



East Ilsley Parish Council
Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 11th March 2025, 7.30pm, The Ilsleys Primary School
 Minute Ref: 110325

Members Present:	Cllr. Mike Pembroke (Chair), Cllr. Mark Browne, Cllr. Dominic Robertson, Cllr. Ted Shaw, Cllr. Ima Von Wenden, Cllr. Stephen Meadows, Cllr. Carlyne Culver (WBC)
Members Absent:	None
Officers Present:	Faye Bates (Clerk)
In Attendance:	21 Members of Public
Meeting Start Time:	19.30pm
Meeting End Time:	21.30pm

1. Cllr. Pembroke welcomed all to the meeting; quorum achieved.
2. There were no declarations of interest declared by any member present, nor the Clerk. There were no requests for dispensation.
3. To receive:
 - A. Questions or comments from members of the public:
 - Memorial bench at the pond: One bench needs to be moved to the other side of the pond to accommodate the memorial bench. This was approved. Once the new bench is in place, it will be added to the parish council asset register.
 - Picnic bench at the recreation ground: to be discussed at a later date.
 - B. Representations from any member who has declared a personal interest: no members declared a personal interest.
 - C. Cllr. Culver update was received, including:
 - WBC have held there budget meeting; council tax will rise.
 - Devolution of councils
 - Black bins will be collected every 3 weeks.
 - Compton sports hall is still available for the public to use.
 - 30MPH extended up to Sunrise Hill has been approved subject to public consultation
 - If you wish to be added to the WhatsApp folding group, please contact Cllr. Culver.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January were read and **approved** as a true and accurate record. Cllr. Pembroke signed a copy for the records.

5. The following was discussed:
- A. **Tree Maintenance:** Cllr. Browne presented a quote to the council for a tree health survey from Tactical Facilities Management. The quote was approved. Total Net £620.00, clerk to contact TFM to arrange.
 - B. **Grazing Agreement/policy for Prestwell Field:** The grazing agreement/policy was approved. One section needs including regarding animal welfare. Clerk to send out the new agreement from April.
 - C. **Review the external audit report:** The external report was read by the councillors and noted.
 - D. **Appoint Internal Auditor:** It was approved to appoint Heelis and Lodge for the internal audit for 2024/2025.
 - E. **Traffic management equipment:** Cllr. Robertson updated everyone on the data from the portable traffic management equipment. On Fidlers Lane, the maximum speed that was recorded was 119mph.
Also noted was an email from WBC to confirm the traffic management equipment on the Junction of Abingdon Road and Fidlers lane, and on Cow Lane are beyond economical repair. The signs will be removed for now, with the posts staying in place. There is currently no allocated WBC budget to replace these signs.
 - F. **Parish Council Noticeboard Maintenance:** One quote was presented to the council and approved, £217.00 exc VAT. Clerk to contact. This can be paid for from the CIL funds. It has also been noted that a MOP has been cleaning the noticeboard; the council would like to pass on their thanks for this.
 - G. **Approve the waste contractors for 25/26:** Two quotes were presented to the council. The quote by Tactical Facilities Management has been approved, £1,107.68 exc VAT per annum.
 - H. **Approve the grounds maintenance contract for 2025:** Two quotes were presented to the council. Clerk to make contact with current grounds maintenance company before any decision is made.
6. Updates were given regarding:
- A. **Defibrillator:** Dr Ward updated the council; the defib is now 8 years old, will need to be replaced next year. PC to budget for this approx. £1,200 in 26/27 budgt. The online governance site is free for one more year. A new battery has been ordered. If the defib is used before 26/27 budget, it will need to be replaced anyway.
Also mentioned, the telephone box where the defib is situated needs repainting, Cllr Pembroke has the paint and is hoping to complete this in the next few weeks. MOP offered to help with this.
 - B. **Common Field/Land:** The clerk reported that the letters to homeowners with rights to the field have started to be sent out. Cllr. Robertson to gain quotes for spraying the field to stop the Ragwort.
Advice from Natural England received so far regarding the field:
 - For Ragwort control, the HLS agreement permits repeated cuttings. There is some leniency in the prescription to agree on control methods with a Natural England Advisor. Depending on how bad the ragwort issue is I think we could agree for the use of chemical treatment. If you have any photos of the field you could send over, I could advise further.
 - Part 5 of your HLS agreement permits 1 Livestock Unit per Hectare. 6 horses are permissible, but a flock of sheep wouldn't be

- As long as the sward conditions are met, there is no limitation on what livestock should be used, but Cattle would be more appropriate to achieve the sward conditions listed in the indicators of success
- The HLS agreement does not allow for supplementary feeding. However, I think given the situation, we can make a case to the RPA to allow for feeding due to a lack of available feed for livestock. You would need to apply for a minor temporary adjustment from the RPA.

