

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 10th October 2017

2017/143 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr L Hart (Chair)
Mr D Amor (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Bullock
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

In Attendance

13 members of the public

2017/144 Visitors and Public Voice

- (a) A resident asked why a vehicle has been allowed to park on the verge when another resident was visited by the Police for doing the same thing. It was explained that the previous resident had been causing an obstruction to a resident on a mobility scooter who had been unable to pass. Photographs of the obstructing vehicle were sent to the Police who requested that the resident did not park in such a way as to cause an obstruction. If this is happening again the Police should be contacted, preferably with photographs of the vehicle.
- (b) A resident was concerned that the plan for the new field excludes dogs except for a path around the side, much of which is already a public footpath. He felt that it is a very large field and there are a lot of dog owners in the village who are annoyed that dogs are to be largely excluded. If the field is for recreational purposes of the village, then all residents should have access. It was explained that the guidance from the District Council is to exclude dogs from public playing fields, particularly given the dangers especially to children from dog faeces. In drawing up the plans Ilton Parish Council are planning to allow dog walking around the sides and in the lower area which was to have been a pond and will now be left as a meadow area. This is much more access than the District guidelines advise. The field was donated as a public recreational space and there is nowhere else in the village where sports can be played whereas there are miles of public footpaths which dog owners can use.
- Another resident commented that people are aware of the footpaths but there are a lot of dogs and people who cannot walk long distances and many people are very unhappy about the plans to limit dogs on the field. It was explained that the parish council is not being anti-dog but is trying to ensure that the field is safe for children to use.
- (c) A resident expressed her thanks to the people who organised the defibrillator training on Saturday. People were very grateful to have the training and defibrillator in the village.
- (d) A resident brought up the issue of allotments and appreciated that the parish council have made changes to the plans to include allotments. She was also concerned that some of her remarks had been misconstrued. The Chairman explained that individual opinions expressed by councillors are not necessarily those of the whole council.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending the meeting and invited them to stay if they wished to do so. There were no other comments.

2017/145 New Parish Councillor

Mrs Searon Hill confirmed that she would like to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Mr Hart proposed that she be co-opted, seconded by Mrs Burt. All Councillors agreed unanimously with the proposal. Because Mrs Hill has not received the Code of Conduct her co-option will be confirmed at the next meeting.

ACTION - Agenda Item November

2017/146 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2017

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

2017/147 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

- (a) Defibrillator grant from SSDC - The receipt has been received and the grant has been paid.
- (b) Handles for dog bins - New lids are not available for the bins. It was confirmed that 4 bins are required which the Clerk will order.

ACTION - The Clerk

2017/148 Highways

- (a) Sign - Caution Children - This has not been fitted yet. The Clerk to chase Highways.
- (b) SID locations - Fitting a SID in Main Street will be considered but the time scale is early 2018 due to current full schedule. SIDs cannot be attached to lamp post columns due to a change of policy so unless there are any suitable posts they may not be able to install one. The Traffic Engineer will check. It was suggested that if there is not a suitable post available, it is not expensive to install a new one.
- (c) Hedge cutting by the pinch point on Church Road - This has been reported and should be dealt with soon as part of the new development.

2017/149 Brook Green

- (a) Trees overhanging the road - It was confirmed that the Parish Council own the trees on both sides of the road. The Clerk to obtain advice about cutting the trees back.

ACTION - The Clerk

- (b) Bridge - There is now a large stone missing from the centre of the bridge.

ACTION - The Clerk

2017/150 Footpaths

Responsibility for footpaths - Mrs Bullock confirmed that she now has all the documents and maps for the footpaths.

2017/151 Cemetery / Churchyard

Laurel hedge bordering the School House - The was cut by Church volunteers and the resident is very happy with the result and the way the work was done.

There were no other issues and everything is in order.

2017/152 Recreation Ground

- (a) Inspection Reports - show nothing new or urgent.
- (b) Inspection Report frequency - The Clerk reported that she had been approached by a company who carry out playground inspections who seemed surprised that these are done on a weekly basis rather than monthly or at most once a fortnight. It was felt that councillors who are all volunteers are already being asked to do a lot and it would not be fair to ask a councillor to take on another job of inspecting the playground weekly. It was agreed to continue with the current arrangement for weekly inspections carried out by SSDC. Per inspection this is cheaper than the price quoted by the company mentioned above.
- (c) Renovation of the two footpaths - The Chairman to email Play UK's quote to the Clerk.

ACTION - The Chairman

2017/153 Recreational Development / Playing Field

(a) Access into the field

The developers have responded that they cannot allow access through the new development because it might cause problems with planning consent.

(b) Public consultations

A second public consultation was held on the morning of Saturday 7th October in the village hall focusing on the proposals for the MUGA. Notices of the time, date and location of the consultation were delivered to every house in the village and responses were requested by post or in person. 74 people responded, most of them positively. There were some objections from residents of Copse Lane that the proposed site for the MUGA was too close to their houses. It was not possible to re-orientate the MUGA because of problems with the setting sun (if facing West). Residents were assured that the lights would not be a problem. Following reconsideration of the siting of the MUGA it was agreed to move it further into the field away from the boundaries of the properties in Copse Lane. Councillors felt it had been a good consultation and the views of residents, particularly those most affected, had been taken into consideration. It was also felt that a response from 74 people is good for a village of this size. Mr Hart and Mr Welch were thanked for the enormous amount of work, all of which is voluntary and unpaid, they had done to secure the field and start equipping it. Ilton has been trying to secure a playing field for the last 18 years and at last it is becoming a reality for the whole community.

(c) Grass Cutting

SSDC have cut a track around the side of the field for the school to use for cross country. A local farmer can no longer take the grass to feed his cows because the land is no longer licensed agricultural land.

(d) Reptile Fencing has been erected around the perimeter by the developers.

2017/154 New Car Park

New bins - The Clerk brought costings for new bins at the new car park. After some discussion it was agreed to leave it for now.

2017/155 Planning Applications

App No 17/04022/FUL
Proposal Erection of extension to existing agricultural building
Location Frost Farm, Frost Lane, Ilton
Councillors had no objections to the proposal.

2017/156 Grass Cutting Tenders 2018 - 2020

The content of the grass cutting tender was agreed. Spraying will be included in the tender and the contractor appointed will need to have the relevant licences to carry out the spraying. Once there is some development on the new playing field there will be a need to do some amendments to the contract. The Clerk to obtain at least 3 quotes. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2017/157 Correspondence

- (a) Police Report September - 146 investigated crimes with 30 arrests and 38 reports of ASB
- (b) St Mary and St Peters Primary School sent a card made by the children thanking the parish council for the recent grant.

2017/158 Accounts

- (a) Balances as at 30/9/17 - Treasurers Account = £53,923.86 (although grass cutting invoice still not received), Business Account = £597.81

- (b) The following amount was received - £300 grant for the defibrillator.
- (c) Signatories to the account -
 - Mrs Board to be removed as a signatory now that she has resigned from the Council;
 - A new signatory to be considered to replace Mrs Board.

These two items to be dealt with at the next meeting.

ACTION - Agenda Item November
- (d) The following cheques are to be drawn:
 - 000980 - £ 115.80 - Macs Printing - leaflets & posters for 2nd consultation
 - 000981 - £ 210.00 - Merryfield Hall - hire for Jan - Dec 2017
 - 000982 - £ 178.58 - Salary and admin expenses

2017/159 Matters and items to report

- (a) General Maintenance work - It was suggested that the Ranger Scheme run by SSDC could be of benefit to the village. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Nippy Bus - Slinky Bus have taken over from the Nippy Bus who did not have their contract renewed this year. The Slinky Bus needs to be booked 24 hours in advance. The County Councillor has a meeting at SCC regarding the lack of buses particularly in South Petherton and Ilton.
- (c) Dogs on Farm Land - There is an ongoing problem with dogs off the lead on footpaths and farm land.
- (d) Parish Plan Bank Account - There is some money left in a bank account which was used for the Parish Plan. All remaining money is the property of the Parish Council. The Clerk will see the bank to close the account and transfer the money to the Parish Council account. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (e) Empty Bungalow in Rod Lane - A question was asked about why this is not being used for housing. The reason is that there is planning consent for a number of new houses at this location. At some point if the housing is not built the consent will need to be renewed.
- (f) Hedges along Cad Road - Many of these are overgrown. It was agreed to send a general letter to all residents reminding them of their responsibility to cut their hedges. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2017/160 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th November 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The meeting finished at 9.30 p.m.

Lee Hart - Chairman