

East Ilsley Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL Planning Meeting

Held on Monday 24th June 2019 at 7:30pm

In The Ilsleys Primary School, Church Hill, East Ilsley

Minute Reference: 004/240619/P

Those present: A Sharp (Acting Chair), B McGrath (arrived 20:49), S Meadows, C Culver, F Woods (Clerk)

Members of the public: 2. The meeting started at 19:32.

1 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received but B McGrath advised he would be arriving late due to travelling back from work.

2 Any declarations of pecuniary interests by members or the Clerk

There were none.

3 Planning Application

Ilsley Farm Barn, Sunrise Hill – Class B1 Proposal

The proposed planning application and all associated documents were displayed via screen and projector to all present at the meeting. The attendees were shown the existing site drawings and the proposed drawings along with the transport review. It was agreed and supported by all present that this was a good repurposing of the site which could present new job opportunities to the Village and potentially a boost in trade for our two public houses. Concerns were raised over the speed limit at Sunrise Hill (currently National Speed Limit 60 mph). It was agreed that we would push West Berkshire Council to reconsider moving the 30 mph zone up to the junction of this new development. There is a meeting in October 2019 at West Berkshire Council regarding speed limits in and around the area and a letter was sent from us in April to include this on their agenda (before the planning application was submitted). It is to be noted on the Parish Observation Sheet that we would continue to push for this increase of 30 mph zone as part of the planning application. The Clerk will complete the Parish Observation Form and submit via email on 25th June (deadline).

4 Grounds Maintenance

Brush Cutter Purchase

S Meadows has sourced a quote from Kalehurst for a 'Brush Cutter' and associated Health and Safety equipment for use in the Village to help maintain the footpaths and verges. It was recognised that this was not the cheapest option (the internet shows the same model for cheaper) but it was agreed to purchase from Kalehurst as they are a local company (Hermitage) and provide a 2 year warranty and some general training on how to use and maintain the tool. Queries were raised over how to fund it (£458.00) and whether we can use any 'earmarked reserves' to aid the purchase of this. The Clerk will send the Councillors the earmarked funds report and we will decide on how best to make this purchase. It will be kept in the lock up at the Allotments and will be available for use by anyone willing to offer their time. Due to liability and Health and Safety the Clerk will investigate a training schedule and waiver form so we are covered in case of any accidents. Hayley Starr used to do regular 'strimming' around the Village, but this seems to have stopped so we will recontact then for a quote as well. A query was raised over what we will do with the cuttings of the brush cutter and this will be discussed after purchase, but potentially it could be burnt on the allotments.

AD Clark Re-Quotation

It was discovered that as the Churchyard at St Mary's in East Ilsley is still officially open for burials, the Parish Council should not have been paying for this to be mowed by AD Clark all this time. The Clerk has arranged for this to cease with immediate effect and the Church are now fully responsible for maintaining this. As a result

of this a new quote from AD Clark needed to be sought which will just cover the Millennium Field and the Recreation Ground. Total cost for this is £249.60 per month until October. It was agreed unanimously to proceed with this, thus saving us £160.40 per month. The Clerk will instruct AD Clark to continue with this pricing structure.

Salt-Gritter

West Berkshire Council no longer fill and maintain the salt bins around the village. Ian Wilson has said a salt-gritter could be purchased for his tractor and he could run this through the village when needed. B McGrath was not present at the time of discussion so we could not get his input. We returned to this agenda item on B McGraths arrival and costs are unknown at present so we will put this on hold and discuss later in the year.

The Pond

Since the report from the outgoing Flood Warden on 28th May there is great concern regarding the maintenance of it, particularly with the heavy reliance on it when heavy rain does fall in halting any flooding in the village. There are several critical issues that need to be looked at. A Sharp has some old files with chemical interpretations that were prepared back in 2013 which will need to be re-done so we know how to dispose of reeds and silt from the pond. Clearing needs to be done on a regular basis to keep it free flowing and the reed beds are spreading. It was agreed that landowners which have gullies for the pond on their land need to be contacted and informed about the regular clearing and its critical state before we move into a new season. This is villagers as well as Beeswax Dyson. There is also a 'sump' on Haydons Lane which Beeswax Dyson dug to help with draining a field. This needs to be filled in as it could be considered a risk to life. We will contact West Berkshire Council and the Environment Agency to help with this.

5 Correspondence

EIC

The new Clerk did not know about the submission of a 'letter' from the Parish Council for the new edition of the EIC. C Culver re-sent the email that the Clerk had submitted previously to cover us. The Clerk will ensure this is done from now on and the Councillors have agreed to take turns to write a letter for each up coming edition. If any of them run out of time, then the Clerk will submit a general letter to help. The printer that was purchased for the printing of the EIC was constantly jamming and was deemed uneconomical for use. More recently, the Editor, Matthew Pembroke has been using the Print Room at West Berkshire Council to run this off for us. The Parish Council have yet to receive an invoice for any of the jobs they have done for us. Contact with them has repeatedly been made by the Editor but without success. The predicted cost of each issue to the Parish Council is circa. £150 which is much more favourable than working with the home printer. We will budget for £900 per year EIC costs moving forward and hope to receive some invoices soon. The printer is now an asset not being used, it was considered whether to donate to the School or the Church. The Clerk will find out who is more likely to use it (and can cover the costs of the toner cartridges) before clearing with the Council.

Asset Register

On publication of our annual accounts the Clerk received correspondence from a villager asking to see the Asset Register. We are obliged to do this (Freedom of Information Act) and it will be emailed as a PDF with the caveat that it will be reviewed at the 16th July meeting as some assets are no longer with us.

Wheelie Bin Stickers

We can purchase some wheelie bin stickers with 20 mph on them which we can give to villagers who live in those areas. The Clerk has sourced a company who can provide these in packs of 10. All were in favour of this. Before purchase, we need to identify who will receive these and check they are happy with this.

6 Matters Arising

Wild Meadows

C Culver met with the Head of Countryside at West Berkshire Council and they discussed possible locations for planting wildflower seeds. It was discussed that a trial on an unused allotment would be a good place to start. Seeds would be better than laying turf embedded with wildflowers as the spray used on the ground before the

turf can be laid may contain carcinogens (glyphosate i.e. 'Round-Up' is found to be carcinogenic). Any use of turf will be by West Berkshire Council on their own maintained verges and not by the Parish Council. C Culver will investigate costs of purchasing wildflower seeds. It was discussed that Pen Meadow was not looking its best and would be a nice place for a wildflower meadow. The Landowners would need to be consulted first before anything progresses with this.

Facebook Page for Parish Council

Since 1st May 2019 the Clerk has been posting Parish Council related business (news, events and alerts) on Facebook via the closed group for East Ilsley. A poll was asked in this group if they would prefer a separate Parish Council page or whether they wanted to see these posts in the closed group. 39 voted for a new page and 9 voted not. It was agreed that a separate Facebook page would go live this week. The page is created but will now be promoted and this will be a good place to advertise all Council business.

Compilations (Aug / September Issue)

C Culver has agreed to submit a letter for Compilations (deadline 18th July).

6 Any other matters arising

Bank Authorisations

To aid A Sharp and B McGrath it was decided that S Meadows and C Culver would be made authorised signatories for the Unity Bank Account. The Clerk will complete the necessary document and seek their signatures in due course.

7 Any further questions from members of the Public

Ali Allen will ask if we could use the photocopier machines at the Downs School (instead of the Print Room at West Berkshire Council for the EIC. She will investigate the costs and let us know.

Meeting closed at 21:00

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th July 7.30pm at The Ilsleys School Hall

Signed: (Chairman)

Dated: