

East Ilsley Parish Council

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH Meeting

Held on Tuesday 28th May 2019 at 7:30pm

In The Ilsleys Primary School, Church Hill, East Ilsley

Minute Reference: 003/280519/APM

Those present: A Sharp (Acting Chair), B McGrath, S Meadows, C Culver (arrived 20.27), F Woods (Clerk)
Members of the public: 11 (including 4 presenters). The meeting started at 19:34.

1 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received but C Culver had advised that due to a WBC meeting she would arrive at approximately 20:30.

2 Any declarations of pecuniary interests by members or the Clerk

There were none.

3 To receive: Questions or comments from the Public and Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 14th May 2019 (minute ref: 001/140519) were read out, agreed and signed for the file by the Chair.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Council Meeting

An issue was raised as to whether a working party could be established to look after the pond.

6 Election of Chairman

Nobody presented themselves for this role. An advert has been placed in the two village pubs, on the website and via social media. We are hopeful someone will come forward soon. We will continue with an Acting Chair until this can be resolved.

7 Adult Social Care Presentation

Hazel Sopp and Ann Record delivered a talk on the challenges of supporting people who need adult social care in rural villages. This was an informative talk advising people of the steps to take when needing intervention and how to make your home easier to manage with accessibility gadgets and technology. Leaflets were left for the residents to take away with them. The Parish Council would like to thank Hazel and Ann for coming to this meeting.

8 'GreenFest' Presentation

Alisdair Cunningham introduced East Ilsley to the 'GreenFest' festival which is taking place on 7th September 2019 at Hampstead Norreys. This is a multi-village festival designed to get people involved with sustainability. The environment and re-using / repairing items rather than filling up land fill. There is a Facebook group you can join @greenfest and more information will be sent round to all the villages as the festival takes shape. The Parish Council would like to thank Alisdair for coming to the meeting.

9 Trust Fund / Grant Applications Presentation

Ali Allen spent some time explaining the history of the trust fund. Originally it was for a village hall to be built at East Ilsley and plays and concerts were put on and money was received. There were many questions over

where the hall could be built and eventually the idea was postponed. All the money raised was put into a charitable trust via stocks and shares and villagers can spend the income after approval from the trustees. Many areas benefit such as Educational / Health / All Ages / Fireworks / School Equipment / Jubilee / repairs of the war memorial / church clock tower. There is a diverse range of how this money can be spent so it is worth putting in an application for consideration. Poor interest rates have meant the last couple of years has not generated as much money, but people are welcome to apply. As they are a charitable trust, they can secure grants and funding that the Parish Council does not have access to, and Ali is willing to assist with this if the need arises. The Parish Council would like to thank Ali for coming to the meeting.

10 Playground Presentation

The old playground was demolished in January 2019 as it was dangerous. Quotations have been sought and prices were very high (up to 100K). If we were to replace like for like it is about £42K. Slightly smaller about £32K. Villagers have been asked what they would like via Facebook. Every playground has a 12-week lead time + and we want something fit for purpose in the village so it will not be ready by summer sadly, but we really need to understand what people really want first. Spring 2020 is when we would like it in place. Brendan is getting people to take photos of good playgrounds around our area and send them to him for ideas. Adult gym equipment, nets, basketball nets are other ideas submitted. There is a query over wood treatment and if it would rot. Wood is better than metal and guaranteed between 15 and 20 years. We really need the village input and how can we fund it and Ali will help with the applications for grants. A working group needs to be set up for the recreation ground, plan out what we ultimately want to do, and work out the funding vehicle. Thank you, Brendan, for all your work thus far on this project.

11 St Mary's Church

In the absence of any representative from the Church a report was read out by the Clerk. The focus was on the on-going repair and maintenance that is needed and how that money can be raised. The Church is part of the Green Token Scheme at Waitrose Newbury for the month of June so people will be encouraged to shop there which will help with supporting the funding. The Parish Council would like to thank St Mary's for submitting a report to this meeting.

12 Local Groups to address the meeting

Flood Warden

It is with regret that Steve Coleman has handed in his notice as our Flood Warden. The Parish Council would like to thank Steve for all his hard work and commitment to the program and we will action and follow up his recommendations. We are in the process of searching for a new Flood Warden and we hope for Steve to hand over to the new warden before the end of June. Steve gave a report that detailed the urgent need to investigate cleaning the pond, particularly removal of the silt and to thin out the reed beds which take up too much room. It is also vital to ensure that the river flows well and there are not any blockages so we will ensure that those residents who have this responsibility are actioning it.

13 Public Matters of Interest

Noise from the A34 – there was a plan to alleviate this noise about 40 years ago, but it keeps being shelved. There has been no update recently from the action group that were formed after the accident on the A34. However, quiet tarmac has been laid on some parts of the road near East Ilsley. Noise defectors scheme was questioned but it is understood that the science is there but no funding or willing. Kier have acknowledged that there are parts of the A34 that have issues and are at increased risk of accidents. A solution option list has been put together from Oxford to Newbury. Highways England are including this in their plans from 2022 but they are doing a cost benefit analysis to see what they do in what order. Do we now need to start writing letters? Are they doing what they say they will do? Sadly, our local MP's are stuck in Brexit negotiations, so this has not had priority. Thank you to Alisdair Cunningham for the additional information.

14 To Approve the Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement was prepared prior to the meeting by the Responsible Finance Office and presented to the Chair who duly signed and dated this document. The RFO will now complete the process for the audit and all agree.

15 The Approve the Accounting Statement and April and May 2019 Reports

The previous RFO had prepared an accounting statement and report which was read out and signed by the Chair as accurate and correct. The current RFO gave accounts of the income and expenditure for April 2019 and May 2019 (up to 28th May) and advised that May has yet to close so figures were not accurate. All in agreement and signed off.

16 Matters for future consideration

It was decided that the village does not have anywhere suitable to house a Scope donation box. The clerk will let the representative know of this decision. A cheque for the Sheep Fair was signed and handed to Ali Allen to share in the cost for a skip hire at this year's event.

17 Reports of Meetings Attended

Carolyn re-iterated her account from the previous meeting to the public (see minute ref: 001/140519). The issue of green waste wheelie bins was raised. Not everyone has taken up the £50 annual charge to have the council collect the green waste and now have redundant bins in their gardens. Carolyn advised that these could be repurposed into composters or water butts, but the council will take them away for you if you do not want to repurpose. It was suggested to do a Facebook ask and get them all removed at the same time.

18 AOB

Speed Indication Device Training is on 7th August and anyone is welcome to take up this training. Please contact the clerk if you wish to do so. It was suggested that we could look at increasing the speed limit further up Cow Lane to 30mph again, this had been done before, but the request was refused. We will look at trying again. If anyone sees cars going around the one-way system the wrong way, please report it to the non-emergency line as these are all recorded and can help us in our bid to seek improvement. The dog waste bins are very full now and are not being emptied. The clerk will investigate how to get more and to check the collection schedule.

The meeting closed at 21:34 and the Chairman would like to thank all the speakers and members of the public who joined us this evening.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 16th July 2019, 7.30pm at The Ilsleys Primary School.