

West Ilsley Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in West Ilsley Village Hall on Monday 16th May 2022.
Commencing at 8:17 pm.

Members Present: Councillor Alan Beaumont (AB), Chairman
Councillor Alan Bloor (APB)
Councillor Clive Hooker (CH)
Councillor Liz Dray (LD)

Members Absent: Councillor Graham Woods (GW), Vice-Chairman
Councillor Alan Muir (AMM)

Officers Present: Sarah Marshman, Clerk/RFO

In Attendance: District Councillor Carlyne Culver
9 members of the public

Minutes

APM22/23-01 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Graham Woods and Alan Muir.

APM22/23-02 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2021

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2021 were approved by those present at the meeting. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

APM22/23-03 To receive the annual report from the Chairman

Thanks for everyone's efforts on the PC who give up their time voluntarily to provide help to the village. Also wish to thank Sarah for her assistance over the past year in keeping us legal.

Had a change in personnel with Justin Gilbert stepping down and managed to get Liz on board, which is moving in the right direction to get some balance back into the PC.

Managed to purchase the mobile speed sign (SID) which both Justin and Liz were instrumental in sorting with help from our District Councillor. I look forward to seeing it being deployed at the key locations particularly with the recent accident that occurred at the Old Post Office.

Also, thanks to Clive for his efforts in securing funding for the works to the pond outside the Harrow and look forward to those proceeding soon.

Despite what is going on with the war in Ukraine at least we have a few things to look forward to with the Jubilee Celebrations in full swing and many thanks to everyone who is involved with the preparations and hope they are supported in typical West Ilsley fashion.

APM22/23-04 To receive the annual finance report from the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer
The Clerk presented the Annual Finance Report given in Appendix 1.

APM22/23-05 To receive a report from District Councillor Carlyne Culver
Full council last week. Thanks to CH who stood down as Chair. APB members bid £1,300 has been submitted – applying for £5,000 across the district. Visited Autumn Group. Secretary of State not calling in Compton Institute – planning permission to build 160 houses on site. Working group about the user journey – can residents contact council and obtain the information they need? Speaking at a public meeting on women in politics. Greenfest being held 10th Sept.

APM22/23-06 To receive reports from Village Groups and Organisations.

West Ilsley News – West Ilsley News gave the report in Appendix 2.

Tennis Club – The tennis club gave the report in Appendix 3.

Cricket Club

The Chairman’s Report from the 2021 AGM is given in Appendix 4.

The Cricket Club is continuing to hold events and screenings of sporting events.

Grants were received to refurbish interior and new mowers have been purchased

Evergreens – The Evergreens provided the report in Appendix 5.

Table Tennis Club – No report was received.

Church Committee - The Church Committee provided the report given in Appendix 6.

Village Hall – The Village Hall Committee provided the report given in Appendix 7.

APM22/23-07 To receive questions from members of the public

Traffic – WIPC is writing to WBC regarding a vehicle colliding with the Old Post Office. The MP has also been approached regarding installing protective bollards around the property. WIPC has received the SID and is recording data. The SID will be moved around the village.

Meeting closed 9:04pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Appendix 1: The Annual Finance Report from the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

The finance report for West Ilsley Parish Council for the financial year 2021/22 is presented. Please note that all figures are provisional and will be subject to audit.

Income

The total income received from all sources of funding was £70,420. This consisted of:

- Precept £10,700
- Grants towards the cost of the cricket nets £33,400
- Grant towards the flood mitigation works £24,700
- Grant towards the cost of the speed indicator device £1,345
- VAT refund for VAT spent during the 20/21 financial year £275

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £73,868. Significant figures included in this total are:

- Cricket Nets £33,333
- Flood mitigation works £13,664 (N.B. further works are due to be completed)
- Village Hall roof repairs grant £5,300
- Speed indicator device (SID) £2,690
- Donation to fireworks event £300
- Total employment costs £4,976 (N.B this includes costs incurred during Jan-Mar 2021)
- Maintenance of the play area £1,143
- Insurance £393
- Audit fees £98
- VAT (reclaimable) £10,266

Looking Forward to 2022/23

The precept will remain at £10,700. A Band D household will pay a total of £68.96 throughout the year or just £1.33 per week.

