

East Ilsley Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL Meeting

Held on Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 7:30pm

In The Ilsleys Primary School, Church Hill, East Ilsley

Minute Reference: 007/170919/PCM

Those present: A Sharp (Acting Chair), S Meadows, C Culver, B McGrath, T Murray, F Woods (Clerk)

Members of the public: 17

The meeting started at 19:31

1 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received, and we are quorate.

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

The Ilsley Farm Barns planning application was raised, and it was asked as to why the Parish Council continued to support the application when so many people objected? A Sharp explained that we had to decide based on the changes made to the application and that these changes related to the initial worries and concern. It was decided that these had been addressed, thus we continued to support the proposal. Villagers were concerned that their views (those in the room) were not considered before we submitted our final parish observation sheet. This was difficult to quantify as there are over 400 villagers and not everyone spoke up about it. The proposal has currently been withdrawn and we await to hear what the next move will be.

4 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 16th July 2019 were read and signed as a true and accurate representation.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Council Meeting

There were no matters raised.

6 Election of a new Councillor

Francesca Wilkins would like to stand as Councillor on the Parish Council. Francesca was proposed by S Meadows and seconded by T Murray. Francesca is now a member of the Parish Council and will be referred to in the minutes henceforth as F Wilkins.

7 Manor Oak Homes – A presentation by William Main

History: 3 or 4 years ago a plan was proposed for 10 houses to be built on the site of which 40% would be termed 'affordable'. Initially there was Parish Council support but was refused by WBC. A second application was made but this time there was no support from the Parish Council and WBC refused again as they were within their 5 year housing supply.

Under the new Planning Policy Framework, they would now be looking at a purely affordable housing scheme featuring 2/3/4 bedroom houses. They would want to canvas the whole village for their thoughts and needs. No plans have been drawn up yet, it is still in the very early thought process stage. It is possible an exhibition in the School could be held showing people what it could look like. They would look at partnering with a Housing Association who would rent them out or offer shared ownership options. They do not have anyone in mind, but we mentioned that we have worked with English Rural Housing in another development. The site is outside the Parish Boundaries so they would need agreement from the village / parish council to get past the first hurdle. To progress any further, they would need to demonstrate there is a housing need in East Ilsley.

Swimbrels, Newbury Hill, Hampstead Norreys, Berkshire, RG18 0TR
07912 565665 clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Lockinge Trust own the land and their goal is to build social housing. The proposed field is part of conservation / AONB / historic Sheep Fayre location with listed trees and preservation orders. There are covenants to protect connections with the village (a 106 agreement). Offer of affordable housing would go first to residents of East Ilsley and then it would widen to the parish and widen further to other parishes. A Housing needs survey should help to ascertain the need. There is no Neighbourhood Plan in East Ilsley – which could give us protection.

Meeting suspended for questions 20:03

Queries were raised over the clarification of being outside the settlement boundary.

Why is this a good site? Lockinge own it (near to us - Wantage), it is in the middle of the village, there is a lack of affordable housing, the air quality survey came back fine. Previously, there was an issue over the capacity in the system for Thames Water and being in the Chiltern Hills AONB.

Would it be affordable / Low Cost Housing only? Was any data available on how many locals can get a placement in the village? There is none at present.

2014 – Housing needs survey – is housing stock adequate? Where are the gaps in the property market in EI? Could Lockinge contribute towards helping with the costs of putting out a housing needs survey? Manor Oak Homes would do the Thames Water survey. Timescales for responses – after the housing needs survey we can sit down and put down what people need / want and take peoples comments. 3 to 6 months.

(Clerk note: this was quite a difficult section to minute accurately. The section above covers the questions raised but answers were difficult to respond to, due to lack of data.)

The meeting was re-started at 20:16 and the Chairman thanks William for taking the time to speak with us and we will be back in touch once he has talked to Lockinge Estates further.

8 Speed Awareness Update

We have 6 villagers who stepped up to do the SID training with WBC. They will now be looking at the proposed sites around the village for deployment of the SID and will gather evidence as to whether there is a speed issue in the village. Their purpose is to collect data and educate drivers of these issues. The next stage – Graham from WBC will come to the village and look at the criteria regarding signage and select sites that can be used for this data collecting. The Speed Team can choose when they do this and pick peak times that are regular (i.e. not during half term). There will be further training later if others want to join the team. High volume areas (such as Sunrise Hill) will be looked at and the data gathered. A Sharp thanked Mike Lewis and all the team for committing to helping with this issue and we look forward to further updates.

