



East Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm at The Ilsleys Primary School

Minute Ref: 007/091121/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Mike Lewis, Cllr. Tracey Murray, Cllr. Mike Pembroke, Cllr. Andrew Sharp, Cllr. Nick Watkins, Cllr. Stephen Meadows
Members Absent:	None
Officers Present:	Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	Cllr. Carlyne Culver 17 members of public
Meeting Start Time:	19.30pm
Meeting End Time:	21.10pm

090/21 Cllr. Lewis welcomed all to the meeting. No members were absent from the meeting. Quorum was **achieved**.

091/21 There were no declarations of interests by any members present.

092/21 Fifteen minutes were allocated to questions and comments regarding items on the agenda. The main points were regarding the pond, Christmas decorations and Pen Meadow. A brief summary of the questions, comments and responses are below:

Questions and Comments presented to Council regarding the Pond and Christmas:

- Why is the pond now in a dangerous state post excavation when the previous excavations did not present such a danger?
- The Pond Lot are very keen for the Christmas decorations to be erected this year, despite the communicated dangers post excavation. What can they do to ensure it goes ahead?
- Could a fence be erected whilst the decorations are up to mitigate risks?
- It was voiced that the Pond Lot were not consulted in the run up to the excavation to advise that it may result problems with having the Christmas decorations up this year.
- Many villagers have family visiting over the Christmas period and the decorations at the pond is an attraction. Santa visits there on his sleigh for the little ones. Where will he go now?

Initial:

- Who on the Parish Council has been trained in Health and Safety and Risk Assessments to make these decisions?

Responses from the Council to the Public:

- The excavation work on the pond was necessary and a number of comments and complaints with regards to the threat to flooding had been received into the Council for the last couple of years. The last excavation was in 2010.
- 45 tonnes of silt was removed during the excavation in September 2021. This is more than 2 times the contractor originally quoted for. It has created an additional problem for the Council due to the amount of silt that needs to dry out, be removed from site and relocated safely. Also, this has impacted on the overall scale and depth of the pond which was unexpected.
- There is no formal Health and Safety qualified officer on the Council (*note: the clerk attended a 2 day Introduction to Health and Safety Training Course on 19th and 26th May 2021 run by the Local Council People and Development (LCPD) under the National Improvement and Strategy for Parish and Town Councils*). Advice was sought from a number of external agencies to guide the decision making process. Documents produced as a result of the significant changes to the landscape of the pond have been checked by the external agencies.
- We are thankful for the offer of a number of temporary fencing solutions offered by villagers and these will be assessed by the Council.

It was raised that the 2018 Village Survey stated **No** to further development in the village, yet the Pen Meadow Development is being pushed by the Council. It was also commented upon that if the Council approved the Pen Meadow Development in principle then the area could be used for Christmas decorations instead of the pond and the ethics of this statement was queried. For the context of this comment, when alternative sites were being looked at Pen Meadow was suggested (the site of the old sheep fayre, along the High Street) and the architects suggested via phone call that Lockinge would allow the use of the field if we were to say yes in principle to the development.

15 minutes public question and comment time ended and the meeting continued.

093/21 The minutes of the previous Full Council Meeting on 14th September 2021 were read, **approved**, and signed as an accurate record. Cllr. Lewis signed the paper copy for the file.

094/21 There were no matters arising from the previous meeting. In terms of actions, most had been completed but here is a brief update on the outstanding ones:

- Graham Murray (Electrician) is working on changing the bulbs of all Courtesy Lights in the Village.
- Wildflowers behind the Jubilee Bench have not been planted due to the wintry weather. Likely postpone until early spring.
- SID risk assessment and location needs to be signed off and uploaded to the portal.
- Convex Road Mirrors are no longer approved for use by WBC.

095/21 Cllr. Culver advised that her latest newsletter had been delivered. There is no further update about the proposed development at Compton. There are concerns that the high cost of pollution removal would jeopardise the number of social houses that can be added. 185 is the current number of houses but the WBC local plan stated 140. There

are concerns over the added pressure on the Schools and Doctor's Surgeries, the impact on construction traffic in the locale and the pressure on East Ilsley as a link from the A34. Compton Parish Council will go to referendum on their Neighbourhood Development Plan in the new year. Complaints have been received about the wildflowers at Sunrise Hill as they impede the sight lines when pulling out of the junction onto Compton Road. It has been agreed to re-locate these to elsewhere in the village where visibility is not an issue. There is an Adult Social Care consultation currently open (closes on 3rd January 2022) and all are urged to take part in it. Our thanks to Cllr. Culver to attending this meeting.

