

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 13th February 2018

2018/21 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr D Amor (Chair)
Mr I Sherwood (Vice Chair)
Mrs R Burt
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)
Mrs S Steele (District Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mrs M Bullock
Mrs S Hill
Mrs P Matravers
Mr I Welch

In Attendance

3 members of the
public

2018/22 Visitors and Public Voice

(a) Grass Cutting at the Churchyard

Councillors were asked if the cost of cutting the grass at the Churchyard could be passed directly to the Church so that they could organise the maintenance direct. It was explained that the Parish Council had agreed a very favourable contract for cutting the grass for the next 3 years. There was also concern that as the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the Churchyard, that there may be some liability on the council if this was passed to a third party. Residents were urged to report any problems with the maintenance of the Churchyard to the Clerk as soon as they notice the problem and not to wait until the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk can report problems immediately and arrange for problems to be sorted out.

(b) AGM for the Village Hall

The next AGM will be in April. The Hall is doing well financially although it is more expensive to run now because there is no one on the committee who can deal with maintenance issues. However the problem the Hall has is that they are finding it difficult to recruit committee members and the question was asked if the worst happened and there is no one to run it, could the Parish Council step in. It was confirmed that the Parish Council could step in if absolutely necessary. The committee were asked to raise the issue of the Visitors Book for the Hall which does not seem to be available.

(c) Youth Club

It was confirmed that two residents are getting their DBS checks so that they can re-start the Youth Club. It was felt that it will be a good idea to have some sports coaches when the MUGA is open.

2018/23 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2018

The minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council were agreed and signed subject to an amendment to minute 2018/01 Mr L Hart was not present at the meeting and 2018/10(c) which should read 'Green Energy' and not 'Good Energy'.

2018/24 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

- (a) New dog bins - The bins have arrived. It was agreed to ask Mr T Mico to fit the bins.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (b) Parish Plan Bank Account - The Clerk confirmed that the money had been moved to a dormant account. A new cheque will be issued.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (c) Parish Council Vacancies - A new poster has been placed on the notice board. An offer was made to the put the notice on the Village Hall Facebook site.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (d) Child on motorised scooter - No-one is sure where the child lives and there have been no more reports.

2018/25 Highways

- (a) SID results for Church Road - between the 3rd January 2018 and the 16th January

2018 show that the median speed was calculated at 30mph which is compliant with the posted speed limit of 30mph. The 85%ile speed was calculated as 35mph which is 1mph below the intervention limit speed of 36mph.

- (b) SID Programme - The various options offered by the County Council were discussed. All the data collected for the locations where the SID has been sited show that although some motorists do exceed the speed limit, the 85% percentile speed is usually just below the intervention limit which shows that most people watch their speed. Councillors decided that there is very little advantage to paying to participate in the new scheme. However there was some interest in looking at the costs of having a fixed solar powered Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and the Clerk was asked to get some figures for costs of these. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) Parking on pavement - this was reported again to the Police. Highways were asked if they could put up bollards to stop the damage to the verges and stop any potential hazards to pedestrians. Highways replied that bollards will only be put up to deal with hazards which this is not considered to be. The verge is under highway ownership and although parking on the verge may be unsightly and damage the verge the issue of parking on it is extremely low priority for them.
- (d) Main Street to be closed for up to 2 days from 24th February 2018.

2018/26 Brook Green

- (a) The parapet along the road has been damaged further and is now in a very dangerous condition, particularly with the river below being swollen from the recent rain. The Clerk to report this again and find out when the bridge is likely to be repaired. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Flytipping was reported to Streetscene who have cleared the rubbish.

2018/27 Footpaths

- (a) Bridge at the Ford in Frost Lane - This was reported as damaged and a report sent to the Rights of Way Team. There is no update on the repairs.

2018/28 Cemetery / Churchyard

- (a) Condition of Cemetery and Churchyard - The Cemetery and Churchyard have been regularly walked by a Councillor and the 'wiggle' test has been done.
- (b) Interment of ashes was carried out recently at the Cemetery.

2018/29 Recreation Ground

- (a) Annual Playground Inspection and Risk Assessment - repair of problems identified - Play UK have looked at the problems identified and have commented that the zip wire mechanism was running smoothly but that the cable would benefit from a tighten which will increase the speed slightly.
- (b) See saw spring - A spring on the see saw has broken again. This is the third broken spring. The company - HAGS - reported that they have found a high failure rate with the previous springs and have changed the specification. They have therefore replaced both springs under guarantee. They have also inspected the brushes which are fine.
- (c) Weekly inspection reports - These show nothing or urgent. However there was some concern as to whether the inspections are accurate because the latest ones still show a problem with the see saw which had already been corrected.
- (d) Renovation of the footpath - The work on the footpath from Copse Lane to the Rec has been completed and the path is looking very nice.
- (e) Remaining grant money - The Clerk to check how much money remains from the grant for work at the Rec. All of the major work is now finished. **ACTION - The Clerk**

- (f) Registration of two footpaths with Land Registry - The Clerk prepared a letter of authority to be signed by two signatories, and will visit the legal department at SSDC with the relevant paperwork to send the application to the Land Registry.
ACTION - The Clerk

2018/30 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Planning application for MUGA - Planning consent has been received.
- (b) Installation of Electricity - The electricity meter was fixed today and is ready to go.
- (c) Meeting with Agronomist - Mr Welch to follow this up. **ACTION - Mr Welch**
- (d) General Progress Report - The order has been placed for the MUGA which has a 2 - 3 month waiting time.
- (e) Grass Cutting - A Councillor is speaking to a local farmer about cutting the grass on the field. He is also meeting a local farmer to discuss putting sheep on the field.

