



East Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 8th November 2022, 7.30pm, at The School Hall

Minute Ref: 007/081122/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Mike Pembroke, Cllr. Mark Browne, Cllr. Dominic Robertson, Cllr. Nick Watkins
Members Absent:	Cllr. Andrew Sharp
Officers Present:	Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	2 Members of Public and Ward Councillor, Carolyne Culver
Meeting Start Time:	19.30pm
Meeting End Time:	21.10pm

- 082/22 Cllr. Pembroke welcomed all to this meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Sharp and Cllr. Meadows. Quorum was achieved.
- 083/22 There were no declarations of interests from members, nor the Clerk and no requests for dispensation received.
- 084/22 There were no questions or comments from members of the public regarding items on the agenda, nor any representations from any member.
- 085/22 The minutes of the Full Council Meeting dated 4th October 2022 were read and **approved** as an accurate record. Cllr. Pembroke signed a copy for the file.
- 086/22 There were no matters arising from the minutes. The Clerk is continuing to chase WBC regarding issues with Abingdon Road (vegetation and speed sign location) and will update the council in due course. All other actions have been completed or are being discussed in this meeting. It was noted that we had successfully

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extricated ourselves from Gallagher Insurance (despite being in a fixed term deal) and have signed up with BHIB saving us over £400.

087/22 Cllr. Culver gave a brief report to those present covering the following:

- A new Members' Bid has been issued totalling £3K which must be spent by the end of the financial year. Bids have been received from HNPC and East Ilsley PC.
- The new food waste recycling collections began w/c 31st October. The distribution of the new caddies was problematic with swathes of villages / residents missed out completely. This was outsourced by Veolia but everyone has now received their caddies. The caddies are collected weekly, and you are no longer allowed to add food waste to your green wheelie bin.
- CC attended a Rural Business Forum at Shaw house recently, where planning, the cost of living, and social housing was discussed. It is hoped that there will be a follow up event.
- Concern has been raised about the number of rural pubs that are shutting down soon (The Foinavon in Compton in November and the White Hart in Hampstead Norreys in early December). Rural communities rely on the offerings from the pubs and this has been raised with the council.
- There has been an 18% reduction in the district of our carbon footprint. WBC pledged to be carbon zero by 2030 but with only 8 years left more needs to be done. A new Local Plan is being prepared with more carbon neutrality clauses.
- There will shortly be a new online system for checking on when verges will be cut back and this will really help with monitoring how our areas are being looked after.

088/22 The following planning applications were reviewed:

- 22/02311/LBC2 Montpellier House, Broad Street for replacement of render and mortar and installation of an EV charging point. No objections were raised by any member present. The Clerk will submit the parish observation form.
- 22/02418/HOUSE Uplands, Church Hill for extension and loft conversion. No objections were raised by any member present. The Clerk will submit the parish observation form.

089/22 The following grant requests were reviewed:

- It was **agreed** to pay a £150.00 contribution to West Berkshire Library Services as this helps to maintain the mobile library visiting the village.
- It was **agreed** to pay £500.00 to the West Berkshire Cost of Living Crisis Appeal via the Good Exchange and achieve matched funding, equating to a £1,000 donation.

- It was **agreed** to donate £100.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal to cover the cost of 2 x Poppy Wreaths and a donation from the Village.
- It was **agreed** to donate £50.00 to St Mary's PCC towards the cost of the electricity for lighting up the church during the mourning period of the late Queen Elizabeth II and the purchase of purple gels. We are very grateful that they church could assist us with this.

090/22 A quotation has been received from CJM Services to repair the foot bridge over the culvert on the footpath between Cow Lane and Haydon Lane. CJM Services were the only people who presented us with a quotation to consider. Two options were provided, one to replace just the base timbers and option two is to replace the hand rails as well, effectively building a new bridge. Upon investigation the existing bridge is built around the damaged timbers so it is more cost effective to replace everything, rather than just the base. All members present **agreed** to proceed with option 2 at a cost of £1,564.00. It was agreed to use money from the second Precept to pay for this.