The audit fees are expected to increase to around £535 as the income and expenditure in 21/22 greatly exceeded the £25,000 threshold below which a council is exempt from the external audit.

The remaining work on the village pond still needs to take place, at an expected cost of £10,800. The council will be earmarking £1,000 each year going forwards in order to create a pot of funding for future use on desilting and maintaining the pond.

The Council will potentially be donating £5,620 from its earmarked reserves towards the window works required at the Village Hall. This is dependent on the Village Hall obtaining the remaining funding required.

There will continue to be the usual expenses involved in running the Parish Council, such as insurance, website costs, play area maintenance and employment costs.

Appendix 2: West Ilsley News

Editors: We are both happy to continue for the next year but will also be happy to relinquish the task if a new team volunteers!

WIN: The monthly WIN is pretty much back to normal now, following the lockdowns etc. We are very keen for WIN to be as inclusive as possible and would like to thank Alan Beaumont who prints and delivers the monthly document to residences in the main village which don't receive emails – this means that every home now receives a copy. Hodcott stables receive a copy of WIN via email and we believe they make it available to their residents.

There are now only 7 homes that receive WIN through the door as they don't have email, and currently another 5 who haven't signed up for email so, also receive a paper copy.

Emails: The email system is working well bar the odd glitch caused by overzealous spam filters – usually the BT email system. We continue to be aware of those people who don't receive the emails and keep reminding people to think of them when communicating to the village.

Liz Dray and Andrea Cook

Appendix 3: Tennis Club

The WI Tennis committee report that 2021/22 has been a normal year as players return to tennis post Covid.

The membership for 2021/2 were 34 family memberships, 3 single memberships and 1 junior. This is pretty constant year on year. The fees for 2022 have remained the same at £45 for a family, £15 for a junior and £25 for a single.

The court is inspected by the committee regularly and it is in good playing condition. There are rust marks which affect the appearance cosmetically, but otherwise just a few blemishes here and there. The net has been replaced for this season as the previous had started to perish. The fence is firm and the one broken post has been adjusted so it is also solid. We continue to employ a maintenance company who come annually to provide weed and moss control to the court and surrounding area. The grass is also kept neat and tidy.

The addition of the cricket nets nearby has not affected our membership. As the cricket season gets into full swing we are confident that any excessive noise or poor behaviour will not distract from tennis playing enjoyment. Equally, it is good to see the netball club are back on court and use the courts weekly for their sessions.

In order to help encourage tennis play, for those without a partner, we are encouraging them to get into contact and we can attempt to pair up those wishing to play together. The online Jezzam booking system continues to work well and we always encourage users to book and equally cancel their sessions as appropriate to ensure all users know when the court is free.

Tennis coaching was offered and advertised once again in the Easter holidays with Jeremy Wood, a tennis coach from Wantage. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest to run group sessions, but Jeremy is available for private bookings.

Committee finances are healthy and there is a sinking fund available for major repairs or replacement of the court. Renovating and repainting the court would be about is £3500+VAT plus some potential fence repairs un-costed. This could be considered but deemed not necessary at the moment. The committee of 6 meet regularly 4 times a year and will consider fund raising as and when appropriate.

Alison Banks

Appendix 4: Report from the Cricket Club

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2021

I'm glad to report that following last year's truncated season we have had a full, and very successful, season of cricket from the juniors through to the seniors albeit still abiding by some covid rules. The club have also been very busy off the pitch and as you will know we now have our fantastic new nets facility

You will receive a captain's report on seniors cricket and a report on the development of our ladies cricket to go alongside my report so I won't say too much on that myself. You will also receive a treasurer's report.

