

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 14th February 2017

2017/17 Attendance and Apologies

| Those present: | Apologies | In Attendance |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr L Hart (Chair) | Mrs S Steele (District Councillor) | 7 members of the public |
| Mr D Amor (Vice Chair) | | |
| Mrs K Board | | |
| Mrs R Burt | | |
| Mrs P Matravers | | |
| Mr G Mackenzie-Green | | |
| Mr D Mico | | |
| Mr I Sherwood | | |
| Mr C L Hardy (County Councillor) | | |
| Mrs S Morley (Clerk) | | |

2017/18 Visitors and Public Voice

(a) Speed Watch

Mrs Sue Rainbow of Cad Road came to ask for help to organise a Community Speed Watch now that the road has a 40 mph limit. Councillor Le Hardy will find the contact number for the local South Somerset co-ordinator who will help to set up a new group. It may also be possible to look at having white lines on the sides of the road to encourage drivers to slow down. Councillors suggested putting a notice in the next issue of Ilton Talking asking for volunteers because a minimum number of people are required. The Parish Council agreed that they will support the scheme but cannot run it which must be done by the group of volunteers.

ACTION - Vice Chairman

It was agreed to write a letter to local businesses asking them to remind their drivers of the local speed limits and to drive carefully and safely.

ACTION - The Clerk

(b) Recreation Field

A representative of the Village Hall Committee noted that they had agreed in principle to allow access along the road beside the Hall although there were some concerns about ongoing maintenance costs. It was explained that it has not been ruled out to provide access at this point but that the current plan is to provide access to the field at the other end of Copse Lane by the Cemetery and new car park.

The meeting was told that it is planned that now the field has been secured, the steering group will be wound up. That was set up to drive forward the negotiations to obtain the field. It is still very important that the village has an input into the facilities on the new field. The plan now is to obtain a topographical survey of the land and consider drainage which is a major concern. Then an agronomist will be consulted for soil composition etc. SSDC will be given a list of facilities the village would like plus all the surveys and they will draw up a plan. This will then be put to the community for consultation and comments. The Parish Council would like as many people as possible to be involved.

(c) Defibrillator

Mr Michael Carpenter of 3 Penny's Mead wishes to raise money to buy a defibrillator for the village. Councillor Le Hardy said that two things need to be considered: (i) the equipment and where to site it; and (ii) training.

District Councillor Adam Dance came to advise and to talk about the defibrillators purchased by South Petherton and Shepton Beauchamp. These had been bought from South West Ambulance Association who will provide the training and maintenance plus replacement if it is stolen. They will also fit it. The cost is around £1,800 for 4 years including the cabinet, bracket and light. If two are purchased the cost may be less per unit. It may be possible to

get a grant towards the cost. They are very simple to use, even if an operator has not been trained. Councillor Dance will send contact details.

A notice to go into the next issue of Ilton Talking.

ACTION - Vice Chairman

It was agreed to write a letter to local businesses asking for a donation towards buying a defibrillator for the village. These will be delivered by Councillors.

ACTION - The Clerk

(d) Parish Council accounts

A question was asked about the apparent surplus being run by the Council and about why the precept was raised when there is a surplus. The Clerk explained that the grass cutting invoice was not received in time to be paid last year so this does not appear on the final accounts. If that is taken into account then there was no surplus. For a number of years the Parish Council have set aside money to refurbish the Recreation Ground and there was some restricted money being held for this purpose. That has now been spent and most of the work at the Recreation Ground has been finished. The Council has also set aside money for the new field which has been a long time in being finalised. The field will be very expensive to develop and extra money will be needed.

It was explained that there has been great uncertainty about whether the precept can be raised in the future without the need for a referendum. This would be prohibitively expensive for a small council. The Council has therefore been advised not to reduce the precept. It is also the case that the Government has altered the way in which the tax base, which is used to calculate the precept, is calculated. This is now linked to the number of people in the parish in receipt of benefit and will go up and down accordingly (although the Parish Council has no direct input or knowledge of those in receipt of benefit). To mitigate the loss of income the Government has given a support grant to District Councils which could be passed to the parishes. That support grant has now been significantly reduced by the Government and it will be removed completely in two years time. Last year Ilton received a grant of £1,470, this year it will be £480 which is a reduction of £990 of income. This has meant that in order to have the same level of income, the precept must be raised to cover the loss of the grant. Ilton will not have a higher income this year even though the precept will have to be raised.

2017/19 Report by County Councillor

The County Councillor's report was circulated by email and hard copies were available.

Community Transport

The advice is to expand the existing South Somerset Community Transport scheme. Some of the problems are lack of publicity about this service. It was proposed to send out a letter and questionnaire to all residents with Ilton Talking to both inform residents and ask for volunteers. Councillor Le Hardy will email the final letter to the Clerk.

ACTION - Councillor Le Hardy, Vice Chairman, The Clerk

School Bus Service

There are still problems with the Wadham School service. The bus is regularly late in the morning and afternoons. Recently a text message was sent to say the bus would be 20 minutes late whereas in fact it was 45 minutes late. No traffic problems have been observed. The Clerk to write to the transport manager at SCC.

ACTION - The Clerk

2017/20 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tues 10/01/2017

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

2017/21 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor - There has been some interest in the vacancy but so far no offer to serve as a Councillor.

2017/22 Highways - There were no issues to discuss.

2017/23 Brook Green - Everything is looking good. The grass is in need of cutting.

2017/24 Footpaths

There is a new sign at Brook Green, a new stile by the Ford and the double stile between Brook Green and the farm has been repaired.

2017/25 Cemetery / Churchyard

- (a) Condition - Councillors have walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems have been reported.
- (b) Cemetery Notice Board - This has been put up and the laminated Rules pinned up. It is looking very nice.

2017/26 Recreation Ground

- (a) Inspection Reports - There are no outstanding issues on the inspection reports.
- (b) Annual Playground Inspection and Risk Assessment - From SSDC this will be £48.00 for the Inspection and £30.50 for the Risk Assessment which is the same as last year. Councillors agreed to accept the quote. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) Yarlington lease - SSDC have seen the draft transfer document and requested sight of Yarlington's title deed. This has now been forwarded to SSDC for comment. Provided there are no problems we should be able to complete the transfers soon. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2017/27 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Lease

Ilton Parish Council has now taken possession of the new field and signed the lease. £210,000 has been transferred to SSDC who will hold the money on behalf of Ilton Parish Council. An article and photo appeared in last week's Chard & Ilminster News. The Chairman also gave a very good interview to Radio Somerset.

As explained at point 2017/18(b) above, the first thing will be to obtain a topographical survey of the land and consider drainage. Once this has been done an agronomist will survey the soil and SSDC will draw up a plan based on the facilities Ilton would like. This will then be put to a consultation with residents.

A quote for hedge cutting has been received for £450.00 + VAT. This will take the whole perimeter hedge down to 6 foot and can be done as soon as possible. The barbed wire should be removed first which will be done by the tenant farmer. All Councillors agreed to accept the quote. It is a good price and the hedge must be cut before the end of February and the work can be done immediately.

Quotes will be requested for the hire of machinery to clear the ditches.

SSDC will obtain 3 quotes for a topographical survey.

The tenant farmer has asked if he can cut the hay in June. This will keep the field tidy and provide some income. It may also be possible to put sheep into the field after June to deal with the grass if necessary. The Parish Council will continue to cut the football pitch area.

A letter was delivered to Copse Lane residents bordering the field and leading up to the access, inviting them to the meeting on 14th February.

- (b) Letters of thanks to SSDC officers involved will be sent. **ACTION - Chairman**

2017/28 Planning Applications

App No 16/05203/FUL

Description Change of use of existing barn & alterations to inc conversion and two single storey extensions.

Location Chappels Farm, Ilford Lane, Ilton

This application has been granted permission with conditions.

App No 14/04158/OUT
Description Demolition of existing buildings ... erection of 47 dwellings etc
Location Land at Court Farm, Ilton
This application has been granted permission with conditions.

App No 16/04618/FUL
Proposal Demolition of buildings, erection of two dwellings and garaging etc
Location Hill Farm, Cad Road, Ilton
Councillor had no objection to this amended application.

2017/29 Correspondence

- (a) SSDC Garden Waste Collection Service poster
- (b) Office for National Statistics - South Somerset has been selected as part of a large scale test of the census to help develop an online census for 2021. Residents will be chosen at random and sent a questionnaire.
- (c) Mott MacDonald will carry out an ecology survey with Highways England on the proposed upgrade to the A358 from 25th January 2017.
- (d) Police Report for January - 121 investigated crime with 15 arrests and 15 reports of ASB for Area North.
- (e) New Rural Crime Initiative launched by Avon & Somerset Police. New text number is 81819
- (f) From Devon and Somerset Trading Standards re Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Outbreak in the UK - poultry keepers must keep birds under cover or separate from wild birds. The requirement has been extended to 28th February 2017.
- (g) Letter from Head at St Mary & St Peter's Primary School requesting a grant towards School activities. Councillors noted that in February 2015 a grant of £300 was given towards School swimming. It was agreed to make a grant of £300 again this year.

2017/30 Accounts

- (a) Received from SSDC grant for Rec refurbishment of £2,046.75.
- (b) Balances as at 31/1/17 - Treasurers Account = £42,398.80 / Bus Bank = £597.60
- (c) The following cheques are to be drawn:
 - 000937 - £ 40.00 - Land Registry for new field
 - 000938 - £ 211.69 - SSDC - Playground Inspections
 - 000939 - £ 420.00 - T Mico - hedge and tree cutting along footpath
 - 000940 - £ 204.82 - Salary and Admin expenses January.
 - 000941 - £ 300.00 - St Mary & St Peter's Primary School - grant

2017/31 Matters and items to report

- (a) Youth Club - This is going well. There are between 8 - 10 children per week.
- (b) 2017 Ilton Fun Day - This event has been cancelled.

2017/32 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.40 p.m.

Lee Hart - Chairman