091/22 A quotation has been received from T L Contracting for the cost of installing a new 'footpath' along the top of High Street, near the A34 slip road for safer access into the kissing gate at the Millennium Green. The existing pavement runs out at the point of the old bus stop and then there is only the edge of the road, running alongside Ian Wilson's field. The quotation is for £11,741.46 and after reviewing the spending priorities and the future plans, all members present **agreed** this this was **not a priority** for this, or next financial year. It was **proposed** that pedestrians have safer access to the Millennium Green via the Playground entrance at the other side of the field, therefore negating the need to walk by traffic speeding up to join the A34. It was also **proposed** that we could liaise with the Millennium Green Trust about closing off the kissing gate so all pedestrians had to use the alternative, safer entrance. The Clerk will write to the MG Trust and present the response to the Council.

092/22 At the last Full Council Meeting the spending of S106 money (£2,456.95) for outdoor play equipment was discussed. A Hurricane Swing, spotted at Chilton Playground was earmarked as a good fit for our playground. The Clerk contacted the Clerk for Chilton and was sent all the information on this piece of playground equipment and contacted the supplier (Wicksteed) for more information. After a site visit was completed a quotation was received from them:

- Removal of the old train and carriages = £750.00
- Hurricane Swing with 2 x Button Seats, safety grass, installation = £12,726.50
- Install welfare equipment = £1,860.60
- Shipping = £580.95
- Less Discount = -£2,021.48

- Grant Total = £13,896.57

The Clerk had received confirmation from Simon Barlow at WBC that the S106 money and remaining CIL money can be used towards the cost of this equipment, and we had applied to Cllr. Culver for a Members' Bid so the current finances look like:

Total to Raise = £13,896.57

- £2,456.95 of S106 money
- £2,158.09 of remaining CIL money (leaving £1,310.00 in CIL for the SID device)
- £1,791.76 from Cllr. Culver's Members' Bid
- £1,742.70 in the Playground EMR (leaving £160.00 for annual inspection, and £140 for Post Install Inspection)

After deducting the funds listed above we need to source £5,747.07 to achieve the quotation amount. A project has been created on the Good Exchange to raise the rest of the funds with the help from a fundraising event via the Pub. The Clerk will advise Wicksteed we will proceed pending securing the remainder of the funds and look to have this in place by March 2023.

093/22

The Draft Budget spreadsheet had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Main points of discussion and decisions were:

- WBC waste management contract expires at end of December 2022. As a result, they have been out to tender and awarded a new contract with a supplier starting in January 2023. All Clerks were given visibility of the old costs and the new costs of both dog bin emptying and litter bin emptying for comparison. At present, for 5 dog bins to be emptied we pay £130.55 per annum. With the new contract this will increase to £886.70 per annum. For the one litter bin we have emptied we currently pay £11.94 per annum and this will increase to £136.00 per annum. The Clerk sought prices from Triangle Management Ltd who are currently emptying the new litter bins at the Playground to add these to our contract and they have come back with a total cost for all bins (litter and dog) of £963.48 per annum as opposed to £1,298.70 (WBC + existing Triangle contract), saving us £335.22 per year. All members present **approved** to move all bin emptying to Triangle Management in January 2023 and for the Clerk to inform WBC of our decision to move at the start of the new year. It was considered vital to advise the residents of this change of contractor as we will no longer be able to report overflowing bins via the WBC 'report a problem' portal. This will be prepared by the Clerk and distributed widely.

- The Clerk has requested that as per her contract, East Ilsley Parish Council provide her with access to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) effective immediately. After a short discussion and a review of the cost and the effect on the budget moving forward it was **resolved** to provide the Clerk with a LGPS as per her contract and payments would begin as soon as we are able to set up the scheme with the Berkshire Pension Fund.
- There were no other comments or queries regarding the draft budget. It looks likely we will be requesting a precept increase of 18% to meet the proposed expenditure for the next financial year. The Clerk will make final edits in time for presentation at the next meeting in January where this will be formally signed off and the Precept for 2023 / 2024 agreed.

