



East Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Minute Ref: 014/19012021/PCM

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| Members Present: | Cllr. Andrew Sharp (Chairman), Cllr. Tracey Murray (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Brendan McGrath, Cllr. Stephen Meadows and Cllr. Mike Lewis |
| Members Absent: | None |
| Officers Present: | Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO) |
| In Attendance: | Cllr. Carlyne Culver, Nick Watkins (Flood Warden), Charlotte Grant (Highways Consultant), 3 members of public |
| Meeting Start Time: | 19.31pm |
| Meeting End Time: | 21.30pm |

1. Cllr. Sharp chaired the meeting; there were no apologies received and we are quorate.
2. It was **proposed** by Cllr. Lewis and **seconded** by Cllr. Murray to **co-opt** Mr Michael (Mike) Pembroke to the Council. All were in **favour** of this. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly **signed** and presented to the screen. The Clerk will collect this and the Register of Interests for the Monitoring Officer.
3. There were no declarations of interests declared.
4. There were no questions from the public or any representations made.
5. The minutes of the meeting dated 1st December 2020 were **agreed** as an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed when safe to do so.
6. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting dated 1st December 2020.
7. Cllr. Culver (District Councillor) gave an update on the following: The dog mess has increased along Abingdon Road; new stickers have been placed at various points to encourage people to pick up after their dog. It has also been increasing along the track by the stables. An additional bin would help in these areas but we would have to set up a contract with Triangle Management as WBC are no longer accepting new bin collections. We will post reminders on social media about responsible dog ownership. Ilsley Farm Barns planning application has been refused by WBC. The Vaccine roll out has begun at Newbury Racecourse with the over 80's being the first priority. Some residents have received letters regarding vaccines in Marlow which they can

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attend and a central record is kept so the surgeries will know who has had a vaccine. Cllr. Meadows asked where the second vaccine would take place if they sourced the first from Marlow and Cllr. Culver will seek this information for us. The Pfizer vaccine has a limited time once ready for use (2 to 3 days) so vaccine dates are planned carefully to ensure no wastage. There is no formal transport network in place to help people get to the racecourse, suggestions include family, friends, neighbours and the emergency response teams in the villages. It was advised that it must be made clear that transport from volunteers is being offered as a 'friend' rather than a 'service' due to insurance issues. Our Emergency Response Team will be updated on this and we will prepare a flyer advertising this along with warnings of scams. A reminder was given to complete the Local Plan consultation as there are questions on the revised planning framework which would last until 2037. The Clerk will re-send the link via email and post on the website and social media pages. Also, the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan has been extended for responses to the end of January and again, all are advised to contribute. Finally, a reminder that the Green Garden / Food waste bin collections have been temporarily suspended due to issues with Veolia collections and will start again at the beginning of February.

8. Draft responses on the Pirbright Institute Planning Application have been received from Charlotte Grant, our Highways Consultant, and shared with all Councillors. Charlotte gave an update of progress so far: there is a new case officer for the application (Lydia Mather) and the applicant was given an extension to the end of December for submitting other documentation. However, Flood / Drainage reports, ecology reports and viability work have not yet been submitted. It is important to get our final reports in to WBC as soon as possible so they can review our findings as issues like conservation and heritage have not yet been flagged up. The rejection of Ilsley Farm Barns will be looked through as we may be able to draw parallels with Pirbright and use in our own objection. Key points in our response is heritage, conservation, traffic and air quality, particularly the pinch point on Cow Lane. The new Compton Neighbourhood Plan will also be taken into account. All were in **favour** of Charlotte's plans to improve the report and she will begin to finalise the documents ready for submission.
9. The planning application for Yew Tree Cottage was **reviewed** and the owners joined us briefly to explain the essential repairs and revisions to the garage building. All were in **favour to support** the application and the Clerk will complete the Parish Observation Sheet and send back to the Planning Team.
10. The Budget Plan and Precept calculation were viewed via a shared screen and the cost of the pond maintenance was **discussed** in detail. Concerns were raised over the ongoing costs of looking after the pond and we will have to consider this level of work every 5/6 years. All expenditure items were **reviewed** and **agreed** that the proposed figures were suitable. It was **agreed** that £7,000 would be budgeted for work on the pond, with the hope that our CIL funding bid will be approved and the EIC issues would be taken down to 5 per year saving some money. The final budget was agreed as per the proposal and the Precept request for 2021/2022 would be £19,935.00, paid in two sums of £9,967.50 to cover our expenditure in the next financial year. All were in **favour**. The Clerk will complete the Precept Request form and send back to WBC.
11. Nick Watkins, our Flood Warden had circulated a report to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The 'Dashboard' from PVFF was monitored regularly and the village is assessed during heavy rainfall to check the flow and the condition of the pond. The CIL Funding Bid application was completed and submitted at the beginning of January. 56% of the total cost of the excavation project has been requested and a lot of work was put in on matching the bid with the policies from WBC. It was reviewed by Cllr. Culver prior to submission with her full support. It is hopeful that we receive the funding so work can start on the pond in the spring. Concerns were raised over where the silt that fills the pond actually comes from and looking at data it potentially runs off from farmland surrounding the village. We will look into contacting the NFU for any assistance but we will need to discuss the ongoing maintenance with polluters and will add to the

