



**East Ilsley Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 7.30pm, The Ilsleys Primary School**

Minute Ref: 140125

<b>Members Present:</b>	Cllr. Mike Pembroke (Chair), Cllr. Mark Browne, Cllr. Dominic Robertson, Cllr. Ted Shaw.
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Cllr. Ima Von Wenden, Cllr. Stephen Meadows, Cllr. Carlyne Culver (WBC).
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Faye Bates (Clerk)
<b>In Attendance:</b>	10 Members of Public
<b>Meeting Start Time:</b>	19.30pm
<b>Meeting End Time:</b>	21.05pm

1. Cllr. Pembroke welcomed all to the meeting. Cllr. Von Wenden, Cllr. Meadows and Cllr. Culver (WBC) sent apologies; quorum achieved.
2. There were no declarations of interest declared by any member present, nor the Clerk. There were no requests for dispensation.
3. To receive:
  - A. Questions or comments from members of the public:
    - Decorations at the pond- A MOP raised the question of the PC donating some money towards the Christmas decorations at the pond. The clerk informed the council that at the last meeting a £35.00 payment was approved, clerk to make the payment.
    - Ditches near the pond- A MOP informed the council that the ditches near the pond are not clear so the water level is rising. Clerk to speak with Cllr. Culver and draft a joint letter to Dyson Farm to ask if they can clear the ditches as residents have raised concern.
    - Trees- MOP informed the PC that a tree by the pond needs pollarding. Cllr. Browne informed the resident that this will be covered in the meeting with the tree policy. A resident asked if any wood chippings or logs can be donated within the village, Cllr. Browne informed the resident that in the tree policy the redistribution of logs is covered.
  - B. Representations from any member who has declared a personal interest: no members declared a personal interest.
  - C. Cllr. Culver emailed an update, read out by Cllr. Pembroke:
    - Member's community bid deadline is 17<sup>th</sup> January – extended from 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

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- The government's announcement for so called 'devolution' landed before Christmas. The government wants small unitary authorities like WBC to amalgamate so that they serve at least 500,000 residents. WBC currently serves approx. 180,000. The government also want to introduce more mayors, which would represent areas with at least 1.5m residents. I am awaiting a briefing from the CEO on Thursday to find out more about the council leadership's thinking about how to respond to this. I expect things are moving pretty fast behind the scenes. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper>
  - In the past 24 hours groundwater has started to be pumped by at least one house in the village. We have been on 'flood alert' for approx. one week which means flooding of roads and fields is possible, and the gauges dotted around the Downs areas indicate that we are getting close to a 'flood warning' which means flooding of houses is expected. I am your flood warden so if you need advice let me know, we have a what's app group for residents who have been affected in the past so that we can communicate quickly and collectively. Ted is on that group.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were read and **approved** as a true and accurate record. Cllr. Pembroke signed a copy for the records.
  5. To approve the final budget of 2024/2025 and approve the precept request for 2025/2026. Clerk presented the budget to date and a discussion was held regarding the precept. It was approved to set the precept at £23,000 for the next financial year, it was agreed that this was required to keep the parish councils finances secure. Clerk to submit request to WBC.
  6. The following was discussed:
    - A. **Tree Maintenance Policy:** Cllr. Browne presented to the PC a tree policy. It was approved to adopt the policy. PC to obtain quotes for a tree survey. Clerk to upload the policy to the website.
    - B. **Speeding Device:** The device is back with East Isley PC, it is currently installed on Fiddlers Lane. Cllr. Robertson updates were that he is still liaising with WBC on a chicane on Abingdon Road. Also the extension of the 30mph limit on Cow Lane to Sunrise Hill is being reviewed by WBC in February.
    - C. **FLOODRE:** Cllr. Shaw informed all present of the Flood Re scheme. Flood Re is a joint initiative between the Government and insurers. Its aim is to make the flood cover part of household insurance policies more affordable. Details can be found at <https://www.floodre.co.uk/>
    - D. **Village Defibrillator:** Dr. Ward informed the PC that the current defibrillator support scheme is coming to an end in April, also advised that the pads need changing yearly and the battery every 4 years. It was approved to pay for a four year scheme at £540.00 +VAT. The PC thanked Dr. Ward for managing the defibrillator.
  7. Updates were given regarding:
    - A. **Tennis Courts:** The clerk updated; the action of the last meeting was to contact the owner of the tennis courts, clerk emailed owner. There has not yet been a response, however, it was deemed that this is not a PC responsibility.
    - B. **Common Field/Land:** The clerk informed the council that after numerous requests to the shepherd to move the sheep, the sheep are still in the field. The sheep are under no agreement with the PC to be in the field. Cllr. Robertson has agreed to speak with the shepherd. If the sheep are not moved then a 14 day eviction notice will be put on the gate.

Going forward all requests for animals to be put in the field should come through the clerk who will then raise the request at the parish council meeting. Once the sheep have been moved, a new lock will be installed on the gate.

Also discussed was the damaged fencing of a paddock within the field, Cllr. Robertson to obtain quotes for a new fence.

Any monies received for the field (Defra grants etc) and funds spent, will now be recorded on a separate spreadsheet for transparency.

- C. **Village Allotments:** The water meter reading for the allotments is required, however, the location of the meter is unknown. Clerk to make contact with Castle Water for advice on where to locate the meter.
- D. **Courtesy Light Payments:** Due to Cllr. Meadows absence from the meeting this item has been deferred to the next meeting to discuss the maintenance. The clerk informed that the courtesy light payments will be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- E. **Parish Council Noticeboard:** Due to Cllr. Meadows absence this item has been deferred to the next meeting.

8. Planning: No new planning applications or updates to report.

9. To raise any matters for future Consideration and items for next agenda:

- A. Parish council noticeboard maintenance
- B. Courtesy light maintenance
- C. Internal Auditor

10. Clerks report:

Bank balances as of 14<sup>th</sup> January:

The clerk reported invoices that were paid since the last meeting:

- Castle Water Bill £52.14 DD
- Clerk Wages
- Clerk expenses £55.25 for ink and postage
- Compton Parish Council £69.00
- A.D Clark £374.58 x 2 for July 2024 and August 2024. 1 x from April 2023, £343.67
- Bank charges £6.00
- Lloyds bank card £3.00

Payments to authorise:

- Clerk expenses £5.34 for postage and key for noticeboard
- Thomas Landscapes £540.00
- Clerk wages

Interest rate change on the instant access account from 18.02.25 :

Existing rate 2.60% / 2.63% Gross rate\*/AER\*\*

New rate 2.50% / 2.52% Gross rate\*/AER\*\*

Lloyds bank card: This was previously setup so the clerk could purchase items for the council, it has been decided this is no longer required. Approved for the clerk to cancel the card and monthly fee.

General updates and correspondence received:

- The clerk has training with Scribe, the finance software used by the parish council on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

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- Dog bins: The clerk informed the PC that 2 dog waste bins are emptied monthly whereas all other dog waste bins are emptied weekly. The clerk has been told that the two bins that are emptied monthly often over fill. It was approved to request for these bins to be emptied weekly. Also, one dog waste bin between the playground and the Millennium Green is damaged, clerk to order new bin. Clerk to speak with waste contractor.

11. Further questions or comments from the public:

With there being no further business, Cllr. Pembroke thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 21:05.

Date of the next meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Signed: .....

Position:

Date:

DRAFT