



East Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th March 2023, 7.30pm, The Ilsleys Primary School

Minute Ref: 010/140323/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Mike Pembroke, Cllr. Mark Browne, Cllr. Dominic Robertson, Cllr, Stephen Meadows, Cllr. Andrew Sharp
Members Absent:	Cllr. Nick Watkins
Officers Present:	Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO) Cllr. Carolyne Culver (District Councillor)
In Attendance:	2 Members of Public
Meeting Start Time:	19.30pm
Meeting End Time:	20.55pm

- 115/23 Cllr. Pembroke welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were **received** and **accepted** from Cllr. Watkins.
- 116/23 There were no declarations of interest declared by any member present, nor the Clerk. There were no requests for dispensation.
- 117/23 There were no questions from the members of public present about any items on the agenda, nor were there any representations made.
- 118/23 The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023 were read and **approved** as a true and accurate record. Cllr. Pembroke signed a copy for the records.
- 119/23 There were no matters arising from the minutes but it was **agreed** to send a letter of thanks to Dr. Rachel for her assistance with the Defibrillator session from the Council. Cllr. Browne suggested that we should look at how these sessions can be

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built upon with the possibility of holding basic first aid sessions for East Ilsley, West Ilsley and Compton villages.

120/23

Cllr. Carolyn Culver provided a report to the Council, summarised below:

- Annual budget meetings at West Berkshire Council have been taking place and they have secured funding for trees, the watering of trees during the summer months, and safer streets for schools including traffic and pollution.
- A reminder was given that everyone wanting to vote on 4th May 2023 must bring with them a valid photo ID before a ballot paper will be issued. This is now a legal requirement.
- There is a Full Council meeting coming up at WBC and CC will put forward a motion to thank everyone for the last four years of work.
- We are still waiting for the pothole on the High Street to be fixed and this will be chased.
- A letter has been received from Thames Water regarding the road closure recently that no one knew about. They have stated that they did receive approval for closing the road, but West Berkshire Council have advised that no permission was given so we are not at the bottom of that yet.
- Thames Valley Police will be taking questions via West Berkshire Council and CC asked if there was anything we wanted to ask. It was suggested that we would like to know when they might be returning to the village to monitor the speeding, particularly along Abingdon Road when you come into the Village from the A34 slip road. It was noted that our SID was on order and that once it was up and running we would be able to gather data as evidence for the Police about the issues we are dealing with.
- The fly tipping on the road leading to the Ridgeway has still not been cleared and will be chased again.
- CC updated us on the WhatsApp group messages that made the local news regarding comments made by Conservative Councillors about Green Party Councillors that were threatening and violent. These were leaked to the press and the story has just come out. There has been no further comments from the Leader of the Council despite requests from TVP to discuss it further.

121/23

Due to CC needing to leave the meeting shortly, Cllr. Pembroke allowed item 14 on the agenda to be brought forward for discussion before CC left the meeting. Cllr. Meadows would like to look into the possibility of having some village bee hives. They could be placed in the common field, with a link up to the local primary school and there is a lot of funding available to support schemes like this. We already have a bee keeper living in the village who can assist with the initial set up. As this is not a specific agenda item (only a matter for future consideration) no decisions could be made in this meeting but some initial thoughts are summarised below:

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- As the common field is under the Environmental Stewardship programme with DEFRA it is highly likely that some sort of permission would need to be sought to use any part of the land for the hives. It is possible that the introduction of hives could upset the habit there presently, and we would need to consider the horses and sheep that graze on the land.
- As this would be on the walking route to school for some children we would need to consider any allergies to bees / stings etc.
- The actual goal / objective of this project would need to be clearly defined and this is not something that can be done at this meeting so it was agreed to add this to the May agenda for proper consideration.

Cllr. Meadows was thanked for his ideas and the Clerk will add Village Beehives to the May agenda.