094/22

The Clerk updated the members present on the following:

- The Finance Report for October was shared prior to the meeting with all Councillors. It is also available on our website here: <https://www.eastilsley-pc.gov.uk/media/Reports/2022%20-%202023/Monthly%20Finance%20Reports/Finance%20Report%20-%20October%202022.pdf>
- The Clerk has made contact with Lockinge Estates about the poor condition of the barbed wire fence that separates the meadow from the pavement along the High Street, including the overgrown vegetation and nettles that are growing on to the pavement. We have been advised that this will be actioned soon (update: the repairs to the fence and the strimming of the nettles was carried out on Wednesday 9th November. An email of thanks will be sent). No news yet on the proposal for trimming the trees with a TPO attached that are growing around the overhead cables, the Clerk will chase up Lockinge.
- The new gate at the entrance to Prestwell Field was completed this week by I J Agricultural and Equestrian Fencing Ltd from Compton. The final cost was £883.20 and this will be paid for using the grant money in EMR's from DEFRA as it forms part of our land management. Thanks to Cllr. Robertson who assisted with this project.
- The Clerk met with Martin from TL Contracting along with Ian Wilson to discuss the pond and its drainage. TL Contracting confirmed that at no point was any clay dug up during the excavation. The silt that was excavated was processed prior to loading on to trucks for recycling and no clay was present. It was **agreed** that due to the abnormal weather we have experienced since the pond was excavated it has not had a chance to settle down (the heatwave this summer emptied reservoirs, let alone small village ponds!). The condition and behaviour would be monitored regularly by the Flood Warden and Council and a meeting with Martin would take place in 6 to 9 months' time to re-assess. It is hopeful that after a full year of seasons it might begin to assume usual characteristics.

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- There is Planning Enforcement Policy Training for Clerks and Councillors on 23rd and 30th November via Zoom. The Clerk requested Councillors sign up for one of the sessions.
- Most payments for the Courtesy Lights have been processed. Those houses who have changed owners have been sent a letter explaining the process and requested bank details so payment can be processed. One house has two lights attached under the scheme and has requested a payment for each light (£70 in total). After a short discussion it was agreed that payments were per house, not per light and for one light to be switched off if they wanted to.
- The Clerk received notification that the Pump and Well House by the pond has been submitted to the WBC Local Listing. We are not aware of the outcome of the recent meeting and no action is needed on our behalf but if approved, the well and pump will be listed as a heritage asset. Cllr. Browne advised that another pump can be found at the School House and the owners might be interested in registering it.

095/22 The future of the EIC (Parish Magazine) was discussed. The Clerk is unable to continue editing and distributing due to workload. Two members of public present at the meeting have agreed to look at whether a Christmas edition is possible for this year. The Clerk will meet with them on Zoom and look at getting something together in the next couple of weeks.

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

Signed:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Send the Parish Observation Forms for Montpelier House and Uplands to WBC Planning Team	Clerk	✓
2	Process all approved S137 Payments	Clerk	✓
3	Inform CJM Services of the decision to selection Option 2 for the footbridge repairs	Clerk	✓
4	Write to the Millennium Green Trustees about the pedestrian access by the A34 slip road and possible solutions to the safety concerns	Clerk <i>(MG Trust will discuss this in December)</i>	✓
5	Work on event planning for the Hurricane Swing	Clerk / All	✓

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6	Notify WBC of our intention to outsource the litter contract from January 2023 and to advise Triangle Management of their award of contract from January 2023.	Clerk	✓
7	Begin the process of setting up the LGPS for the Clerk	Clerk / MP	✓
8	Send thank you email to Lockinge for the new fence and chase up the tree issue	Clerk	✓
9	Pay IJ Fencing for the new gate at Prestwell Field	Clerk	✓
10	Set up Zoom with potential new editors of the EIC for a Christmas Issue	Clerk	