C. **Village Allotments:** The clerk reported that all the allotment invoices for 2024/2025 financial year have been paid. Invoices for 2025/2026 to be sent out in April/May.

An email from a MOP sent to the clerk has been noted regarding the condition of the allotments and the metal container. PLAN: It has been approved to order a skip. Cllr.

Robertson to gain quotes for fencing. Clerk to send out new allotment agreements. A MOP has offered to paint the container.

D. **Courtesy Light Payments:** The clerk reported that 8 payments have now been made and 4 are outstanding. Ongoing- some of the lights still need maintenance.

7. Planning:

- Manor Oak Homes Presentation regarding proposed planning application by William Main: Presentation noted, lots of questions and comments from MOP to William. A few points made were; the application is due to be submitted by the end of the week for 14 dwellings at Pen Meadow, of the 14, 8 will be affordable housing. All policies and Procedures have been followed in the planning by Manor Oak Homes.
- 25/00355/HOUSE THE PROPOSAL AND LOCATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT: Minor internal and external alterations, heat pump installation, removal of the 1988 rear extension, and replacement of the existing rear infill. Kennet House, Broad Street, East Ilsley, Newbury RG20 7LW . East Ilsley Parish Council: NO OBJECTIONS

8. To raise any matters for future Consideration and items for next agenda:

- Policies and Procedures for East Ilsley Parish Council
- Approve the asset register
- Community Grants (Cllr. Ima Von Wenden)

9. Clerks report:

Bank balances as of 10th March:

- Current Account: £13,996.92
- Instant Access: £10,210.96
- CIL Balance (Included in the current account balance): £2,539.94

The clerk reported invoices that were paid since the last meeting:

- Castle Water Bill £59.57 DD
- Clerk Wages x 2
- Clerk expenses £5.34 for noticeboard key and postage
- Compton Parish Council £69.00
- Google DD £6.00 x 2
- HMRC £367.00
- Bank charges £6.00 x 2

Initial:

- Lloyds bank card £6.00 x 2
 - Thomas Landscapes £540.00
 - Courtesy Light Payments x 8
- Payments to authorise, all approved:
- Clerk expenses £24.02 for ink
 - Scribe Accounts renewal £408.00
 - ICO £52.00

Interest rate change on the instant access account from 06.05.25 :
 Existing rate 2.50% / 2.52% Gross rate*/AER**
 New rate 2.25% / 2.27% Gross rate*/AER**

Lloyds bank account: Account closed as of 24th February 2025.

VAT Claim for 2023/2024: Ongoing

General updates and correspondence received:

- **WBC Soil conditioner giveaway:** We're teaming up with Veolia once again for a free-soil conditioner giveaway! Head to Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility (RG7 4JF) on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 March, 10am – 4pm, to collect some nutrient-rich soil conditioner for your garden.
 - **WBC Compostable food waste caddy liners:** From 3 – 31 March 2025, residents can collect a free roll of compostable food waste caddy liners (while stocks last) from:
 - All West Berkshire Council [Libraries](#)
 - West Berkshire [Council Office](#) (Market Street, Newbury)
 - Tilehurst Parish Council
 - **Bins:** Dog bins 1 and 2 are now being emptied weekly. Dog bin 2 is not broken, it just does not have a lid by design and is not actually a dog bin but a general waste bin that is being used as a dog bin. The bin at the gate to the recreation ground opposite the school is missing, clerk to get a quote to replace it.
10. Further questions or comments from the public:
- Easter egg hunt at the recreational ground on Easter Monday.
 - Prestwell field: MOP asked to remove some dangerous fencing in the small paddock; approved.
 - Road signage near the triangle: contact WBC highways team.

Cllr. Pembroke closed the meeting to members of the public at 21:15, he thanked all for attending.

11. Closed session for clerks' employment discussion: The current Clerk has resigned from the position.
 New clerk employment: it was approved to employ the new clerk at scale point 22 for 10 hours per week. The current clerk will stay on to give a handover for two weeks at 8 hours per week and 2 further weeks for 4 hours per week.

With there being no further business, Cllr. Pembroke thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 21:30.

Date of the next meeting: 13th May 2025

Initial:

Signed:

Position:

Date:

DRAFT

Initial: