

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 15th December 2015

2015/178 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr L Hart (Chair)
Mr D Amor (Vice Chair)
Mrs K Board
Mrs R Burt
Mr G Mackenzie-Green
Mrs P Matravers
Mr D Mico
Mr I Sherwood
Mr L Trahar
Mr C L Hardy (County Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mrs S Steele (District Councillor)

In Attendance

2 members of the public

2015/179 Visitors and Public Voice

2 members of the public attended the meeting to discuss a rumour and to assure the council that the rumour is untrue. The Chairman thanked them for taking the trouble to come along.

7.45 p.m. The public left the meeting.

2015/180 Report by County Councillor

The County Councillor's usual monthly report was circulated by email and there were some hard copies available. A separate special report on Hinkley Point was also circulated.

A number of things were highlighted including children's services which are improving. A new Director has been appointed who is addressing all the issues. Fairer Funding for schools is an important issue with Somerset in the bottom 40 in terms of funding received for pupils. Hinkley Point will bring a lot of money into Somerset. Devolution is becoming a big issue. The South West, except Cornwall, are joining together to make a bid to government.

Bus Consultations - Councillors were urged to respond to the current bus consultations.

There are two: one regarding the subsidy which is not a particular concern, and the other regarding services, which generated a lot of discussion. Several councillors said they had already responded to the consultation but there is nowhere to put additional comments. The proposal to run late and early buses only during term times is a concern for people who use the bus for work. A Councillor raised the issue of buses being oversubscribed with some children having to stand or sit in the well of the doorway. Parents pay a lot for the bus service to school or college and it is not acceptable, and also unsafe, if children cannot find a seat

A Councillor raised the issue of subsidy and sustainability and said it is very important not to have a continual erosion of services. It is vital to maintain good passenger services because private companies will not invest if services are likely to be cut in the near future. Budgets need to be long term. It is also important not to use the same criteria of cost per passenger for rural as well as urban areas. Residents in towns have a choice of many bus services; rural residents usually have only one choice. Value for money should not be the sole criteria which unfairly disadvantages rural areas. The Village Hall Officer will send the points raised by the Council to the County Councillor.

ACTION - Village Hall Officer

Adult social care was discussed and concern was expressed about the loss of the Independent Living Services, partially funded by the NHS, which has been disbanded. All social workers are now grouped in a large pool with no separate office. There is a move towards integrated social care with callers directed to the main SCC number and re-directed via a menu system. Several councillors expressed concern about the difficulty vulnerable people have with this system and the length of time necessary to navigate it. The Clerk will email details of a particular experience to the County Councillor.

ACTION - The Clerk

2015/181 Minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held on Tues 10th Nov 2015

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

2015/182 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

Minute 2015/174(c) - Bus Services & Concessionary Fares Consultation - already discussed.

Minute 2015/176(a) - Notice Board - This will be removed and taken to a carpenter in Isle Abbots for repair.

ACTION - Village Hall and Recreation Ground Officers

2015/183 Highways

- (a) Cad Road speed limit - The Order was signed on 4/12/15. No objections were received. Signs are being ordered & contractors will have 8 weeks to complete work.
- (b) Rod Lane - Highways have offered a "not suitable for vehicles" sign. There is already a "Dead End" sign at the beginning of Rod Lane which has now been re-oriented.
- (c) Frost Lane potholes - There are 5 shallow ones in a row which have been reported but are not deep enough for any action to be taken.
- (d) Copse Lane sign - The sign is in the wrong place and will be replaced.
- (e) Ford sign - The Ford sign on approach to the village is now visible. The overgrown hedge has been reported. A sign leaving the village has been requested.
- (f) SID installation dates for 2016 - Church Road - weeks commencing 16th May and 3rd October 2016. SIDs will be in place for two weeks from the date of installation on each occasion. The Clerk was asked to request one on Main Street near Spurwells.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (g) SID results for Church Road between 10th Nov and 24th Nov show a median speed of 30 mph with 85% at 35 mph which is 1 mph below the intervention limit of 36 mph.
- (h) Salt - 10 bags were collected from the Depot. It was agreed to ask the Cricket Club or Drakes Farm if they have storage space.
ACTION - Brook Green Officer

2015/184 Brook Green

- (a) Dog Bin - has been emptied and should be firmly on the list of bins to be emptied.
- (b) Bridge Across Road - The damage has been reported.

2015/185 Footpaths

One stile is broken and has been reported and another one broken at the Ford which will be reported.
ACTION - Brook Green Officer

2015/186 Cemetery / Churchyard

Councillors have walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems have been reported. Everything is looking nice.

2015/187 Recreation Ground

- (a) Inspections - The latest reports show the grass mat coming apart and damaged under the Tyre Swing and a hole in the grass area near the swings. The Recreation Ground Officer to report.
ACTION - Recreation Ground Officer
- (b) Safety at Copse Lane entrance - Concerns about children running or riding straight into the road at this entrance were expressed and different options discussed. Previously there were staggered bars which prevented this. Cutting back the hedge, although this will improve visibility, will not address this problem.
- (c) Yarlington - The Clerk was asked to contact Yarlington again about the transfer of the two paths to the Parish Council highlighting safety concerns regarding children running into the road. The Parish Council would like to deal with this issue but need to

have the land to improve the safety and the path surface.

