

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 11th September 2018

2018/140 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr I Sherwood (Vice Chair)
Mrs R Burt
Mrs S Hill
Mrs P Matravers
Mr I Welch
Mrs S Steele (District Councillor)
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mr D Amor (Chair)
Mrs M Bullock

In Attendance

1 member of the public

2018/141 Public Voice

Grant for the Friendship Club Christmas Meal - Mrs Bridges attended to request a grant towards the Club's Christmas Meal. This is a later agenda item which will be decided and the Clerk will write to the Friendship Club. Mrs Bridges left the meeting after this item.

2018/142 County Councillor Report

This item was brought forward so that Mr Dance could attend another meeting on the same evening. He reported that the County Council is having to make some £13 million of savings by the end of this year and even more next year. 130 jobs are to be lost, the Park & Rides are in danger of being closed although one may remain, hedge cutting, ditching and other things will be reduced. There will be no salt for parish councils and many roads which are now gritted will no longer be done. Support for the Citizens Advice will be cut; the youth service has been cut and there are many other cuts. Somerset County Council is the second worst council in England.

On a more positive note, it was remarked that the new bus service is working very well although there have been some complaints that it is not stopping in as many places in the village as before, and also that it does not allow much time in Taunton.

Mr Dance left the meeting at 7.50 p.m.

2018/143 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 10th July 2018

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

2018/144 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

There were no matters arising not under a separate agenda item.

2018/145 Parish Council Vacancies - Two vacancies remain.

2018/146 Highways

- (a) Closure of Main Street on 5/09/2018 for 3 days - Highways were contacted to say that the closure notice had been erected in the wrong position and that the diversion is unsuitable because of the narrow damaged bridge at Brook Common. These comments were passed to the Road Closures/Streetworks Team. This work has now been finished.
- (b) Closure of Stocklinch Road commencing on 6/09/2018 for 2 days.

2018/147 Brook Green - There was nothing to report. The area is looking good and has been tidied up.

2018/148 Footpaths - There was nothing to report.

2018/149 Cemetery / Churchyard

- (a) Councillors have regularly walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems have been recorded.
- (b) Hedges - The Churchyard hedge has been cut by the Ranger along with the path at the back and it is looking very nice. Some of the hedge at the Cemetery has been done and he will finish the Cemetery hedge during his visit next month.
- (c) Climbing on grave stones - It has been reported that some children have been seen climbing on the grave stones. One was loose and has been re-set by the family. If the children are known, a Councillor should have a word with the family concerned.

2018/150 Recreation Ground Play Park

- (a) Weekly inspection reports show nothing new or urgent.
- (b) Zip Wire - The zip wire is still being shown as not running properly and the Clerk spoke to the contractors who fitted it. The reason it is slow is due to the design and the fall of the wire. The faster ones are a different design. The contractor recently tightened the wire which did not improve the speed. It is currently working at its best. The contractor offered to put some grease on the wire to see if this would make a difference although he doubted that it would. He will speak to the inspector again because the reports should not be showing a problem with the zip wire, when there is no problem that can be solved since the speed is down to the design.
- (c) Registration of ownership of the two footpaths with the Land Registry - Registration documents have now been received.
- (d) Copse Lane Project Commuted Sum - We have been asked to wait until SSDC has finished its re-organisation because procedures for transferring money to parishes is likely to change. The Clerk will follow this up. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (e) Playday - This was very successful with approximately 250 people attending. There was a bouncy castle, birds of prey, snakes and circus skills plus other activities and crafts. The Clerk sent a thank you email. The organisers thanked the parish council for doing the path which made getting in and out much easier.
- (f) Cradle Swing - One of these has been damaged and has now been removed. There is also damage to one of the flat swings. The chains in the inspection report are being shown as 'monitor' and not as needing to be replaced. The price of new swings from GB Sport and Leisure are: Cradle Swing - £65.00 each; Flat Swings - £30.00 each with an option to have these in green instead of black. The chains are one size which fits up to 3 meters in height and are fitted with two vary links. The chains are £32.00 per pair and the vary links £4.75 each (all + VAT). Delivery for up to £200 is £15.00, thereafter at 8.5% of the cost. The swings are in stock. Records show that Ilton Parish Council had new seats in 2011. It was agreed to order 4 new seats and to leave the chains until the inspection report indicates they need to be changed. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (g) Somerset Playing Fields Association - The Play Park has won another award which will be presented at the AGM on Thursday 13th September at Woolavington Village Hall. Unfortunately no-one is available to attend the AGM. The Clerk will send apologies. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2018/151 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Report on meeting with Football Foundation - The Clerk met with Brendan Dix of the Football Association and Liz Pill of the Football Foundation on Wed 11/7/2018 to discuss possible funding for the football pitch. Their concern is that there is currently no need identified in Ilton for a high spec football pitch. There is already very good provision for both junior and adult football in Ilminster which has a number of good quality pitches and committees set up to run football with all the safety and child safeguarding necessary. Before funding could be considered Ilton will need to show that there is a need within Ilton. Liz Pill particularly expressed grave concern that if