096/21 It was **agreed** that due to the sight line issues the location of the daffodil bulbs would not be at Sunrise Hill and an alternative location will be found, potentially along the High Street. It was **agreed** to purchase a 5 litre bottle of organic seaweed feed for the Community Orchard. The clerk will make the arrangements.

097/21 The draft Budget for 2022 / 2023 had been prepared and circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. A brief summary is below:

- Projected Income for 2022 / 2023 = £2,012.91
- Projected Expenditure for 2022 / 2023 = £21,036.00
- Projected Precept Request = £19,023.81, a £911.19 decrease from last year which is 4.5%
- Projected Income could increase if grants become available during the fiscal year but none have been identified as yet.

All members present **agreed** to the draft budget proposal. Final edits will be made ready for the Precept sign off in January 2022 to ensure an equal split payment request to WBC.

098/21 All members present **agreed** to appoint Heelis and Lodge as our Internal Auditors for the Accounts ending 31st March 2022. The clerk will send them a letter confirming the appointment.

099/21 It was **agreed** by all members to award £200 to the RBL Poppy Appeal again this year using s.137. The clerk will process the payment via BACS. Cllr. Nick Watkins **agreed** to represent East Ilsley at the RBL Remembrance Service on 14th November 2021 at Compton Church and has the wreath in his possession. We thank Kay Sanderson for helping to arrange the wreath for this service. The Plaque Dedication Service on 11th November at St. Mary's Church in East Ilsley is all in place. Risk Assessments are in place, the Orders of Service have been printed and sent to the Church. All members **approved** the following payments:

- £81.60 (price including VAT which will be claimed back) for the printing of the Orders of Service via Bradfield Printing (LGA 1972, s. 144)
- £185.88 (price including VAT which will be claimed back) for glass hire and alcoholic drinks for after the service via Majestic Wines. This will be purchased on sale or return so the final bill will depend on what is returned the following day (LGA 1972, s. 145)
- £120.00 for the provision of canapes for after the service via the Crown and Horns Pub. (LGA 1972, s. 145)

Members of the public present at the meeting were advised all were invited to attend the service.

100/21 The Pen Meadow Development Village Survey results were shared. 58 responses were received in total. A summary is below:

- Support of building of 14 affordable homes on Pen Meadow Yes = 29, No = 29 (50%/50% split)
- Support of building 14 affordable homes on Pen Meadow with Parish Council control over the rest of the meadow Yes = 34, No = 24 (59% Yes, 41% No)
- 74% of responses wanted to keep the rest of the meadow as open green space. 55% wanted to generate a new wildflower meadow, 53% wanted to use the space for village events, 16% requested a Village Hall, 28% wanted a Village Shop and 12% wanted a cricket pitch and pavilion. Please note users could select multiple choices.
- A vast range of both positive and negative comments were received and have been downloaded onto a spreadsheet.

Upon discussion, it was clear a decision could not be made during the meeting whether to approve or object to the proposed plans. Questions were raised over the title of the deed and who actually owns Pen Meadow, whether the right to develop / exception site can be implemented at Pen Meadow, whether the 8 identified needs in the Housing Survey of 2020 required 14 houses to be built and the fact Pen Meadow is in a Conservation area, a site of historic importance to the village and in an AONB. All Councillors **agreed** to postpone making a decision at this meeting and that the feedback received via the survey and the questions raised tonight would be sent to Manor Oak Homes for comment.

101/21 The Village Pond Policy, the Generic Risk Assessment, the Water Safety Risk Assessment and the recommendations for the pond and pond area were discussed. Due to the dramatically changed landscape of the pond and the changes in legislation since 2010 all Councillor **agreed** to the following:

- The purchase of a Life Buoy System from Glasdon at a cost of £355.46 (Public Health Act 1936, s. 260)
- The purchase of a photoluminescent sign for the Life Buoy, a Deep Water / No Swimming Sign, and a Thin Ice danger sign for winter time from UK Safety Signs at a cost of £26.88 (Public Health Act 1936, s. 260)
- The associated installation costs from CJM Services when in receipt of the ordered items.