ACTION - The Clerk

- (d) Hedge alongside overspill car park - it was agreed to cut back the tree to improve visibility at the corner.

2015/188 Recreational Development / Playing Field

Redrafting of the lease is ongoing but there is still concern about some of the wording. The Chairman will contact the Warren Trust.

ACTION - Chairman

Work on the Section 106 agreement is in the early stages.

It was noted that there is no access to back gardens through the proposed Playing Field although householders can put a gate in their own back fence for pedestrian access. If any householder wishes to have access for any other reason they will need written permission from the Warren Trust.

Mrs Matravers left the meeting at this stage (9 p.m.)

2015/189 Planning Applications

App No 15/05413/COU
Proposal Change of use of wooden garden shed
Location Furzeley Farm, Main Street, Ilton

Councillors considered the above application and had no objections to the proposal.

App No 15/05331/FUL
Proposal Erection of two storey extension to dwellinghouse
Location Hill Farm, Cad Road, Ilton

Councillors considered the above application and had no objections to the proposal.

App No 15/04905/COU
Proposal Formation of car parking area and erection of two commercial buildings
Location Land South of Ilton Business Park, Main Street, Ilton

Councillors considered the above application and had no objections to the proposal.

App No 15/05013/S73
Proposal Section 73 application to vary conditions 5 and 11 of approved plans
Location Ilford Farm, Ilford Lane, Ilton

Councillors considered the above application and had no objections to the proposal.

App No 15/05051/LBC
Proposal Internal and external alterations
Location Ashford Mill House, Isle Abbots Road, Ilminster

Councillors considered the above application and had no objections to the proposal.

2015/190 Correspondence

- (a) The Stream - Dredging Briefing Winter 2015/16
(b) Somerset Waste Partnership Monthly Briefing December 2015
(c) Police Report - in Area North there were 136 investigated crimes for November with 29 arrests and 21 reports of ASB

2015/191 Accounts

- (a) Balances as at 30/11/15 = Treasurers Account - £33,427.45 / Business Account - £597.25
(b) The following cheques are to be drawn:
000890 - £ 38.97 - Admin Expenses

000891 - £ 155.42 - Salary
000892 - £ 106.80 - HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE
000893 - £ 351.46 - Play UK Playground Ltd - retention for work at Rec

- (c) Bank Limits - From 1st January 2016 the Financial Services Compensation Scheme will cover only the first £75,000 of deposits, down from £85,000. Councillors were asked if this is something we need to consider if we get a large capital amount for the new Playing Field. The Chairman reported that SSDC are considering whether they can hold the money on Ilton's behalf and pay for development directly from the money held. This would reduce future increases in audit costs and would also mean Ilton would not be affected by the Compensation Scheme. If the money cannot be held by SSDC then it will be necessary to consider opening a second, or third, bank account.

2015/192 Precept

The tax base for Ilton in 2016/17 is 280.83 as against 280.89 for this year. The budget forecast for 2016/17 takes into account the large increase in the annual cost of grass cutting which was agreed with the contractor earlier in the year and also the extra cost of grass cutting of the new Playing Field. Other increases are the costs of maintaining the Recreation Ground and the expected increase in audit charge due to the greatly increased expenditure which puts Ilton into a much higher charge band. Given all these increases in expenditure the Council approved an increase in the precept requested from £16,000 to £17,000 per annum. This represents a 6.27% increase and an annual increase of £3.57 for a Band D property, with other bands being proportionally lower or higher than this.

2015/193 Matters and items to report

- (a) A request to film a music video in the Recreation Ground was received from a student at Richard Huish College. The request was approved with the following proviso: *the following location Ilton Recreation Ground provided that such filming does not interfere with the bona fide users of the Recreation Ground and provided also that if filming includes filming users of the Recreation Ground, in particular children, that their consent or the consent of their parent or guardian is given for such filming.*
- (b) The County Councillor reported that one of the upright posts in the car park is leaning and damaged his car. **ACTION - Village Hall Officer**
- (c) The Councillors who worked hard to erect the Christmas tree on the Village Green were thanked for their efforts. The tree looks lovely in the day although it has taken a pounding in the recent storms. The solar lights are a problem. They are not robust enough and are not charging well. A battery powered set of lights was suggested. It was noted that this is the first year and the problems can be ironed out by next year.
- (d) Christmas get-together - A Councillor asked why this has not continued. **ACTION - Agenda Item January**

Mr Mico left the meeting before the next item because of a conflict of interest

- (e) Handyman - Since losing the services of the handyman, odd jobs have been done on a voluntary basis by several councillors. Mr Mico's father, a resident in the village, has been very helpful in providing equipment at reduced rates or for nothing. He is willing to do odd jobs on a needs basis. He is also willing to quote for larger jobs. Councillors were asked to vote on whether Mr Mico snr should be asked to do paid work for the Council. There was one abstention, Mr Mico was not present, all other Councillors voted in favour. The Clerk to write to Mr Mico snr. **ACTION - The Clerk**

Mr Mico returned to the meeting.

2015/194 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall.

The meeting finished at 10.05 p.m.

Lee Hart - Chairman