Ilton were to spend in excess of £100,000 on a high spec football pitch it might be a very expensive white elephant which will cost a lot to maintain. Before Ilton embarks on that project consideration should be given to less costly ways forward. They were also concerned about the lack of toilet facilities and changing rooms because you cannot have adult visiting teams or girls teams particularly without toilet facilities. They offered funding to run some courses on the MUGA and have sent through 3 possible things we can consider which they will support. These details have been passed on the Mr Welch.

- (b) Report on possible activities on the MUGA - Mr Welch said that of the 3 offers from the Football Foundation the one which is most interesting is the Wild Cats which is for girls. A minimum of 30 girls aged 5 - 11 would be required. The other offers were for a disabled group and an adult group. The next registration is in November.

ACTION - Mr Welch

- (c) New position of football pitch - It has been suggested that the football pitch is moved to a new position alongside the MUGA which is the position shown on the plans. This was marked out during the summer and SSDC were asked to mow it rather than the old fenced temporary football pitch. We were advised not to fence the new pitch. Fencing will not keep out dogs and once the pitch is established with goals etc it will be obvious where it is. It was suggested that an area for a full-sized pitch plus a run-off is marked out, but that a smaller area for a good-sized junior pitch is improved. It was recommended that we talk to a specialist who maintains SSDC's football pitches in Yeovil. It was suggested that the fencing is removed from the old temporary football pitch and that is no longer mowed. But because the new pitch is not likely to be ready for some time it was agreed to leave it fenced and continue mowing until the new pitch is ready.

ACTION - The Clerk

- (d) Goals - Mr Welch has re-opened the grant for goals which had been obtained recently. Because the original application was for full-sized goals on wheels this cannot be changed now and they have been ordered. They can be used for juniors as well and also moved around and locked away.

- (e) Report on meeting regarding improvement of football pitch - Mr Sherwood and the Clerk met with an SSDC pitch specialist on 5/9/2018 to discuss improvements to the pitch. It was a very positive meeting. We have not had final costings but the approximate cost will be in the region of £3,000 to improve the pitch to create a good sized flat junior pitch with new seed and some surface drainage. They can also carry out yearly maintenance. The cost of maintenance of a full-sized pitch in Yeovil is £3,000 per year so a junior one should be a bit less. We have now been advised that spraying weedkiller will not happen until January so the new pitch is not likely to be ready by next spring. Councillors requested that the cost of improving the pitch is put in writing. The Clerk to follow up.

ACTION - The Clerk

- (f) Report on meeting regarding drainage - Mr Sherwood and the Clerk met with an SSDC drainage specialist. There is concern about the ditch holding water in the winter because the ditch has no outflow. The levels of the ditch will be measured to see if it would be possible for it to drain if there is an outflow. The duty of care the Parish Council has to residents, particularly children, was discussed and the Clerk has written to SALC asking for a legal view from NALC of the steps the Parish Council needs to take regarding the water and whether signage is sufficient.

- (g) Signage - Some dog signs are ready. The Clerk will work on the other signs.

ACTION - The Clerk

- (h) Grass - There has been no growth this year after the last cut due to the hot summer.

- (i) Perimeter Footpath - Alternative surfaces were discussed with Play UK although any changes will need to be discussed with SSDC. Councillors agreed that this is a worthwhile project which should be taken forward in the new year.