We have a very strong junior section very ably supported and run by committed coaches and managers. This has resulted in another successful season with particular congratulations to the U17 who are Berkshire T20 champions. As a club we have also seen a number of younger players being regular members of the Saturday team and it has been great to see them all grow in confidence and ability to become key members of the squad. These young players are the cornerstone of the future of the club and I congratulate them on their achievements and hope they continue and more will want to follow in their footsteps.

The senior side played in the Cherwell league for the first time which meant playing some new teams and some old friends, visiting new grounds but thankfully with less travel as the league breaks down some divisions geographically. Our first season in division 6C was very successful and, importantly, very enjoyable once we had got to grips with all the new league rules

The end of season charity game organised by Chris Walker was combined with the opening on the new nets by Tom Scriven, someone many of you will know as he lives in the village and played many games for the club youth section before moving on to Hampshire and to represent England U19.

The new nets offer a great facility for the club and they are a tribute to the efforts of all of those who have played a part in the process over the past few years. Special mention to Alexandra Axtell who headed the fund raising in the early years, to Patrick Charrington for masterminding the planning process and to Ralph Taylor whose enormous time and commitment got the project over the line. I would also like to thank the Parish Council for their support.

I hope you will use the nets over the closed season as well as for 2022 and beyond.

I would like to thank, again, Nigel Chubb for his sterling work in opening and running the bar. He made the early suggestion to open the bar more regularly, particularly on Fridays where villagers were to enjoy a drink and as you will see from the accounts, the bar has contributed a significant income to the club over the season

The committee are not standing still and we have a number of projects to further improve and advance your club. We have a project to redecorate the pavilion and at the instigation of Mick Channon, install honours boards. We are also looking into opening the pavilion in the closed season and following the success of the openings for the Euros, we hope to open for the rugby 6 nations. There are also plans to replace the scoreboard and sightscreen and to acquire proper covers for the square.

As with all members clubs we are reliant on volunteers to help, both on the committee and with works around the ground. We will be looking for helpers to redecorate and we are still looking for people to fill some of the committee roles. If you are able to help please contact any member of the committee, you will be welcome.

The club is in a strong position financially and with the talent and enthusiasm of its members and players both young and senior and I look forward positively to the next few years

Andy Brown

Chairman

Appendix 5: Evergreens

The “West Ilsley Evergreens” were formed on the 16th February 1967 by the invitation of Mrs Shirley Gore, and held their first meeting at the “Manor”. Today the “Ilsley Evergreens” are primarily a Day Trip Travel Club, with members from East and West Ilsley, Compton, Newbury, Chilton, Cholsey and Inkpen. We arrange monthly coach trips from April to October and a visit to a Christmas Market in December.

Theatre trips are also arranged whenever something of interest is available plus regular Coffee Mornings and Prize Bingo evenings, which help towards fundraising.

We did manage two trips last year. The first in September was a Mystery Tour to the south coast with a stop in Lyndhurst for a cream tea and in October a trip to the Cotswold village of Broadway with a stream train ride to Cheltenham race course.

So far this year we have been to Windsor which included a riverboat cruise along the Thames. Further trips this year include Cardiff and St Fagans, Buckler’s Hard, Devizes, Poole, Swanage, Stratford on Avon, Salisbury and Bristol Christmas Market.

Membership is only £10 per person per year and the cost of the coach trips is £14 for Members and £17 for Guests. Anyone is welcome to join us on any of our trips.

Information regarding our various trips and events appear in the West Ilsley News, East Ilsley Communicator and Compton Compilations and Posters on village notice boards.

