



East Ilsley Parish Council

MINUTES of the Ordinary VIRTUAL Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 14th July at 7.30pm via Zoom

Minute Reference: 006/14072020/VPM

Councillors online: A Sharp (AS) (Chair), T Murray (TM) (Vice Chair),
S Meadows (SM), B McGrath (BMcG) M Lewis (ML), F Woods (Clerk)

District Councillor: C Culver (Ridgeway Ward)

MOP: 7

Press: 0

Meeting start: 19.36pm

Item	Detail	Action
1	<u>Welcome, Apologies, Statement of Quoracy</u> The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies received. Council are quorate.	
2	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> The minutes from the Extraordinary Virtual Parish Council Meeting were read and agreed as an accurate recording of the meeting. They will be 'wet' signed at our next face to face meeting.	
3	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u> There were none.	
4	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> There were none.	
5	<u>The Management of Rabbits on Prestwell Field</u> The rabbit population has increased significantly on Prestwell Field. Although the active warren has been in existence for a long time, the number of burrows has increased dramatically this year along with the rabbit population. This is causing a risk to the public using the common field for exercise, and to the horses kept in the field under the grazing rights agreement. The allotment holders at the edge of the field are also having their crops and produce decimated. After checking with Natural England to comply with our entry level Stewardship of the land, full council agreed to arrange for the cull of the rabbits by a specialist company using the ferret and long net method. One quote has been obtained and a further 2 will be sought for comparison. A new EMR 328 called Prestwell Field will be created and £2,500 from General Reserves will be transferred to cover the cost of the culling project. Full council also agreed to look into Rabbit Proof Fencing and the Clerk will apply for grants to assist us with this.	Clerk
6	<u>General Maintenance of the Playground</u> It was proposed to purchase paint suitable for the wood and metal structures in the playground, toxin free, so the Playground Working Party could maintain the existing equipment. Quotes have been	

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	<p>received from a company who can help determine the quantities needed. The Clerk will purchase these using the MultiPay Card. Full Council agreed for £200 to be transferred to EMR 324 for the Playground from General Reserves to cover the cost of the paint and brushes.</p> <p>The Good Exchange have sent us the Terms and Conditions document to sign for our Playground Revamp Project. Full Council resolved for the Clerk to sign and send back to them via email.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
7	<p><u>Emergency Response Team</u></p> <p>It was recorded that the response to Covid-19 from the Emergency Response Team in the village has been remarkable and thanks go out to all involved.</p> <p>The last pick up of medication from the Downland Practice is Wednesday 29th July. It has been identified that there are some vulnerable people who potentially do not want to start queuing at the surgery. After 29th July, the Downland Practice will revert to the original drop off point on Churchside in the village and people will collect from there as they used to. We will monitor and see how this is working and whether we can offer any assistance.</p> <p>At the peak of the pandemic we had 30 volunteers in the team, as we see lockdown lifting we will look at a rota system of 2 people per week to offer support going forward.</p>	
8	<p><u>Pirbright Planning Application in Compton</u></p> <p>Full Council discussed this application and the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the first year of demolition and build there will be at least 220 trades on site, each with their own vehicles, including heavy duty machinery going through our villages. • The Developers had not been in touch with us directly to question their plans. • It was requested that we ask Cllr. Carolyn Culver to call this into Western Area Planning Committee due to the issues that this site would bring. • Documents were described as 'vague' particularly, 140 or 250 houses, nothing definitive was observed. • The increase in houses in this area would increase the risks of flooding, traffic increase, lack of jobs, the fact it is in an AONB and raises conservation issues. • It would put pressure on the Schools and the GP Surgery as no indication has been made to build new community assets. • One big area of concern was the discussion around contamination of the site with a radio-active sheep carcass and some anthrax found. Questions were raised on how they will deal with this and the costs involved. It was stated that clearing this site of any danger to public health should be a priority before planning / development is even considered. • It was agreed to strongly object to this planning application citing the reasons stated below. All were in favour of a letter being written to Laura Farris our MP, to contact the Press highlighting our 	