9 Playground Update and Fund Raising

Our playground has been out of use since end of January 2019 and we are looking to move forward with a direct replacement for a £45K investment. We now need to look at how we can fund this. We would like a group of volunteers to help us to get funding. B McGrath has completed a site visit in Crowmarsh, it is a £250K site – the parish council paid £39K and they fundraised for the rest. We need someone who wants to do these applications to help us get the grants and fund raising. Greenham Common Trust could help and East Ilsley Trust Fund – we can use them to access funds the Parish Council cannot. Option of using the Tesco / Waitrose token schemes. A task force is needed from the village to help us get the money we need. Ideally, we would like a grand opening in Summer 2020 so we will advertise these roles and put together a team to help us get there.

10 Pond Update

We are in desperate need of a Flood Warden! Sadly, the person we thought might take the role is not able to do it although they can help with clearing the pond. We must re-advertise to get someone to hand over properly from Steve Coleman. The pond is too silted and non-operational. Clear paths are needed and by the bridge at the Old Rectory. Our plan is to clear silt and reeds, but we have no plans in place yet on how get rid of the waste. Will WBC help with payments? CC will check. Can farmers to dispose of the mud? Link to Pang Valley Flood Alleviation is vital to keep it working as it should. We could try and seek advice from other body of water holders. Clerk will investigate this. We have received a letter from Jack French re his services for groundworks and this will be kept on file as may be useful when we start working on the pond.

11 Dog Bins (new and emptying schedule)

The clerk has been informed by WBC what the emptying schedule is for the five bins in East Ilsley. If we want another bin, we need to purchase it ourselves and arrange for another company to remove the waste as they are at maximum capacity. The clerk has a company called Triangle to obtain a quote from. More information will be gathered and shared at the next meeting to make an informed decision.

12 Salt Bins

C Culver will find out where we stand with this at WBC. There were queries over the insurance and liability over the use of the salt and who supplies it. A very grey area but this will be investigated, and a plan put into place before the winter. There is concern over the safety of residents, children, parents and the school walking up the hill in icy conditions.

13 Funding for Wildflowers and Community Orchard

C Culver has applied for money from WBC for a community orchard and wildflowers. A man from the Countryside Department came out to the village and identified that the verge opposite Sunrise Hill would be a good place and along Fidlers lane. All agreed for the verge to be done. Hayley Simmons knows someone who can help advise us on the orchard and WBC Countryside Team can help as well. More updates to follow at the next meeting.

14 Parish Council Insurance Renewal

The clerk has received the renewal quotes from Came and Company and they have offered 3 that would suit our needs. All councillors were in favour and the council have decided to go with 'Inspire' on a 3 year deal resulting in a reduced rate of £689.03. The clerk will action all paperwork and payments necessary, so it is in place for the renewal date on 1st October 2019.

15 Clerk's Financials

The clerk read out the financial reports for July and August 2019. September is not completed yet. We had a relatively quiet month in July and in August some annual subscriptions were paid making it a larger month than usual. Both accounts are looking healthy. The clerk has noted that we are in credit for our Allotment water and so for the second month in a row there is nothing to pay via monthly direct debit.

NALC have issued new Financial Regulations for 2019. Prior to this meeting the Clerk has made the revisions requested and circulated to all councillors. This was accepted and agreed by all councillors and these will be put on the website along with our standing orders.

16 Matters for future consideration & correspondence

- 1) District Parish Conference – 22nd October 2019 at 6pm. The clerk will be accompanied by T Murray and F Wilkins. The clerk will book the free tickets for them and report back at the next meeting.
- 2) The Good Exchange – an email has been received asking for us to complete a Direct Debit Mandate due to a new way of collecting platform service fees. The clerk will make the necessary changes.
- 3) The North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust have requested a donation of £75 to support the AONB. The Parish Council have declined to participate with this request and the clerk will notify them of the decision.
- 4) Land adjacent to 11A Churchside – an email has been received regarding the purchase of land. This is a historical case and one that requires some background research. The clerk will work with Mr Szebeni to move this forward and it will be reported on at a later meeting.
- 5) New Gallop – we were shown examples of the material that would be used to build the gallop on Churn Road. An additional question was asked regarding how it would decompose should that area no longer be a gallop. Geoffrey Deacon Training will seek an answer and get back to us. Compton Parish Council have still not met regarding this. All councillors agreed we would not re-submit our Parish Observation Sheet until we have heard back from Compton. The clerk will email Planning to advise them of this.

17 Reports of meetings attended.

There were none.

18 Further questions or comments from the public

Some more questions were raised regarding Manor Oak Homes and what they can offer the village. Could we form an East Ilsley Housing Association to manage who gets to live in these affordable homes? It could be an interesting option to keep villagers in the village and to keep it thriving.

The meeting closed at 21:38 and the Chairman would like to thank everyone who joined us this evening.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th November 2019, 7.30pm at The Ilsleys Primary School.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

DRAFT