

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 9th October 2018

2018/160 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

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

Apologies

Mrs S Hill
Mrs P Matravers

In Attendance

1 member of the public

2018/161 Public Voice

Speeding on Cad Road - A resident of Cad Road attended to highlight the problem of speeding on Cad Road. Although the Police regularly attend, cars are still exceeding the speed limit, sometimes at speeds of up to 69 mph. There has not been enough local interest to form a Speed Watch team and it has proved to be difficult due to the need to have specific software to send the results to the Police. A solution might be to put in an SIS request although this would not be effective for at least another year. Another suggestion was to buy a flashing sign that could perhaps be shared with one or two other villages. It was agreed that evidence of speeding is needed before anything can be done. Mrs Burt will try to obtain the evidence. The Clerk will email Mr Dance so that the County Council can be informed.

ACTION - Mrs Burt / The Clerk

2018/162 County Councillor Report

The cuts are to go to the full Council vote next week. It is likely that 130 jobs at SCC will go. There has been no decision yet on the situation with the libraries which will probably not go to a full council meeting.

2018/163 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 11th September 2018

The minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council were agreed and signed.

2018/164 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

Bus Service - The Clerk received a query from residents of Merryfield Lane about where the new bus service will stop. SCC have replied that the bus will be serving all stops along Canal Way in Ilminster including the stop by the Doctors' Surgery. As regards Merryfield Lane, because there doesn't appear to be anywhere to attach a flag, if passengers are waiting on the pavement or on the opposite side of the road, the driver will stop if flagged. Those who operate the service will be asked if passengers are boarding at this location and if there have been any issues. Councillors noted that the buses are dropping off and picking up at this location and the drivers are being very co-operative.

It was noted that the bus is no longer stopping at Spurwells. The previous bus used to turn around at Spurwells and there is already a marked bus stop there. But despite a request SCC have said there is not enough time to go down to Spurwells even though it is a matter of minutes. This has made it difficult for elderly residents living in this part of the village. The Clerk to email details to Mr Dance.

ACTION - The Clerk

2018/165 Parish Council Vacancies - Two vacancies remain.

2018/166 Highways

Gritting 2018/19 - Details of routes which have been taken out of the gritting service were forwarded to Councillors by email. The routes no longer being gritted include the old A303 from Ilminster to South Petherton which carries all the A303 traffic whenever there is an accident, plus a number of other local main roads.

Highways will no longer provide grit for parish councils. Because the last few winters have been mild there is still a lot of grit left in the village in several different locations - Mrs Burt, Mr Sherwood and Drakes Farm all have grit and there is probably enough for this year. Councillors will check to see what is left. It was suggested that we should look at buying grit in the spring if we use it this winter. The Clerk was asked to check with the farmer at Dommett who can come with a snow plough. **ACTION - Councillors / The Clerk**

2018/167 Brook Green - There was a report of some vandalism in Brook Green. It has been inspected and one of the benches has been slightly damaged. The Clerk emailed the Police but was told that it has to be reported via the 101 system. Otherwise the area is looking nice.

2018/168 Footpaths - All the reports that Mrs Bullock has submitted have been inspected and the report closed.

2018/169 Cemetery / Churchyard

- (a) Councillors have regularly walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems have been recorded.
- (b) Hedges - The Ranger will finish cutting the Cemetery hedge during his next visit.

2018/170 Recreation Ground Play Park

- (a) Swings - The latest inspection report shows the chains need to be replaced on the swings. These have been ordered and delivered along with new seats for the swings. Mr Sherwood will fit the new chains and seats. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**
- (b) Zip wire - this has been greased and is running slightly faster than before. It is no longer showing as a problem on the inspection reports..
- (c) Plantings - Mr Sherwood is concerned about some of the plants which have been used at the Play Park. He will speak to SSDC for advice. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**
- (d) Somerset Playing Fields Association Award - The Play Park has received a Commendation Award from Somerset Playing Fields Association
- (e) Risk Assessment and Annual Inspection Report - There are some repairs required to the tarmac around the skate ramp. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (f) Skate Ramp - There is some damage to the skate ramp. The Clerk will ask Play UK to have a look. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2018/171 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Report on walk round on 30/9/2018 - This was an opportunity to walk around the field to see how things are coming together.
- (b) New football pitch - No detailed plan of work or costings have been received yet. The Clerk will chase this. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) New goals - The grant has been approved and the new goals have now been ordered. The existing goals are considered unsafe.
- (d) Ditch drainage - The original survey shows that there is a very slight variation in bed levels in the ditch with some small high points so there is no constant gradient from one end to the other and it is virtually flat. It would be possible to re-grade the ditch to provide an even gradient. The Clerk has asked NALC for legal advice on the parish council's liability with regard to the water which lies in the ditch during winter; is it enough to put up warning signs ('Beware Water') or does more need to be done. Once there is an answer to this question consideration can be given to the next step.
- (e) Hiring of the MUGA - There is some interest in hiring the MUGA. It was agreed to charge £5 an hour initially to see if this will cover costs. The lights are not working yet. **ACTION - Mr Welch**