- (j) Next meeting of Project Group - Wednesday 3rd October - The Clerk to book the School. (Since the Parish Council meeting the Project Group meeting has been

postponed until Wednesday 24th October because the 3rd October clashed with the School Governors' meeting.)

- (k) MUGA ongoing inspections - It is not really necessary to have a formal weekly inspection but it can be added to the annual inspection.
- (l) Wild Area - Mrs Hill would like to look at developing the wild area of the field. Mrs Matravers will assist. The Clerk will forward emails and a copy of the plan which shows the wild area down by the Cricket Club. Councillors felt it could also be by the boundary of the new development, near where the attenuation pond will be.
- (m) Walk around Playing Field - It was suggested that a group walks around the field to discuss ideas for the future. Sunday 30th September at 3 p.m. was agreed. Details to be put on the Facebook page and on the notice board.
- (n) Hiring the MUGA - There are a couple of sporting groups interested in hiring the MUGA during the winter. It was agreed to charge £5 per session. This will be a pilot scheme. If it doesn't cover the costs it will be increased. In order to let people know the times the MUGA will be in use, a blackboard/slate can be used which can be hung on the entrance to the MUGA. The times of hire will be put on the Facebook page and details kept by Mr Welch. **ACTION - Mr Welch**
- (o) Notice Board - It was agreed to buy a new notice board for the MUGA area where details of hiring can be displayed. There are metal framed lift-up notice boards available which can be opened without the need for a key. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (p) Compound Licence Agreement with Larkfleet - The final copy signed by the other two parties has been received. Our copy needs to be signed by the Chairman. **ACTION - The Chairman**

2018/152 Playing Field/Cemetery Car Park - The hedge has been cut by a flail.

2018/153 General Maintenance

Ranger - Mr Sherwood reported that he is doing a good job. He has cut the hedge in the Churchyard and half of the hedge in the Cemetery which he will finish during his next visit.

2018/154 Planning Applications

App No	18/02422/FUL
Proposal	Erection of two flats with associated parking
Location	Land Adj 10 Cottage Corner, Ilton TA19 9EP

Councillors considered the above application. Although there were no specific objections to the proposal, the Council have queried whether the policy not to build in private gardens still applies.

2018/155 Correspondence

- (a) Police Report - There have been 161 investigated crimes reported for August 2018 with 21 arrests and 24 reports of ASB for Area North.
- (b) Thank you from 1st Ilton and Broadway Scouts Group for the donation.
- (c) Nippybus Replacement Bus Service with details of timetable. There are two stops in Ilton but no late bus.
- (d) August Somerset Waste Partnership briefing
- (e) Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner Newsletter
- (f) Clerks & Councils Direct

2018/156 Request for grant towards Christmas Lunch - Councillors agreed to make a donation of £350.00 towards the annual Christmas Lunch. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2018/157 Accounts payments and receipts

- (a) Balances @ 31/08/2018 - Treasurers Account = £61,888.44 / 30 Day Account = £598.09
- (b) Received: Memorial - £260.00; Parish Plan - £2,183.77; VAT refund - £17,708.20; SSDC final retention sum from Playpark and MUGA - £15,055.99.
- (c) The clerk proposed transferring the Parish Plan amount into the Reserve Account where it can be held for a special purpose. This was agreed.
- (d) The following cheques were raised:
 - 001054 - £ 144.00 - Martin Wyatt, car park hedge cutting
 - 001055 - £ 337.44 - SSDC Ranger
 - 001056 - £ 25.00 - SSDC GDPR training
 - 001057 - £ 129.60 - Eagle Plant, July and August container hiring
 - 001058 - £ 100.00 - Ilminster Carnival Club, hire of cones
 - 001059 - £ 220.50 - Slade Parry, project management
 - 001060 - £ 60.00 - Strike Soccer Centre - MUGA open day
 - 001061 - £ 192.00 - HMRC, Paye
 - 001062 - £ 586.35 - S Morley - Salary and Administration July and August
 - 001063 - £ 350.00 - Ilton Friendship Club, Christmas Lunch

2018/158 Matters and items to report

The issue of speeding on Cad Road was raised. The Police have been contacted.

2018/159 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9th October 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The meeting finished at 9.25 p.m.

Ian Sherwood - Vice Chairman