agenda for a future meeting. Communication with the whole village regarding the pond is essential.

12. Both the new Grievance Policy and the Disciplinary Procedure Policy sent via the County Associations were **approved** and all were in favour to **adopt** these.
13. It was **proposed** that we could use our remaining CIL money to provide assistance for the Wi-Fi upgrade at the Ilsleys Primary School. The Clerk has received confirmation from the CIL team at WBC that this was suitable use of the money. After debate and discussion it was **agreed** that there were potentially other avenues that FIPS / the school could investigate to provide this funding such as The Greenham Trust / Good Exchange / WBC Covid-Funds as we need to keep extra funds for the pond project.
14. Cllr. Murray will do a litter pick as part of outdoor exercise during lockdown to keep the verges tidy before the spring. It was agreed that during lockdown it would not be possible to recruit other volunteers at this time.
15. The Clerk had supplied all Councillors with the December and January finance reports. The VAT claim of £5,186.64 had been received on 4th January and our current VAT amount is at £3.000 and will be submitted at the end of the financial year as part of our year end process. The laptop purchased from John Lewis in April 2020 has been under the care of Dell Technical Support due to the 'black screen' issue, but they are unable to repair the machine due to components being made end of life. They have offered us a full refund and we will look to purchase a replacement. UPDATE: Dell advised on 20th January that a refund is not possible as it was purchased from John Lewis and not them directly. They have agreed to send a replacement machine, brand new and to the same size, weight and specification. This will arrive in 7 to 10 days. The Clerk would like to attend the virtual Practitioners Conference in February and all were in **favour**. East Ilsley will pay in full but will receive 50% of the cost (£37.50) from Aldworth Parish Council as contribution to the Clerk's professional development. An email has been received from West Ilsley requesting a donation towards the cricket nets. It was **agreed** that we were not in a position to provide support on this occasion but the Clerk will send information on sports grants that are available to help. A new grant opportunity of £200 towards a new defibrillator has been received but it was **agreed** that an additional one in the village was not required. Our Grounds Maintenance contract comes to an end in March 2020. The Clerk is in the process of obtaining a number of quotes and this will be presented to full Council at the meeting in March. A request has been received from a resident asking for repair work to be done on the footpath along the side of the recreation ground as it is very muddy and slippery. The footpath is WBC owned and managed so the Clerk will advise them of the issues and request repair / re-surfacing.
16. The Clerk asked Cllr. Mike Pembroke to think about what responsibilities he would like to take on now he is co-opted on to the Council and this will be agreed at the annual meeting in May.
17. There were no further questions or comments from members of the public and we were pleased to hear the over 80's at Hildesley Court were having their vaccinations and we wish them well.

With there being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.30pm.

| Actions from the Meeting: | | | |
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| | Description | Assigned to | Completed |
| 1 | New Councillor Forms from Cllr. Pembroke | Clerk | |
| 2 | Reminders of responsible dog ownership | Clerk | |
| 3 | Emergency Response Team potential assistance for transport to the racecourse for vaccinations update | Clerk | |

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| 4 | Complete the Local Plan and the Minerals and Waste Consultations | All Councillors | |
| 5 | Send Parish Observation Sheet to WBC Planning Team for Yew Tree Cottage | Clerk | |
| 6 | Add budget for 2021/2022 into Alpha Finance System and end the Precept Request form to WBC | Clerk | |
| 7 | Village and Landowner communications regarding the pond - future agenda item | Clerk / Nick Watkins | |
| 8 | Upload approved policies to the website | Clerk | |

Signed:

Date:

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