

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 11th July 2017

2017/110 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr L Hart (Chair)
Mr D Amor (Vice Chair)
Mrs R Burt
Mr G Mackenzie-Green
Mrs P Matravers
Mr I Sherwood
Mr I Welch
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)
Mrs S Steele (District Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mrs K Board
Ms M Bullock

In Attendance

6 members of the
public

2017/111 Visitors and Public Voice

Christmas Grant - A representative from Ilton Friendship Club requested a donation towards this year's Christmas Pensioners' Lunch. An amount of £300 was suggested by a Councillor. The request to be an agenda item in September. **ACTION - Agenda Item September**

Overspill car park - long term future - The future of the overspill car park was raised again and a question asked that if the land is sold would all the money go towards the new field. A number of people in the village would like a shop. Can it be considered that some of the money could be used towards a shop? The Chairman said this could be considered but research would need to be done to see if a shop would be viable and also whether there are sufficient volunteers to run it. The Parish Council does not have the powers to run a shop and any shop project would need to be organised by residents, not the Parish Council. the future of the land will be discussed later in this meeting.

Negotiations with the Cricket Club - A question was asked whether negotiations with the Cricket Club have ended. The Chairman explained that another attempt had been made to reach an agreement with an offer of £20,000 plus the land and access to parking. This was also rejected by a majority vote of the Cricket Club committee.

Access into the field - A suggestion was made that access might be arranged through the new development. The Chairman explained that this request had already been made to the developer and we are waiting to hear if they will agree.

Management of the field - Will this be separate to the Parish Council? It was explained that no decisions have been reached yet. A separate Recreation Committee has been discussed but it is not clear at what stage this will happen. At some time it will probably be worthwhile to set up a separate Committee.

Reasons for acquiring the field - What was the driver of the plan to create a new playing field? It was explained that it came about as a result of the 2006 Village Plan where it was identified that Ilton lacked recreational space.

Village Hall - Free use of the Village Hall for 2 hours a day was offered during August when it is quiet so that residents can come and say what they would like on the field. It was agreed to produce a questionnaire and leaflet and deliver to every house. **ACTION - Ian Welch**

2017/112 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 13th June 2017

The minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council were agreed and signed subject to an amendment to item 2017/94 (Overspill Car Park) where it was noted that the car park can be used with the permission of the Parish Council.

2017/113 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

Parish Council Post Box - The new post box has been placed on the wall outside the Village Hall. Mr Mackenzie-Green was thanked for doing the work. Mrs Matravers will keep a key

and check the box from time to time. The Clerk will keep the other 3 keys which can be issued to Councillors at times when post is likely.

2017/114 Highways

- (a) Sign - Caution Children - Highways are looking to see what alternative signs there are for this location.
- (b) Sign for New Car Park - Highways have said they cannot provide a sign for a private car park. Councillors agreed that most people are now aware of the new car park and a sign is not necessary.
- (c) A358 dualling - The last public consultation was on Friday 30th June. Councillors had no comments on the proposed route.
- (d) Overgrown hedge - At the pinch point / day nursery in Church Road. The Clerk to report it to Highways. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2017/115 Brook Green

- (a) Repair to the parapet - Highways have replied that the report was forwarded to their repair team and it will be done in time but budgets are tight and it is not an urgent repair. An order has just been issued for vegetation removal work.
- (b) Trees overhanging the road - The Clerk was asked to ask Phil Poulton of SSDC to inspect and advise on maintenance. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) Flytipping - Rubbish was left in the Ford and has now been cleared by SSDC.

2017/116 Footpaths

- (a) Footpath diversion Ilton Court - An alteration to footpath CH 15/21 is proposed. The proposed diversion has run up the side of the Cricket Club since 1948/49 with no problems. Councillors had no objections to the proposal.
- (b) Two bridges in Frost Lane - Mr Mackenzie-Green has cleared the bridges of vegetation.
- (c) Path from Church to Village - This is very overgrown and will be reported to Rights of Way.
- (d) Responsibility for footpaths - Mr Mackenzie-Green would like to give up responsibility for footpaths. The Clerk to ask other Councillors. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2017/117 Cemetery / Churchyard

- (a) Several Councillors reported they had walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems had been recorded.
- (b) Provision of water - The Clerk has been in touch with Wessex Water who will send a surveyor and a quotation to provide water.
- (c) Headstones in the Churchyard - SSDC have provided a quote for two men for two days to do a safety survey of the Churchyard. It was noted that the guidance received several years ago was to do a 'wobble test' on the headstones and either re-set, move or lay down any memorials that wobbled. It was agreed that it would be very expensive to re-set or move the older large memorials and that they would continue to be laid down safely. Mr Sherwood and Mr Welch will conduct a wobble test. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood / Mr Welch**

2017/118 Future of Overspill Car Park

Councillors remarked that the land is a sizable asset which could be realised and the money spent on providing as many facilities as possible on the new recreation field. However it would not be practical to sell the land at the moment until the initial development of the field has gone ahead and the money which is held for that purpose has been used. Councillors asked how much the land costs to maintain. The Clerk said that the exact cost of maintaining

the land has not been kept separately; it is included with the general extra grass and hedge cutting work. However the figure must run into several hundred pounds each year. Councillors considered whether it is usual for councils to provide free parking for sports clubs in their villages. It seems that most local parish councils do provide parking. After some discussion it was agreed to leave the land as an overspill car park for the benefit of the community for the immediate future. This will be reviewed regularly. The Clerk was asked to write to the Cricket Club and the Village Hall to say that for the remainder of the summer season the land will still be available as free parking but this will be reviewed at the end of October.

ACTION - The Clerk

2017/119 Recreation Ground

- (a) Yarlington Lease - The transfer document was signed by Mr Amor and Mr Sherwood.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (b) Inspection Reports - show nothing new or urgent.
- (c) Graffiti on play equipment - Graffiti on the tower was removed by a helpful resident. The Clerk to write and thank him.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (d) Use of NW corner as a toilet - a complaint has been received from a resident in Copse Lane that a corner beside their property is being used as a toilet. It was suggested that holly or stinging nettles could be planted to deter this anti-social behaviour. The resident also complained about the use of bad language. It was agreed to plant a couple of pyracanthas although they will take time to grow large enough.
- (e) Trimming of hedge along path - The Clerk was asked to arrange for the hedge to be trimmed.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (f) Playdays - The Clerk to book the Village Hall for the two playdays on 21/8 and 30/8.
ACTION - The Clerk

2017/120 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Access into the field - It was agreed that access into the field will be at the end of Copse Lane unless the developer agrees to access through the new development.
- (b) Ditches - Only one quote has been received of the three requests sent out recently. This is lower than one received previously. It was agreed to accept the quote and request that the work be done as soon as possible.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (c) Grants for goal posts - Mr Welch is applying for grants for new goal posts. It has previously been suggested that one on wheels would be useful. **ACTION - Mr Welch.**
- (d) Meeting with developers - An informal meeting was held on Tuesday 4th July with representatives of MHB Planning who will be building the new development at Court Farm, and the architect. Planning is for 47 dwellings and they hope to get the application in by September and start the work in 2018. Work should take around two years. They will consult with residents living nearby to ensure as little impact as possible.
- (e) Leaflets to be delivered to residents - Councillors approved the expenditure for the leaflets, once for pre-consultation and again for the actual consultation.
- (f) Grass Cutting - The local farmer has cut the field for hay. The Clerk to ask how many bales were cut, what the farmer suggests paying for the hay and whether he would like to do a second cut later in the year.
ACTION - The Clerk

2017/121 Planning Applications

- (a) App 17/02504/LBC and 17/02503/FUL
Proposal Change of use, conversion of existing Wagon House to residential dwelling
Location The Wagon House, Ilford Lane, Ilton

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

(b) App 17/02034/LBC
Proposal Replacement windows
Location Furzeley Farm

This application was refused as it was considered that the replacement windows had not been appropriately justified and the design would unacceptably impact on the character and special architectural and historic qualities of the listed building.

(c) App 17/01662/FUL
Description Erection of four dwelling houses
Location Wyndham Arms, Main St, Ilton

Application is approved with conditions.

2017/122 Correspondence

- (a) Sport England - Survey to help improve leisure activities in Somerset
- (b) Community Council of Somerset - features of the Village Agent programme
- (c) Clerks & Councils Direct
- (d) Road Closure at Langport from 24th July for 43 days.

2017/123 Accounts

- (a) Balances @ 30/6/2017 - Treasurers Account = £59,077.59 / Business Bank Instant = £597.73. (Note that the grass cutting invoice has not yet been received.)
- (b) The following amounts were received: Defib appeal - £1,050.00 / Wakely - £180.00
- (c) The following cheques are to be drawn:
 - 000968 - £ 369.08 - Salary and admin expenses July and August
 - 000969 - £ 10.00 - Donyatt Village Hall - hire of room for meeting
 - 000970 - £ 163.90 - T Mico - trim hedge and spray overspill car park

2017/124 Matters and items to report

- (a) New Car Park Hedge - This needs to be trimmed now and cut down to 3' in the autumn.
ACTION - The Clerk / Agenda Item September
- (b) Countryside Fete - Angie Blackwell is organising a Countryside Fete in her paddock on 2nd September to support a new classroom at Ilton School in memory of her sister who used to teach at the School. She has requested that Val Keitch, Mayor of Ilminster, opens the fete and Mr Hart has kindly agreed to this request.
- (c) Dangerous driving - It was reported that a number of lorries are driving too fast and not giving way to any other traffic. There is nothing the Parish Council can do about this and it should be reported to the Police.
- (d) Overgrown hedges - It was suggested that a letter be sent to residents reminding them of their responsibility to keep their hedges properly managed and cut. Mrs Burt to provide a list of addresses to the Clerk.
ACTION - Mrs Burt / The Clerk
- (e) Evidence of drugs on footpaths - The Police to be informed.
ACTION - Councillor Steele

2017/125 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The meeting finished at 9.25 p.m.

Lee Hart - Chairman