



East Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm at The Ilsleys Primary School

Minute Ref: 006/140921/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Mike Lewis, Cllr. Tracey Murray, Cllr. Mike Pembroke
Members Absent:	Cllr. Andrew Sharp & Cllr. Stephen Meadows
Officers Present:	Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	2 members of public
Meeting Start Time:	19.32pm
Meeting End Time:	20.46pm

- 076/21 Cllr. Lewis welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Sharp and Cllr. Meadows which were accepted. Quorum was achieved.
- 077/21 There were no declarations received.
- 078/21 There were no questions or comments from members of the public and no representations. Our Ward Councillor was unable to attend in person but emailed her report to the clerk which was read out to all present. The report is located in [appendix 1](#) of these minutes. The Council thanked Cllr. Culver for her report.
- 079/21 The minutes of the planning meeting on 24th August 2021 were approved as an accurate recording of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Lewis.
- 080/21 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the planning meeting on 24th August 2021.
- 081/21 Two members of the public applied for the vacant seat on the Parish Council, Nicholas Watkins, and Ima von Wenden. Both gave brief introductions and left the room for voting. Nicholas Watkins was **proposed** by Cllr. Pembroke and **seconded** by Cllr. Murray with **all in favour**. Nicholas Watkins will now join the council as a co-opted member and the Declaration of Office paperwork will be sent to the Monitoring Officer. The Clerk will arrange for an email to be set up and for useful documents to be shared. The Council look forward to working with Nicholas and thanked Ima for her application and presence at the meeting.

Initial:

- 082/21 It was advised that Ian Wilson has given his approval to use the field for the silt to dry out for the pond excavation project. The Council gave their thanks to Ian for allowing us the use of the field. The Clerk confirmed that the pond excavation works will begin week commencing Monday 20th September and will meet the contractor on site during the works to ensure safety precautions are followed for pedestrians and traffic. The village will be kept up to date with the progress via social media.
- 083/21 The External Audit Report from PKF Littlejohn was read out and there were no recommendations offered as we are working to best practice. The clerk was thanked for her work on this.
- 084/21 The annual payments for the Courtesy Lights in the village were **approved** and will be paid via BACS. It was **agreed** to proceed with the bulb upgrade project and advise the residents of this plan and the reduction in payments from next year. Cllr. Lewis will assist the clerk with this process.
- 085/21 Various grounds maintenance and environmental projects were discussed:
- a) It was **agreed** that a ride on mower would be a good idea to help with the vegetation when WBC are busy during the summer. There is no available budget for 2021 / 2022 but the cost will be added to the budget proposal for 2022 / 2023 and reviewed at the meeting in November to see if this will be a possibility. There are other considerations such as risk assessments, insurance, fuel, PPE, training and where to put the cuttings after mowing. This will be **discussed** at the meeting in November.
 - b) As Cllr. Culver was absent from this meeting the discussion on mulch and feed for the Community Orchard will be deferred to the November meeting.
 - c) It was **agreed** that the pack of wildflower seeds from BBO Wildlife Trust can be planted behind the Jubilee bench on the High Street. The clerk will arrange for volunteers to assist with this.
 - d) It was **agreed** in principle that the 3 cherry trees from WBC Countryside would be appreciated and could be placed in the recreation ground.
 - e) It was **agreed** in principle that we would like to take part in the 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' and take advantage of the trees on offer via The Good Exchange / Greenham Trust. It was **proposed** that a small 'copse' could be placed in the recreation ground (along with the cherry trees from item d above) but due to the scale to the project we would seek advice from WBC on location, space, and type of tree. It was thought that this could provide some shaded area at the recreation ground during the summer. The clerk will make contact with WBC for advice and report back to the council.
 - f) The Council felt strongly that as we are hoping to plant more trees we should not fell trees near 11A Churchside as requested. It was **agreed** the clerk will meeting with Mike Cairns and 11A Churchside to look at options. It was **agreed** that tree maintenance was required for the branches touching the side of the property and this would be discussed in the meeting and reported back to the council.
- 086/21 It was **agreed** that the Public Liability Insurance proposal met our needs and the annual payment was **approved**. The clerk will pay via BACS.
- 087/21 The clerk advised that we were now set up on the SID booking portal and the insurance documents have been uploaded. Cllr. Lewis will share the risk assessment and location site with the clerk for uploading to the portal so bookings of equipment can be made. Training was completed pre-lockdown so we need to find out if this is still valid.
- 088/21 The clerk shared the monthly finance report for August and the current position with the bank. All is in order. We are waiting on the grant for the war memorial to come in,

