



East Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 10th November at 7.30pm via Zoom

Minute Ref: 012/10112020/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Brendan McGrath, Cllr. Tracey Murray (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Stephen Meadows and Cllr. Mike Lewis
Members Absent:	Cllr. Andrew Sharp (Chair)
Officers Present:	Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	Cllr. Carlyne Culver, Nick Watkins (Flood Warden), 0 members of public
Meeting Start Time:	19.31pm
Meeting End Time:	20.54pm

1. Cllr. Lewis chaired this meeting; apologies were received from Cllr. Sharp and were accepted. We are quorate.
2. There were no declarations of pecuniary interests by members or the clerk.
3. There were no questions or comments received from the public or any representations from members.
4. The minutes from the Extraordinary Meeting dated 22nd October 2020 were **approved** as an accurate record.
5. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on 22nd October 2020. The actions from the meeting were **reviewed**, actions 1 to 4 have been completed and action 5 (Emergency Response Meeting) is pending.
6. Cllr. Culver informed that the weekly Zoom meetings with the Village Volunteers have started up again due to Lockdown 2 and they will continue to support each other during this time. The Eight Bells Community Navigators are seeking volunteers and posters have been circulated. We have been offered free dog fouling stickers and the Clerk will make arrangements to collect these and distribute around the village. There has been a public consultation on Housing needs and results have not yet been published. Cllr. Culver stressed the need for more local social housing, and smaller houses that would suit younger people and downsizers. The Planning White paper consultation period has ended and there is great concern over the management of planning applications should this be accepted. It was queried whether East Ilsley would be in receipt of any CIL money if the Pirbright Plans are approved and this will be investigated. There

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is concern over the pressure on the GP Surgery if money is not given directly to the Downland Practice. The Crown and Horns Pub are a credit to the village of East Ilsley with their pop up shop for essentials and their assistance with children's packed lunches over the half term. The Climate Action Network are working on a warmer streets initiative and grants are available to village halls and churches, information will be shared as this could be of use to St Mary's Church with the restoration plans.

7. Our Flood Warden, Nick Watkins had previously circulated a report on his recent findings on the pond, the flow of water and the concern with Riparian responsibilities. Nick is in regular contact with the Pang Valley Flood Forum and is being alerted to any issues and checking our water levels during heavy rain. After exploration on the pond via Paddleboard it is confirmed that the water levels in the middle are only 6" deep, with at least a further 6" of silt below, with the consistency of quicksand. We are aware of the gap in funds to have the pond professionally excavated and have explored the idea of using volunteers to clear the reeds as an interim measure. There are concerns with the safety aspect of this challenge and that we are in the middle of Lockdown 2 so it is unlikely we can do this before Christmas. It is more likely this group can work together in the spring time. WBC had confirmed that a blast of the gullies and pipes was added to the job sheet list but we have yet to receive confirmation this has actually been done, although the water is flowing well through all the channels. All grants currently are to aid in Coronavirus recovery but we will keep searching to see if we can get any outside assistance with costs. An investigation on the hire of a digger has been looked at but there is concern over the stability of it on the damp grass around the pond. It would be prudent to get another test on the silt and water prior to cleaning and drying out (last one was in 2005) to check for toxin levels.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr. McGrath with **all** in favour to arrange for the testing of the silt and water over Christmas and to purchase 4 sets of waders from Decathlon at £34.99 each (various sizes) to protect the volunteers. This would be purchased using money from the ear marked reserve for the Pond. A risk assessment will be drafted by the Clerk prior to any work commencing.

8. All councillors present were in receipt of a draft budget proposal document which contained 2019/2020 actual spend, 2020/2021 agreed budget. 2020/2021 current figures and 2021/2022 estimates. It was reviewed and discussed and noted that projected income and expenditure looked sound. The lack of income from the Rural Payments Agency against budget was of concern, but as staff were furloughed it was understood that this payment should come soon. The main discussion points were on the pond and how we could raise the funds to pay for the professional services in full. One option was to increase the precept to cover the gap in funds, for that year only and revert to a lower precept the following year. It was **resolved** to create a free Survey Monkey questionnaire to send to all in the village and get their views on the one off increase in precept for the pond to help us make a decision. The Clerk will prepare some draft questions and send to all Councillors for approval before creating the survey. Results will be in for the meeting on 12th January 2021 when we will need to formally agree the budget and precept.
9. It was **resolved** to instruct Heelis and Lodge as our Internal Auditors for the 2020/2021 AGAR and the Clerk will write to them informing them of this decision.
10. It was **resolved** to make a donation of £200 to the RBL Poppy donation (an increase on last year's donation due to the global pandemic) and a £200 donation to the STARescue Animal Charity for services for Prestwell Field Rabbit Management. This was **proposed** by Cllr. Meadows and **seconded** by Cllr. Lewis and all were in favour. These donations will be recorded as s.137 payments and we are within our allowance of £3,835.52 (£8.32 x 461) for this financial year.

11. The Clerk had circulated the October Finance Report prior to meeting and all was in order. An email has been received from Compton Parish Council as their Neighbourhood Plan has entered the consultation stage. The Clerk will circulate to all councillors to read and a collective response will be arranged. Closing date for responses is 21st December 2020. Another consultation has been received from WBC regarding the building of a new SEN / Autism school for 11 to 18 year olds to improve the provision in the area. It was agreed that this was a good idea and to support this and the Clerk will respond on behalf of the council. A location or host school has not yet been identified; a further consultation will be released once this has been identified. We are due to receive our draft of the Highways Consultancy Report from Charlotte this week, and listed buildings have been included. This will be circulated when received. The War Memorial Grant is scheduled for discussion on 31st December 2020 and the Faculty with the Diocese is nearing completion. The planning application at 5 Sheepdown has been approved. Councillor email addresses are almost ready, the Clerk will circulate the username / temporary passwords and how to guide when they are received. Finally, the Emergency Response Team are back up and running for Lockdown 2. Not many calls have been received but we have advised everyone we are able to help out during this time.
12. Cllr. McGrath informed us of an unfortunate incident on Broad Street on the morning of Monday 9th November where an elderly gentleman was seen driving the wrong way. He was very shaken up and had taken a wrong turn heading to Newbury. He made his way to Hildesley Court and turned round and headed back to Newbury. Cllr. McGrath checked the signs and all was in place in terms of no entry / one way system etc. It was **resolved** to log this with WBC traffic and highways and to keep our own record as evidence. Cllr. Murray informed us that Mr Jeffs will have a significant birthday in April 2021 and as a past member of the Parish Council it would be nice to present him with something. This will be added to the action log for further thought.
13. There were no further questions from members of the public.

With there being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.54pm.

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Display new dog fouling stickers in the village	Clerk	
2	Confirm CIL Payment allocation should Pirbright go ahead	Cllr. Culver	
3	Arrange new test of pond silt and water	Clerk	
4	Purchase 4 x Waders from Decathlon	Clerk	
5	Create Risk Assessment for Pond Work by Volunteers	Clerk	
6	Create a Survey Monkey for Precept Increase Activities	Clerk	
7	Inform Heelis & Lodge of our decision to appoint	Clerk	
8	Send s.137 Donation to RBL via BACS and await instruction of when to send STARescue their funds	Clerk	
9	Circulate Compton Neighbourhood Plan to all Councillors for collective response	Clerk	
10	Complete on behalf of the Council the SEN / Autism Consultation	Clerk	
11	Log Broad Street incident with WBC Traffic / Highways	Clerk	

Signed:

Date:

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