now that the system was functioning efficiently.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Alan Beaumont (“**ABe**”) raised the issue of replacing the lawn mower as it was in very poor condition at the moment. ABe reported to the Meeting that the best option for the Parish Council was to get a “mulcher” mower. The approximate cost was £600 with a one year guaranty for commercial use. All agreed.

ABe is to purchase a new mower.

9.2 It was noticed that West Ilsley was the only village in the area that relied on residents to do the grass cutting of the common areas, as other villages tended to hire people to do this.

10 Open Forum

10.1 District Cllr Clive Hooker mentioned three points: a) West Berkshire Council was organizing e-correspondence training; b) the sheep on the recreation ground and the presence of barbed wire which was dangerous; and c) data protection requirements and deadlines for the Parish Council.

11 Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The next AGM Meeting and General Assembly will be held on Monday 14 May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

All to attend.

11.2 There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Chair