pending review of our completion statement. It was **agreed** to request the ferreters to come back and cull the rabbit population at the allotments. It was **agreed** to provide a £100 donation to West Berkshire Libraries under s.137 as we did last year. It was **agreed** to invite The Greenham Trust to our Annual Meeting of the Parish for their anniversary talk, but other meeting dates will be shared with them. Cllr. Murray has **agreed** to accompany the clerk at the District Parish Conference on 19th October. The clerk shared 2 articles that had been published in the SLCC 'Clerk' magazine and 'Clerk and Council's Direct' magazine on the thank you day with the C19 volunteers and they were well received.

089/21 It was suggested that a mirror could be placed at Sun Rise Hill to aid with seeing traffic when pulling out of the junction. All were in favour. The clerk will write a letter requesting West Berkshire Council action this.

With their being no further business, Cllr. Lewis thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 20.46pm.

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Set up Nick with a new Email address for council business, complete the Declaration of Office form and send to the MO. Send Nick useful information via email.	Clerk	✓
2	Inform the village of the pond excavation works	Clerk	✓
3	Process Courtesy Lights Payments	Clerk	✓
4	Change bulbs in courtesy lights and issue a letter advising the changes to the payment plan	Clerk / Cllr. Lewis	
5	Add Mower to budget proposal for 2022 / 2023	Clerk	
6	Plant Wildflowers on the High Street behind the bench	Volunteers	
7	Arrange meeting with WBC re potential copse for the Jubilee	Clerk	
8	Meet Mike Cairns and 11A Churchside to discuss a plan for the trees	Clerk	
9	Pay for Public Liability Insurance	Clerk	✓
10	Arrange the booking of the SID	Clerk / Cllr. Lewis	
11	Request the return of the ferreters for the allotment site	Clerk	✓
12	Send meeting dates to the Greenham Trust	Clerk	✓
13	Email WBC Highways / Traffic Safety team re a mirror at Sun Rise Hill junction	Clerk	

Signed:

Date:

Initial:

Appendix 1 - Report from Cllr. Carolyn Culver

There is still no news about when the Compton Institute is going to the Western Area Planning Committee for a vote.

WBC is introducing a new food waste collection service next year. Residents will be given a 23 litre kerbside bin, and a 5 litre kitchen bin. You can opt out if you have a composter at home, or if you live in a densely populated area where there isn't room to have a bin per household. The council is trying to reduce the amount of waste that goes into black bins and having food waste bins is one way of doing this. Bear in mind too that the council is collecting more kinds of plastic at the local tips than they do at the kerbside, so if you want to recycle things like plastic margarine and ice cream tubs, you can take them to the tip.

Sunrise Hill have asked when the wildflowers will be cut back - Fen knows about this from another email I sent her. The residents have also asked whether it would be possible to have a mirror opposite the entrance to their road, like we have opposite the allotments where the road bends and visibility is poor. I would welcome people's views on this. WBC Highways have not expressed any enthusiasm for the idea.

Do we need to discuss management of the orchard? There is a lot of fruit now. In Hampstead Norreys they are feeding the trees with seaweed solution every couple of weeks (I have been watering ours, but not feeding them), and picking fruit for juicing. I know someone has been strimming around our trees from time to time. Personally, I don't mind that ours is a bit messy because it's good for wildlife. Other people's views might differ. The Hampstead Norreys orchard is in pristine condition but looks soulless compared to ours. The trees are spread over a much larger area. No doubt once they've grown it will look very different.

On 9th September I made a speech in the council chamber proposing that the council supports the Climate and Ecology Bill and responds positively to a public consultation about 'nature recovery networks'. These are maps that show where all the nature reserves and green spaces are, and how they can be connected together so that wildlife can move around. They need to do this to be able to feed and breed.

The idea is to prevent development cutting off all these places for nature and turning them into islands that wildlife get trapped in. Oxfordshire council and local conservation organisations have made a map. It would be good if we could have a map for West Berkshire too.

The motion has been referred to the Environment Advisory Group for discussion.

I attended a conference at the Local Government Association in London on 11th September which was extremely useful for finding out what councillors in other areas are doing to tackle the climate emergency through planning and renewable energy projects.