Two members of the public offered assistance with their wealth of Health and Safety qualification and experience and they will provide evidence of qualifications to the Council. The Pond Lot **agreed** to prepare risk assessments for the Christmas decorations and arrange their own public liability insurance for the event and the Council **agreed** to give them a formal response by 16th November 2021.

102/21 All members present **agreed** to the purchase of an assortment of bulbs (daffodils, tulips and camisa) for the pond area at a cost of £515.82. (LGA 1972, s. 144).

103/21 Under the Clerk's Report section the following was discussed:

- The CIL Funding for the pond excavation was received from WBC on 5th October 2021 (£14,122.46).

- All Councillors **agree** to the payment of £1,380.00 to Michael Cairns Tree Surgery Ltd for the tree maintenance cost at the Recreation Ground. (LGA (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976, s. 23)
- All Councillors **agreed** to the purchase of 5 glow in the dark dog waste signs at a cost of £125.00 via Keep Britain Tidy and these will be placed in Abingdon Road, Broad Street, Church Hill, Fidlers Lane and Compton Road. (Environment Protection Act 1990, s. 89)
- Historical information on the original name of Dennisford Road (Danespear) has been received from a member of the Local History Society. The clerk has spoken with WBC who have advised a consultation on the changing of road names and a new policy is in production and ready for implementation at the start of 2022. This item will be re-visited when the documents have been updated and it will be investigated.
- The entry level stewardship scheme with Natural England / DEFRA is due to end in November 2022. We have been advised that we can extend our agreement or move to the mid-tier countryside stewardship scheme. All Councillors present **agreed** to extend the current scheme and the clerk will work with Natural England on the process.
- West Berkshire Museum have been in touch to advise that a piece of Gold Ribbon from the Bronze age has been found in East Ilsley. They wish to acquire this piece for display at the museum and need assistance in covering the finders and land owner's fees. The market value is £1,000.00 and all present **agreed** to provide £250.00 via s. 137 to secure the ribbon and keep it in West Berkshire. The village Primary School often visit the museum as part of the curriculum and it would be good for them to see some treasure found in the village.
- It was **agreed** to postpone the purchase of Christmas decorations until the pond issues were finalised.

104/21 Further comments and questions from the public in attendance were:

- In light of COP26 should more housing be built on a meadow, there are green issues to consider.
- Concern over air quality of houses potentially built next to the A34.
- The SUDs on the initial plans do not demonstrate clearly how flooding will be alleviated. More information is required before making a decision.
- Query over how several large houses initially were proposed and now 14 affordable one, it does not make sense.
- Queries over the term 'exception site' were raised and how this is granted.
- Attempts to answer some of these queries were made but tensions were high and the Chairman ended the final public session.

With there being no further business, Cllr. Lewis thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 21.10pm.

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Purchase Organic Feed for the Orchard	Clerk	✓
2	Finalise the Budget for the January Meeting	Clerk	✓
3	Write to Heelis & Lodge re appointment as Internal Auditors	Clerk	✓
4	Make donation payment to RBL Poppy Appeal	Clerk	✓
5	Make payments and complete preparations for the Plaque Dedication Service on 11 th November	Clerk	✓

Initial:

6	Send Pen Meadow Survey info to Manor Oak Homes with questions	Clerk	✓
7	Purchase safety equipment and signs for pond and arrange installation	Clerk	✓
8	Notify the Pond Lot on decision for Christmas Decorations by 16 th November (done later than anticipated due to extenuating circumstances)	All	✓
9	Purchase Bulbs for the Pond	Clerk	✓
10	Process payment for Tree Maintenance	Clerk	✓
11	Purchase and install Dog Waste signs	Clerk	✓
12	Extend DEFRA / Natural England Stewardship	Clerk	✓
13	Advise West Berkshire Museum of contribution to the Treasure	Clerk	✓

Signed:

Date:

Initial: