

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Merryfield Hall on
Tuesday 9th May 2017

Attendance and Apologies

| Those present: | Apologies | In Attendance |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr D Amor (Vice Chair) Mrs K Board Mrs R Burt Mr G Mackenzie-Green Mrs P Matravers Mr I Sherwood Mr I Welch Mrs S Steele (District Councillor) Mr A Dance (County Councillor) Mrs S Morley (Clerk) | Mr L Hart (Chair) | 11 members of the public |

1. Report of the Chairman of Ilton Parish Council for 2017 read by Mr Amor, Vice Chair and Chairman of the meeting.

I would firstly like to thank all councillors for their work in our community, and for giving their time freely. My special thanks go to Cllr Dave Amor for his support as vice Chairman, Mrs Sue Morley for her support as Clerk and Cllr Sue Steele for her excellent support at District level. I'm very pleased to welcome Adam Dance as our newly elected County Councillor, and wish him every success in ensuring that our local issues and views are represented at County Hall.

Throughout the last year, we have had a vacancy on the Parish Council. Last month, Mr Ian Welch was co-opted onto the council and we welcome him to our forum. Mr Danny Mico unfortunately resigned at the same meeting. Danny was an asset to the council and we hope he will continue to be an asset to the community, having completed many projects in his own time and on a voluntary basis, like many of us on the Council also do.

The past year has seen the Parish Council increasing its commitment to maintaining green spaces such as the cemetery and Brook Green to improve our small community to benefit our residents. Cad Road has now been added to the list of speed indicator device locations and is being monitored by County Highways who are providing us with feedback.

The Parish Council arranged for a Christmas Tree to be erected on the green for the second year in a row, decorated with over 1000 lights, and we received very positive comments from a number of residents.

We have now finally secured the field behind the Cricket Club and Village Hall after many years of consultation, planning and negotiation. This success means the Parish Council has safeguarded the field from being developed for housing or as a business park. It is hoped that the field will be available to a wide variety of users and be accessible to all, exclusively for use for sport and recreation. Support from SSDC in this regard has continued to be nothing but superb. The topographical survey is a key component of the process and has been commissioned; once we receive the report, SSDC's Play and Youth Leisure Team have agreed to develop a design layout. We can then consult further with residents about what facilities they want, determine priorities and, if necessary, apply for extra funding to assist in delivering as much of the design as possible.

Access into the field was initially considered to be straightforward, and after 6 years of discussions with the Cricket Club we understood their agreed terms (area to store the covers,

use of a car park, resiting a single lane practice net like for like together with agreement that we would not install a competing clubhouse). But a few months ago the Cricket Club increased their requirements to more than double what this council considered to be value for money by adding an additional netting cost of over £17000. Negotiations are continuing, and it is hoped that a more rational, cost-effective and community focussed option can be agreed.

Over the last few months the council has been very happy to see members of the community coming to meetings and asking questions. After so many years with so little interaction at Parish Council meetings, this has been a welcome change and we hope to see even more people contributing at the consultation events that we will be holding later in the year. The coming year is likely to be our busiest yet, and with the threat of significant change locally and nationally, it is more important than ever that our village works together to maintain its assets, promote health and wellbeing, and safeguards its sustainability. The new recreation field and planned housing are key pillars to support these aims and we hope to see them delivered within the next 12 months.

2. Report by the Vice Chairman

Mr Amor personally thanked Mrs Jacqueline Bennett for her help with the Newsletter and for delivering it to every house in Ilton. The Newsletter has been produced for 25 years and Mrs Bennett has done a great of the work to distribute the Newsletter and ensure events are publicised in time. In the last few months there have been a lot of negative comments and criticism on the Ilton Facebook pages which is very disappointing. It is very unpleasant and disheartening to criticize people in the community who do everything voluntarily.

A member of the public commented that the comments on Facebook were not directed at anyone personally. Mr Amor felt that Facebook is not the place to start publically complaining. Comments should be directed privately to either Mrs Bennett or himself. If anyone does not receive a copy of the Newsletter please let Mr Amor, Mrs Bennett or Mrs Morley know. Copies can also be read on line.

3. Questions

Path at the back of the recreation ground - This is the path which was to have been closed off by Yarlinton, who agreed that the adjoining residents can incorporate the path into their gardens. The residents requested the Parish Council put up notices to say that in 3 months time this will no longer be a public access path, and to seal off the path for safety. The Parish Council does not own the path and consent has already been given by Yarlinton to close the path. The Chairman suggested that the householders themselves are entitled to seal the path and put up notices.

Village Hall car park - From next month the car park will be closed off with locking bollards which will need to be unlocked for every meeting.

Upkeep of the Churchyard - The Church are requesting that the Parish Council give the Church a set amount of budget each year so that the Church can take over the maintenance and grass cutting of the Churchyard. It was agreed to discuss this further to ensure the Parish Council meet its legal responsibilities and to see if it is possible to remove the Churchyard from the grass cutting contract which comes up for renewal next year.

ACTION - Agenda June

Temporary Football Pitch - The grass was cut several days ago and left lying on the pitch. Because the grass was very long when it was cut the pitch is now unplayable. It was noted that the first couple of cuts are always very long and hopefully subsequent cuts will be much shorter.

Litter Bins - Would it be possible to have some more bins around the village? It was noted that SSDC have agreed to have a new litter bin at the new field. However they will only empty so many. **ACTION - Agenda June**

New Recreation Ground - Will dogs be allowed? Will horses be allowed? One of the things which has been discussed is having a dog area fenced off from the playing area but no decisions have been made until consultation with the community. At the moment there are only ideas. Once the survey has been done and some preliminary plans drawn up there will be a consultation and people can state their views and preferences so that final choices of facilities can be decided. Hopefully this will be in August or September. Some concern was raised about whether the new field is safe from development in the future. Residents were reassured that the 299 year renewable lease does not allow development in any form which will not contribute towards recreational activity in the village. It cannot be developed for housing or other forms of entertainment such as a cinema etc. It can only be used for recreational purposes.

Access to the new field - Negotiations are still ongoing with the Cricket Club over access to the field. The Parish Council cannot afford to pay the amount currently being requested by the Cricket Club because this would require a significant portion of the limited resources available to develop the field. If no agreement can be reached access will have to be via Copse Lane by the Cemetery.

Grants - Grants will be applied for.

Copse Lane / School congestion - Highways have already met with the School to suggest ways to cope with the congestion. They have ruled out the use of yellow lines which will disadvantage residents and the fact that no parking would have to be enforced. People are already beginning to park in the new car park but it was felt that the access should be opposite the School entrance rather than further up the lane because people do not know it is there. If signs were put up it may help. The Warren Trust have agreed that the Parish Council can create a new entrance through the hedge opposite the School.

Overflow Car Park - This is now very overgrown and needs cutting. Concern was raised that once the Village Hall car park is closed, parking in Copse Lane will be awful. The Cricket Club have a key to the overspill car park and can use it at any time. Also it is rarely locked. The owners of the pub asked if they can use it for weddings and were told that it is available to anyone who requests the key. **ACTION - The Clerk to arrange cutting the grass**

Volunteers - A resident suggested that people could volunteer to do jobs around the village such as strimming etc. The Clerk to check the insurance cover. **ACTION - The Clerk**

Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Lee Hart / Chairman