Tony Elliott ~ Secretary

Appendix 6: Report on behalf of All Saints' Church

Over the last year, our rector Revd. John Toogood continued to lead the benefice team including Revd Douglas Dales, Revd William McDowell and Revd. Lady (Denise) Brown. Denise was unable to take services in the latter part of 2021 and will only be starting to help in any capacity in the next few weeks. Alexandra Axtell was again re-elected churchwarden with Ian Fewtrell-Smith at our recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

In 2021, the pandemic continued to disrupt the pattern of services. We started with one service a month in April, building up to three regular services a month later in the year. That pattern of services on the first, second and third Sunday of each month has continued since then.

After an absence of almost two years, the church café restarted in February of this year moving into the churchyard this month, benefitting from fine May weather. Donations are given to mostly local charities.

During the time since my last report in May 2021, numerous volunteers within the village continued to look after the church and churchyard when permitted by keeping the grass cut, cleaning the church or providing and arranging flowers, for which we are extremely grateful. The matter of churchyard tidiness has recently been raised by a villager. The majority of the churchyard visible from the road, together with the current graveyard and the footpath to it, is kept cut. Elsewhere, including the area of old graves at the rear of the church and the front boundary with The Old Rectory has been left uncut to give important biodiversity where we can.

In 2021, there were 5 baptisms, 2 funerals and 1 wedding.

Income for the church continued to be affected by the reduced number of services, but in spite of the fact that we were unable to hold any fund-raising events in 2021, with the generous support of regular donors and a number of other kind contributors, we were able to report a small surplus at our May APCM. This meant that all running costs could be met from our General fund. In addition to our regular running costs, we were able to upgrade the earthing of the electrics, rewire the organ and have a broken stained-glass window and other vintage plain glass panes repaired by a specialist company. We are again grateful to Louise Taylor for examining the accounts.

Our village church has returned to its pre-pandemic full pattern of services, playing its active role within the village and the wider community.

Ian Fewtrell-Smith

15th May 2022

Appendix 7: Village Hall

West Ilsley Village Hall Committee
Chairman's report May 2022

The Covid 19 Pandemic has meant that the Village Hall Committee has only met on one occasion during 2021. However, that aside there has been an extraordinary amount of work carried out with the internal renovation of the hall. A new floor and heating system together with insulation and painting of internal areas has been completed. The heating system is much more efficient and can be controlled externally with an app installed on a mobile phone.

The Village Hall has its own Wifi installed.

Works have also been carried out in repairs to the roof during the year plus garage doors repaired and repainted, garage gutters repaired and cleaned out of debris, Sewage Manhole covers and frames removed and re-bedded on cement, Flood alleviation civil works undertaken and completed. New boundary fence has been erected behind garages and all vehicle access surfaces and the car park has been re-gravelled.

Thanks to Clive Hooker for all his hard work and help in achieving the above.

Further works are planned in 2022 to replace the windows and doors, plus installation of new thermostatic wall heaters and electric hand driers in both ladies and gent's toilets and re-decorating the gents toilets. A new handrail on entrance to the village hall is required and an inspection of the roof will be required.

The upgraded village hall has seen a marked increase in the number of bookings with some regular weekly new users including St Johns Ambulance and Pilates classes. The under fives play group has also returned on a Wednesday. The venue is also popular for children's parties and cycling events. Thanks to Ros Duckworth who under sufferance from the chairman has continued to take the bookings which can be viewed on the website.

The bonfire on November 5 was a tremendous success and a great contributor to the village hall funds. Thanks to the sponsors and to Tony Elliott for his efforts in purchasing and setting off the fireworks – a super display; to the Carlisle family for allowing the bonfire to be sited in the field above the recreation ground and to the small group of chaps who cooked the burgers and hot dogs, they were well appreciated – I have never seen such a long queue!

Peter Kirkpatrick has taken over the role of Treasurer from Will Thomas-Ferrand.

There are a number of constitutional matters to resolve as part of the West Ilsley Recreation and Sports Association (WIRSA) which will hopefully be sorted during the coming year.

A bid for funding has been submitted to our district councillor to help with on going improvements (doors and windows) to the village hall and some monies have been earmarked by the PC for the village hall.