- (f) Notice Board for the MUGA area - The Clerk reported that a new notice board in aluminium on posts is likely to cost in the region of £700. This is 8 x A4 size. The Clerk to contact Curry Mallet who have recently bought a new notice board.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (g) Disabled trampoline - The Clerk reported that the insurance company have said they would not cover any risks associated with an unsupervised trampoline because it is considered too much of a hazard. This includes a disabled trampoline which is level with the ground.
- (h) Outdoor gym equipment - It was noted that Barrington now have outdoor gym equipment and other local parishes are looking at installing adult equipment.
- (i) Project Group Meeting - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th October at the School.
- (j) Community Gardens - Mr Matravers will scrape off the top layer of soil and rotovate to make it easier to prepare the ground for the gardens.

2018/172 General Maintenance

Ranger - Mr Sherwood reported that he is doing a good job.

2018/173 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications.

2018/174 Correspondence

- (a) Police Report - There have been 134 investigated crimes reported for the month of September 2018, with 27 arrests and 30 reports of ASB for Area North
- (b) Somerset Prepared - Talks and workshops to help prepare for emergencies. On Thursday 25th October 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (c) Somerset Waste Partnership September 2018
- (d) Poster re scam mail for the notice board.
- (e) The Aviva Community Fund through BHIB insurance company - an opportunity to apply for grant funding.
- (f) Street Naming - The Parish Council have been asked to propose names for three of the roads in the new development. The developer has proposed one name - Hawthorn Gardens. Replies and suggestions by 6th November 2018.

After some discussion Councillors agreed as follows: they would prefer that the roads are called either Way, Road, Lane or Close rather than Gardens which they feel is not suitable for a village and is more suited to an urban location or to a retirement complex. They are happy with Hawthorne but would prefer it to be Hawthorne Way, Road or Lane. The suggestions for the other three roads are: Willow, Bramble and Beech.

ACTION - The Clerk

2018/175 Request for grant towards toddler group - Councillors were asked if they could agree to pay the hire of the Village Hall for a year for the new toddler group which is starting in Ilton. It would cost £6.00 per week for 38 weeks making a total of £228.00. all Councillors agreed to this proposal. The Village Hall will be asked to bill the Parish Council direct.

2018/176 Accounts payments and receipts

- (a) Balances @ 30/9/18 - Business Account = £2,781.89 / Treasurers Account = £57,671.22
- (b) Audit Report - Ilton Parish Council was subject to a randomly selected intermediate review and the auditor has commented that because the council owns items such as the MUGA, recreation ground and various pieces of land, they would expect there to

be a value included in Box 9 (fixed assets). To this end, the auditor has raised the following 'except for' matter on their report:

"The smaller authority has confirmed that it owns fixed assets, but that the recognition policy for those assets is to value them all at £Nil. This policy does not give a reader of the Accounting Statements the ability to draw any meaning from the Box 9 figures stated on the AGAR or to recognise any changes in those assets year to year. The Practitioners' Guide (the Guide) states that smaller authorities 'need to apply a reasonable approach to asset valuation which is consistent from year to year'. Under this range of possible approaches, all assets are expected to carry some value, however small. In particular, the Guide states that where assets are gifted at zero cost to the authority they should be recorded at a nominal value of £1. The smaller authority should therefore reconsider the valuation policy for all fixed assets and draw up a policy to be approved by the authority and recorded in both the authority's minutes and in the asset register. When submitting the 2018/19 AGAR, the smaller authority should ensure that the 2017/18 comparative figure in Box 9 is restated for consistency and comparability."

The Clerk felt this is disappointing particularly because if assets are valued at a nominal sum of £1 this gives no more information than if they are valued at £0. Councillors suggested that the Clerk asks SALC for some advice on how these assets should be shown in the future.

ACTION - The Clerk

(c) The following cheques were raised:

001064	-	£	463.20	-	GB Sports & Leisure, swings and chains
001065	-	£	57.60	-	Eagle Plant, September container hiring
001066	-	£	48.00	-	Play UK, zip wire
001067	-	£	284.21	-	S Morley - Salary and Administration September

2018/177 Matters and items to report

- (a) It was noted that there is no Youth Club running at the moment.
- (b) Radio Aerial - The Clerk was asked to check the plans for the radio aerial.

ACTION - The Clerk

2018/178 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

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

The meeting finished at 9.40 p.m.

Dave Amor - Chairman