

East Ilsley Parish Council

MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL Meeting

Held on Tuesday 24th March 2020 at 7:30pm

Via Google Meet

Minute Reference: 011/24032020/EPCM

Those online: A Sharp (Acting Chair), S Meadows, T Murray, B McGrath, F Wilkins, F Woods (Clerk)

Others online: 1

The virtual meeting started at 19:34

1 Apologies for absence

AS welcomed us all online, we are quorate and no apologies were received.

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

None received.

4 To discuss the completion of the Parish Questionnaire and the Parish Settlement Boundary

The Clerk had received a request from WBC to submit a Parish Questionnaire and Settlement Boundary review by 27th March 2020. Due to the Covid-19 lockdown we were unable to meet in person so in these extraordinary times it was agreed that on this occasion we would complete this online together so we could meet the target submission date. The Clerk had asked WBC for an extension but were advised that work in the Council continues as normally as it can.

The Clerk had produced a first draft of the questionnaire and this was 'presented' via her screen so all present on the video call could see it. Time was spent going through each question and ensuring all answers were covered, agreed and amended as necessary. This was a relatively swift process and the Clerk will submit the questionnaire on Wednesday 25th March 2020 via email.

The Clerk then 'presented' to those online the Parish Settlement Boundary map and a short discussion was held as to whether we kept the boundary as it was or to consider adding Pen Meadow into the boundary. It was discussed how if it came into our settlement then anyone could develop on it, but, if we kept it just outside, we can work with developers about what is needed much easier. All present on the call were happy to keep the settlement boundary where it was and continue to work with Manor Oak Homes with the Housing Needs survey to identify types of houses needed in the village. The Clerk will submit this to WBC with the Parish Questionnaire.

5 Update on the Corona Virus Outbreak

The village have an Emergency Response Team set up via a WhatsApp group. A few calls have been received and jobs allocated. With lockdown now in place there was concern that this could be more difficult but "helping the vulnerable" is permitted under lockdown rules for now.

It was proposed that the Emergency Response Team could have their own Virtual meeting if the situation changes and the Clerk will set this up for them.

We have registered with WBC community hub and will work with them to provide a service to the vulnerable groups.

It was highlighted the importance of supporting the local shops as they have a good supply chain, it will help to keep them in business and a safer distance for people to travel to. A list of all these services will be drafted by the Clerk and posted to the website and social media platforms.

The Clerk is working with the Downland Practice for medicine deliveries. 8 volunteers from the Emergency Response Team have identified themselves as available to assist with this. Residents in the village need to give permission for them to collect and a form has been added to Facebook and the website for people to complete.

The Clerk will prepare an ID card / Letter of permission for each Emergency Responder so they can identify themselves to help avoid scammers / lockdown rules / issues with being out and about. We will review how this situation evolves as to whether we offer any financial support / care packages from our own reserves and have a contingency plan in place should the situation change over the coming weeks. Carolyne Culver will continue to share anything from WBC that she is allowed to make public.

6 Playground Update

The playground in East Ilsley is now closed due to infection transmission risk of the hard surfaces and the lockdown. A poster has been put on the gate and this is on our website and FB page. B McGrath continues working with the team on applying for grants but not getting very far. A list will be drawn up of all the grants applied for and how far they have got and this can be added to as more money is made available. The Good Exchange will be applied to again for money as there was a concern they could not help both the church and the playground at the same time. This appears to not be the case so will apply again to them. A DIY playground was decided as non-compliant for insurance, heights, gaps and safety in general so the purchases of kit will be made to the large companies who specialise in this equipment. We have £20,350 in Earmarked reserves made up of £15,000 contribution from the Parish Council and the balance from the insurance claim for the train. Those present did not want to spend that without doubling it through match funding and continuing to work on building up that pot of money. Work will continue on grant applications whilst we are on lockdown but realistically, the grand opening in July will not happen now.

7 Business in General

Flood: Some items of flood kit has been ordered but no news yet on delivery timescales. Issues with invoicing from some companies and paying via BACS so a 'Trade Card' has been applied for which can be used at Screwfix / B&Q / Plumb Base etc. As soon as that arrives more purchases can be made. Jerry Cans are vital to be able to transport fuel for the generators so will be added to the Trade Card account when this comes in. It was agreed to not promote the equipment as available to avoid any theft from the container but it will be available to help the village out. Security cameras was an expense we want to avoid at the moment.

Pond: We had hoped to use Carolyne's WBC grant fund to help with clearing out the pond but this is for capital expenditure projects only. Stuart Clarke has sent some names of companies who can help and the Clerk will follow these up to get costings.

WBC Grant: Deadline for applications is middle of May. West Ilsley need a new floor in the village hall but there will be money spare. We could get some playground kit (but we would need to know exactly what we want and have a quotation) or we can get the Clerk a new laptop as the current only is on its last legs.

8 Further Questions from the Public

There were none.

The virtual meeting closed at 20:4 and another virtual meeting will be hosted when it is needed.

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Chair

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Date