

East Ilsley Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL Planning Meeting

Held on Tuesday 27th August 2019 at 7:30pm

In The Swan Pub, High Street, East Ilsley

Minute Reference: 006/270819/P

Those present: A Sharp (Acting Chair), S Meadows, C Culver, T Murray, F Woods (Clerk)
Members of the public: 6. The meeting started at 19:32.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from B McGrath who is away on holiday. We are quorate.

2 Any declarations of pecuniary interests by members or the Clerk

There were none.

3 Planning Application

New Gallop for Geoffrey Deacon Training – Churn Road, Compton

The Clerk gave a brief synopsis of the 101 page Vision and Design document to those present at the meeting. A query was raised as to whether this proposed gallop was in the right place for the horses. Currently there is a turf gallop which is in excellent condition and good for the horses. Due to the location of the proposed gallop there was concern about the overall length and the sharp right hand turn at the end of the downhill section. Horses should not be pulled up on a downhill run as this can cause injury.

It was proposed that a better location for this gallop is the other side of the track in the corn field which allows them a better shaped gallop and is slightly nearer to the stables.

It was noted that within a 'ride' away (i.e. on horse) are excellent fibre-sand and an all-weather gallop which begs the question 'why install a new one'. This would not cause any distress to the horses as they would not have to be loaded on to a lorry or result in CO₂ emissions through transporting them to another location.

It was advised that the proposed gallop would be made of carpet with foam backing that is not environmentally friendly as this will be kicked up by the horses' hooves and would transfer on to the Ridgeway and in the turf gallop next to it. There are issues with maintenance and how this can be looked after; this was not explained in the vision document. Also, what would they do with it once it was not used any more. We would be left with a trail of carpet that is not biodegradable along the Ridgeway. Alternative materials such as fibre-sand can have a layer of topsoil and grass seeds added which will grow and hide what used to be there.

We were advised that there is another carpet gallop nearby which we could view, and it is important to note that this does not lie flat with the ground, rather it is raised about 20cm from the ground. This would have an impact on the fact it is situated in an AONB.

The council held a vote of all present councillors and it was unanimously agreed to 'object' to this application on the Parish Observation Form. The reasons given were:

- a) Safety of both Jockey's and Horses (the sharp right-hand bend and the downhill pull up)
- b) Materials to be used (non-biodegradable materials that don't fit in an AONB)
- c) Environmental Impact in an AONB
- d) The fact there are alternative locations nearby
- e) Long term maintenance and future damage if not maintained.

A Sharp completed the Parish Observation Form, and this will be scanned and sent to WBC by the Clerk on 28th August 2019.

It was also noted that the orange sign was not seen anywhere near the proposed site. C Culver will check this with WBC as to its location.

4 Correspondence

Rural Payments Agency

The Clerk has received a scan of a letter sent to the Parish Council from the Rural Payments Agency concerning the payment of the Countryside Stewardship and the Environmental Stewardship Grants. This letter was sent to the address of the previous clerk. The current clerk has been in contact with the Rural Payments Agency since May 2019 in order to get all records transferred to the new address but this one is proving challenging. The Clerk will continue to chase them for record updating to ensure future documents go to the right place. The letter was informing us that from now on the payment of the grant will be paid to us in one lump sum rather than the various amounts we get throughout the year. No further action needed on this as our bank details are correct, but the Clerk will continue to attempt the address change.

5 Matters Arising

C Culver has submitted the application for the wildflowers, community orchard and disaster recovery plan match funding to WBC. Will await a decision as to if we receive the money. The disaster recovery kit works well with the Community Emergency Plan and after the summer holidays this will be set up along with village stakeholders. There are concerns about ensuring extra security on the storage container is in place before the new kit arrives. A new padlock with keys given to key people is a priority. It was suggested that perhaps a separate 'cage' could be installed in the container as an extra layer of protection for this new kit.

Harvest has now happened, and the village is swathed in 'straw'. The Clerk will call 'StreetCare' to find out when they will be along to sweep it all up.

6 Any further questions from members of the Public Pond

This coming Saturday the reeds will be pulled out. The Pond Team are still in discussion about how to get rid of the soil. It is important to ensure the stream through football field is to be kept clear so there is free-slow should the heavy rains come.

Community Emergency Plan – do we have a list of 'vulnerable residents' who would need assistance in an emergency? No, we do not but when we come to write the plan with the village stakeholders then we will work with the various agencies on identifying them and ensuring there is a plan to help them should an emergency be declared. We do have to be aware of GDPR and this will be looked at when compiling the plan.

An old BT line has been replaced between the High Street and Pond as there was an intermittent fault. Neither the Clerk nor residents were informed that this was going to happen. We should add a question to the next issue of the EIC to find out if anyone has any issues with their phone lines. The Clerk will find out if there a contact for BT via WBC.

Meeting closed at 20:17

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th September at 7.30pm at The Ilsleys School Hall

Signed: (Chairman)

Dated: