



East Ilsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council held on

Tuesday 10th September 2024, at 7.30pm, in the Hall of The Ilsleys Primary School

The Full Meeting of the Parish Council commenced at 7.32pm.

Members Present: Cllrs. Mike Pembroke (Chair), Mark Browne, Ima Von Wenden, Dominic Robertson, Stephen Meadows, Ted Shaw.

In Attendance: one member of the public.

01/17 To receive, and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence from Members of the Council, which have been submitted to the Clerk:

Cllrs accepted apologies for absence from the Clerk (due to feeling unwell).

Chair and Cllrs thanked Cllr von Wenden for volunteering to record the Minutes.

02/17 To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests by members or the Clerk:

No declarations were submitted.

03/17 To receive (a) Questions or comments from members of the public regarding items on the agenda; (b) representations from any member who has declared a personal interest:

- a) A member of the public raised a concern about the possible breach of personal data protection by the Council by publishing the email addresses of the members of the public in the documents attached to the Agenda (Paper 3). Chair offered apologies and admitted a possible mistake by the Council, assuring the member of the public that it will be rectified and will not be repeated.

Cllr Shaw notified the Council of his need of the official email address at gov.uk domain and to be added to all forms of communications and message exchanges used by the Council as he was missing some essential communications.

Chair and Cllrs apologised and assured Cllr Shaw of remedying this issue.

- b) No representations were made as no interests were declared.

04/17 To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of the 9th of July 2024:

Cllrs recorded that no draft Minutes were received and therefore could not be approved until next meeting.

05/17 To consider and agree receipts and payments against budget and payment of invoices (Paper 1):

Cllrs questioned the worthiness of the so called 'courtesy street lights' in the Parish and the necessity of the Council to continue paying for them burdening further the limited budget resources.

Council decided to contact the individuals benefitting from the scheme and to ask them use the facility more responsibly, switching the lights on in the dark and winter evenings; Council agreed to consult the Clerk about the relevant procedure of reviewing this item in the Council budget in the future.

All other items on the Agenda were approved.

06/17 Members Community Bids – to consider application (Paper 2):

Cllrs discussed with the WBC Cllr Carlyne Culver the application procedure, requested further information from Cllr Culver and agreed to seek more guidance from the Clerk; Cllrs agreed that it may be beneficial for the Council to place a Community Bid which may partially fund the replacement of the public benches and tables in the playground area.

07/17 Planning – to consider and respond to any planning applications received between the issue of the agenda and the meeting:

Council reviewed the received invitation to participate in a consultation related to the planning application for a solar farm in Oxfordshire; Cllrs decided that “we are not in the position to be consulted on a planning application for a solar farm in Oxfordshire due to its distance from the Parish and the lack of any paperwork to consult – none was located by following the link provided”.

08/17 To consider and agree what action to be taken on footpath maintenance (Paper 3):

A member of the public raised an issue of the irregular maintenance and unclear ownership and associated upkeep responsibilities of the public footpath behind the orchard leading towards Sunrise Hill. Concerns were raised about the health and safety as the path became a breeding ground for rabbits whose burrows and holes in the ground represent a hazard for walkers.

Cllrs responded that the path in question was maintained in the past by volunteers including members of the Parish Council, however, it questioned its ownership and associated responsibilities by the Council. Cllr Meadows suggested it may be the responsibility of the district Council (WBC), but WBC Cllr Culver expressed doubts about that.

Council decided: to check whether land beyond the community orchard and surrounding the path is owned and maintained by the Parish Council. Cllr Browne suggested that the Council should consider in the future whether to include the maintenance of the path in the Council budget (due to the public health and safety risks). Council also decided to consider placing additional signage around the path.

09/17 To consider and agree what action to be taken on church yard maintenance:

Council decided that it cannot spend additional funding on church yard maintenance but may instruct the Clerk to check who may be consulted at the church on the possible offer by the Council of sharing costs of the grass cutters commissioned by the Council.

10/17 To receive a report from Cllr. Carlyne Culver, West Berkshire Council:

Cllr Culver reported on the schools’ funding clawback situation, new WBC housing development plan and targets in the district. Cllr Meadows lamented about the refusal of the planning application for fourteen houses in Pen Meadow in the past, expressed concerns that more houses will be built in the Parish. Cllr Culver responded that new applications would still have to address the issues of drainage in Pen Meadow which were the primary reason for the refusal in the past. Cllr Culver mentioned more new housing developments considered in Thatcham and other areas.

Cllr Culver spoke about the Speed Review, mentioned that a personal meeting with the person in charge would be impossible until next year. Cllr Robertson suggested that a new 30mph speed limit is in need of being introduced from Sunrise Hill rather than its current location. A member of the public suggested a 20mph speed limit introduced in Cow Lane towards Compton.

Cllr Culver spoke about the upcoming Special Education Needs funding review.

11/17 To consider and agree what action to be taken on Trees on Broad Street (Paper 4):

Cllrs recorded that the Parish has no Tree Policy and there is a need for it to be drafted and adopted. Council decided that there’s a need for the risk assessment of the relevant trees and a need for consulting the Clerk and other sources in the Parish on the procedure of dealing with the dangerously

overgrown trees and commissioning specialist help. Cllrs suggested inviting local stakeholders to a PC meeting and discussing with them various options of resolving this issue. Cllrs observed that the Council has no budget for such works now, but should consider including such costs in the budget and getting three comparative quotes from the specialists. Council decided to instruct the Clerk to consult other Parish Councils on the matter of their Tree Policies and professional service providers used by them.

12/17 To consider and agree what action to be taken on concerns raised on land adjoining North Star (Paper 5):

Cllrs noted the concerns in Paper 5, observed that the ownership of the land in question is unclear and needs to be investigated further before any decision may be made.

13/17 To note the addition of The Village Pump, Compton Road, East Ilsley, Newbury as a heritage asset (Paper 6):

Cllrs noted the new status of the Village Pump and decided to consult the Clerk further on what it entitles us to or burdens with in terms of the Council budget and responsibilities.

14/17 To receive the Clerk's report (Paper 7):

Council noted the Clerk's report and expressed its gratitude to the Clerk.

Cllr Browne informed the Council of his inability to progress with obtaining the necessary signatures on the bank form due to the lack of co-operation of other parties involved.

15/17 To review any actions still to be completed not included in the agenda (Paper 8):

Cllrs failed to locate Paper 8 – so no action was taken.

16/17 Correspondence: Previously circulated:

Cllrs considered and noted correspondence previously circulated.

17/17 To receive any further questions or comments from members of the public.:

Cllrs noted no members of the public present.

AOB: Cllr Meadows spoke about the benefits of organising a food and wine event by the Cllrs inviting the members of the public and consulting them on any issues of public concern; opinions were expressed that such events should encourage the public to attend other PC meetings more.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 8:58pm.

Date of next meeting agreed as 12th November 2024.