2018/31 Playing Field/Cemetery Car Park

Work on the car park expansion will start on 5th March and last for up to 2 weeks. The Clerk to prepare some notices to be laminated and placed at the site. The notices also to go on the Village Hall Facebook site.
ACTION -The Clerk

2018/32 Copse Lane Overspill Car Park

- (a) Agreement to use the land - The Clerk has received advice from SALC that a licence can be as straightforward as a simple letter of agreement. Under a licence a licensee does not enjoy exclusive possession of the land and has no rights to the land itself. The ownership of the land remains with the owner who by a written or oral licence confers rights of occupation or use on a person which can fairly easily be withdrawn. The Clerk to write a letter to the two main users of the land, the Cricket Club and the Village Hall, to say that the land can be used as a community car park and that the organisation concerned can continue to use it free of charge but that the Parish Council can withdraw permission at any time. It is the responsibility of the user to keep it locked when not in use. The Clerk to include a second letter to be signed and returned.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (b) New Sign - It was agreed to order a new sign for the gate. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2018/33 General Maintenance - SSDC Ranger Scheme

The Ranger has already started work although no contract has been signed as yet. A Councillor asked if we could arrange to have the Ranger for a block of several days to get on top of the work at the Rec because if he only comes once a month it will take several visits. It was agreed to have the Ranger for extra time at the beginning. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**

The Clerk to chase the contract. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2018/34 Planning Applications

App No 17/04739/FUL
Description Construction of a floodlit MUGA
Location Land OS8349, Copse Lane, Ilton
This has been granted permission subject to conditions

App No 17/04815/FUL
Description Erection of two storey side extension & single storey rear and front extensions
Location 16 Copse Lane, Ilton
This has been granted permission subject to conditions.

App No 17/04088/FUL
Proposal Formation of a new access and installation of a gate
Location Land Adjacent Ashford House, Ashford Lane, Ilton
Councillors considered the above application and have no objections to the proposal.

2018/35 Correspondence

- (a) The Police report shows 178 investigated crime reported for the month January 2018 with 27 arrests for Area North, and 22 reports of ASB.
- (b) The Ilminster Community Office will close from 5th February 2018 and residents will need to contact SSDC via an alternative method.
- (c) SALC will be offering a Councillor Essentials course on Thursday 22nd March 2018.
- (d) Somerset Libraries Service consultation started on 29th January and will last for 12 weeks. There are a number of drop in events around the area.
- (e) Recycling and Refuse Collections Bank Holidays.
- (f) Somerset Waste Partnership February Briefing.
- (g) Somerset Waste Board Information re recycling.
- (h) Somerset Waste Partnership - the Impact of China's Recycling Import Restrictions.
- (i) Local Government Boundary Commission - Draft Recommendations and consultation until 19 March 2018.
- (j) SSCVA - details of what they do and appeal for new trustees.

2018/36 Grants

The Village Hall have been asked to send the invoice for Ilton Toddler Group direct to the Parish Council who will pay up to an amount of £50.00.

2018/37 Accounts

- (a) Balances as at 31/1/2018 - Reserve A/C = £597.91 / Treasurers A/C = £50,224.44
- (b) The invoice received from SSDC for grass cutting was for the year 2017/18 not the previous year which is still outstanding. The Clerk has spoken to the relevant department who will sort out the problem. The Chairman to contact SSDC to ensure the correct invoice is received.
- (c) The following cheques are to be drawn:
 - 000998 - £ 232.16 - Salary and admin expenses
 - 000999 - £ 8,884.33 - SSDC Grass etc (to be held until correct invoice received)
 - 001000 - £ 1,540.50 - Slade Perry - project management
 - 001001 - £ 660.00 - Key Contractors - trench for electricity
 - 001002 - £ 218.15 - SALC Subscription
 - 001003 - £ 4,782.00 - Play UK Ltd - path from Rec
 - 001004 - £ 40.00 - HM Land Registry - registration of paths (previous cheque cancelled due to amount of time this is still outstanding)

2018/38 Matters and items to report

- (a) County Councillor Report - Mr Dance reported that the libraries consultation is ongoing.
- (b) Petition against bus cuts - A lot of signatures have been collected and the petition will be presented to County Hall
- (c) Social media site for Ilton Parish Council - There is a social media site for the new Playing Field but nowhere obvious to put Parish Council notices not connected with the new field. Councillors decided against setting up a Parish Council site.

2018/39 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The meeting finished at 9.25 p.m

Dave Amor