	concerns and to galvanise the village to make their own strong objections to this as well. Full council were all in favour to object and the Parish Observation will be completed and sent back to the planning team at WBC.	
9	<p>Church Grant</p> <p>A grant application was received from St. Mary's Church for an annual payment of £400 to help them towards the grass cutting in the churchyard. Full Council agreed to this and this Clerk will process the payment.</p>	Clerk
10	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The finances were on track for June as per the monthly report sent to all councillors. • Movement from General Reserves to Earmarked reserves were agreed as per points discussed above in items 5 and 6. It was also agreed to earmark £11,000 of General Reserves into a new EMR called Pond to support the pond regeneration project during the summer / autumn. General Reserves now stands at £18,312.69 which is within the Net Revenue Expenditure for smaller authorities. • Domain name: eastilsley-org.uk has not been renewed for another year as it was not being used. The Clerk will check the pricing once released to see if the cost has decreased. • The Great British Litter Pick has been rescheduled to September but it was agreed not to participate during that time. • New test website has been viewed and is looking OK. The Clerk will continue to work with TEEC prior to the deadline of September. • It was agreed to send the SLCC drafted letter to Laura Farris MP from us regarding the financial support for local councils. • It was agreed to upgrade our Google Drive Storage to 100GB at a cost of £15.99 per year. The Clerk will pay using the MultiPay card. • It was agreed to renew our annual membership with CCB (Connecting Communities in Berkshire). The Clerk will make the payment. • Full Council agreed to pay for the Clerk to undertake the CiLCA qualification. This includes the SLCC cost of £350, the HALC cost of £390 for training and the additional hours outside of normal working hours to complete the tasks at the standard hourly rate. The Clerk will keep a log of all hours worked to complete the qualification and submit a final spreadsheet once the qualification has been achieved. It was also agreed that the Staffing Committee would meet to agree a length of time the Qualified Clerk should remain working for the Council to recover costs of the qualification. • Full Council agreed to purchase the 12th edition of CAB on it's release in September 2020 at an approximate cost of £115 to support the CiLCA qualification. • Full Council agreed to purchase some extra Flood Defence equipment: 2 x 15l water carriers, plug extension reels, generator plugs, petrol funnel and screwdrivers using the last of our WBC 50% grant. 	

11	<p><u>A34 Junction Update</u></p> <p>ML attended a webinar with Highways to discuss the junction on the A34. It was reported that the no entry signs that they had placed there were illegal as they are not the correct height and did not have approval for placement there. They will be removed and replaced at the correct height. At the same time vegetation will be cleared to improve the sight lines which will take 4 to 5 weeks to complete. This will be done during daylight hours and diversions will be in place. A possible T junction was discussed but standard protocol on 70mph to 60mph roads are currently in place. They were not averse to looking at this proposal in more detail at a later date.</p>	
12	<p><u>Courtesy Lights</u></p> <p>Full Council agreed to pay the annual rate to all complying villagers for the courtesy lights via BACS. One resident cannot be contacted and ML has offered to investigate. He will inform the Clerk of his findings. The Clerk will process the payments this month.</p>	ML / Clerk
13	<p><u>Questions / Comments from the Public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Culver gave an update on the Baptist Chapel regarding the insensitive treatment of the graves in the chapel garden. No planning conditions were issued at the time of the application being approved so there is nothing that can be said to the builders / developer. The Clerk is in regular contact with them and will pressurise them to maintain respect during the build. It was noted that the Parish Council did want to apply to bid for purchase of the Chapel but there was no interest from the villagers. • The Beeswax Dyson application is not on the agenda for the Western Area Planning Committee on 22nd July. It may be on the one scheduled for 12th August. • There is a new member bid scheme available from WBC, information will be forwarded soon on how to apply. • Changes to Planning Legislation - CC has raised some questions to the proposal and is awaiting a response. • TM raised the issue with Pen Meadow and it was agreed to write to Lockinge Estate with photos demonstrating how bad the meadow is in at present and request them to maintain it. 	

The Meeting closed at 21:30pm and the chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15th September 2020 at 7.30pm. It has not been decided if this will be a face to face meeting at the School or via Zoom due to Covid-19.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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