- 122/23 It was **agreed** to award a £200.00 s137 grant to the Oxford Wildlife Rescue Charity as they have rescued two injured animals from East Ilsley in the past year. The Clerk will process the donation this week.
- 123/23 The original quotation for the SID device that we are sharing with Compton has increased due to the recent inflation raises. Total now for both councils is £1,605.00. All members present **approved** this slight increase and the order will be paid this week. It was agreed to move over the balance from the Playground EMR to cover this small shortfall. The draft Co-Ownership Document was read and **approved** by all members present and signed by Cllr. Pembroke. It was **agreed** that Cllr. Robertson, supported by Cllr. Browne would be the designated leads for the SID in the village and the Clerk would inform Compton PC of these decision. The 'Letter of Intent to Order' for the SID was signed by Cllr. Pembroke which the Clerk will send prior to processing the invoice.
- 124/23 The recent Playground Inspection Report was **reviewed** by all members present. It was **agreed** to remove the damaged picnic bench (which has already been repaired and is now damaged again) and replace it with a new bench that can be linked to King Charles' II Coronation in May. The Clerk will seek options for presentation to the council in May. The BMX ramp is also beyond repair and not used and it was **agreed** to remove this completely and not replace it. It will allow for more room at the Jubilee Copse.
- 125/23 It has been brought to our attention that some trees on council owned land require a small pruning and Mike Cairns has provided a quotation of £350.00 to complete the work. All members present **approve** this payment and the subsequent chippings would be donated to the Primary School for use in their playground.

- 125/23 The License Agreement between the Council and Montpelier Stables drawn up by the Clerk and Gardner Leader Solicitors in Newbury to allow access across council owned land was **approved** and three copies of the agreement were signed by Cllr. Pembroke. These will be taken to the solicitors for the clients to sign and all three parties will have a copy on file. The owners of Montpelier Stables will pay £20 per annum and the Clerk will expect payment at the beginning of April each year.
- 126/23 Due to inflation, the cost of the grass cutting from A D Clark for April to October 2023 has increased to £2,405.57. We had budgeted £2,500.00 so this increase was **agreed** by all members present.
- 127/23 The Finance Reports for January and February had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The VAT claim for 2022 / 2023 will be processed as soon as we enter April to recover those costs. The Statements of Policy about Exercise of Discretionary Functions for the Local Government Pension Scheme was signed by Cllr. Pembroke, This was based on the 'model' that was available for download from the SLCC (Society for Local Council Clerks). Allotment plots 2 and 4 are now available for rent. The two people on the waiting list no longer require it so a social media post will be done to advertise it. With the elections coming up on 4th May the Clerk reminded all councillors present that they need to get their nomination forms in before the deadline in April. It was agreed to hold two sessions to help with the form filling in and these would be on 17th and 20th March at 6pm. The Clerk will continue to promote and advertise that seats are available on the council until the deadline.
- 128/23 The following items were raised by members of the public:
- The future of the EIC magazine was raised but with no takers for the editor role and not enough people to start a rota it remains at a stalemate. It was thought that maybe we could tap back into Compton Compilations by paying a contribution fee again and using that as a platform so the Clerk will speak to Compton PC and the editor of Compilations to see if this might be a possibility and it will be added to the May agenda.
 - It was noticed that not all courtesy lights were on around the village, despite us increasing our payment to the homeowners. It was **agreed** to send an email to everyone checking that everything is OK with their lights and arrange for an electrician if not.
 - Cllr. Robertson reported that he has not had a response from Elaine Cox with regards to the speeding on the byway. The Clerk will send her an email requesting an update.

With there being no further business, Cllr. Pembroke thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 20.55pm.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Send Dr. Rachel and 'thank you' letter from the PC	Clerk	✓
2	Add Village Beehives to the May agenda and see if any other PC's have set up this initiative before.	Clerk	
3	Process the £200 S137 donation to Oxford Wildlife Rescue	Clerk	✓
4	Send the signed SID agreement to Compton PC and process the intent to purchase and invoice. Move money from Playground EMR to CIL EMR to cover the price increase	Clerk	✓
5	Remove broken picnic bench and BMX ramp from playground. Seek new bench options for the Coronation and add to May agenda	Clerk	
6	Confirm the tree trimming with Mike Cairns	Clerk	✓
7	Send License Agreement to Solicitors and keep one for records, await payment from homeowners	Clerk	✓
8	Advertise the vacant allotment plots	Clerk	✓
9	Speak to Compton PC / Compilations about the possibility of linking up again and the cost. Add to May agenda	Clerk	
10	Check in with all Courtesy Light houses	Clerk	

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