

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 9th July 2019

2019/122 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr I Sherwood (Chair)
Mrs R Burt (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Bullock
Mrs J Easterbrook
Ms H Wakeford
Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mr G Fox
Mrs S Hill
Mrs P Matravers
Mr I Welch
Mr A Dance (County
Councillor)

In Attendance

12 members of the
public

2019/123 Visitors and Public Voice

(a) Development behind St Peter's Close

A resident commented that every winter Rod Lane floods and if the surface run off area is reduced by building it will make matters worse. It was felt that the developers need to ensure there are sufficient land drains installed.

Another resident brought up the issue of the prior discussion that the parish council had with the developer and the view expressed by the parish council that there is a need for low cost housing in the village. The resident commented that Ilton already has a disproportionate amount of low cost housing and it needs more higher banded properties to ensure it receives sufficient council tax which would also give Ilton a louder voice.

Another resident commented that the low cost housing which is included in the new development on the edge of the playing field is not selling, some bungalows remain on the market for a long time and that Ilton does not need more low cost housing. The resident asked why the parish council felt that the village needs more low cost housing and where is the evidence.

A resident asked why the notes of the meeting with the developer were not included in the minutes. The Chairman answered that this is because the meeting was an informal meeting and was not part of the parish council meeting.

The Clerk had received an email from Cherwyn Developments Ltd which was read to the meeting. *"Further to our previous meeting. We have now got a preliminary layout with a mix of house and bungalow types. I am currently in discussion with SSDC's housing enabler over the mix and size of the affordable homes. Once we have this more defined I will send you the layout. We are undertaking traffic surveys and our transport consultant will be preparing his reports and transport statement. Once completed this will be a public document and will form part of the planning application. I will send you a copy once we are ready to submit. This document is likely to be amended/updated as the preparation of the application progresses We will soon be organising a public consultation event, for members of the local community to see and comment on our proposals."*

The public were told that as soon as the parish council has more information about the public consultation, it will be advertised and they will be able to make their comments direct to the developers. The public were reminded that it is not for the parish council to approve or reject a planning application. The parish council can make comments but it is the district council who are the planning authority who make the decisions. The planning office work within a legal framework and they cannot stop anyone putting in an application. Any authority will want a % of low cost housing - approximately 30% - included in any development. The developer can make more money on more expensive housing so there must be a negotiation with the planning authority over how much low cost housing there will be.

The land in question at St Peter's Close has been earmarked for development for a long time and in this case the developer has come to the parish before plans have been submitted which is not always the case.

A resident said she had been in contact with the Somerset Badger Trust because there are badgers living either in the field or on the boundary. It was noted that developers must do wildlife surveys including for slow worms etc.

(b) Playing Field planting

Mrs Chew said she has some small trees in pots and she can let the parish council have some for planting in the woodland area of the Playing Field.

2019/124 District Councillor Report

Councillor Cavill reported that the Local Plan is being reviewed and can be viewed at a number of local locations including Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster.

2019/125 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 11th June 2019

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed subject to an amendment to minute 2019/110(b) which should read 'Cad Green Cottage' and not 'Cadbury Cottage'.

2019/126 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

Overgrown verge by the Wyndham Arms - The Clerk received a phone call from the resident at 1 Church Green (the houses by the Wyndham Arms) to say that their deeds shown their boundary is 2 meters from the road and their boundary ends at their garden fence. The Clerk has contacted Highways to ask that the verge is cut as soon as possible because of visibility issues, and also contacted planning because maintenance of the verge was a condition of planning consent. Highways have emailed to say they are currently looking into the land ownership at this location which currently shows on their mapping that they are responsible for part of the verge. If this remains the case they will arrange for a cut for safety reasons.

2019/127 Highways

A358 Southfields roundabout to Taunton - a route for the new road at the Taunton end has been announced. The junctions around Ilton and Hatch Beauchamp have still to be decided. The Chair of Broadway Parish Council has been in contact to arrange a meeting with the Chair of Ilton Parish Council.

ACTION - Mr Sherwood

2019/128 Brook Green

This is looking nice. The bat box project is ongoing, hopefully in September.

ACTION - Ms Wakeford

2019/129 Footpaths

(a) Footpath by Cad Green Cottage - The missing post which Mrs Burt has, has not been replaced yet. Mrs Burt will ring again.

ACTION - Mrs Burt

(b) Other Footpaths - they are overgrown and need attention. Mrs Bullock to report it to SCC.

ACTION - Mrs Bullock

2019/130 Cemetery / Churchyard

Councillors have regularly walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems had been recorded. The Ranger will be asked to trim around both the Cemetery and the Churchyard.

2019/131 Recreation Ground Play Park

(a) Inspection Reports - nothing new or urgent.

(b) Fencing - The grant is on hold for the moment until we meet with SSDC to discuss it. It was agreed to wait for the meeting because we cannot replace the fence during the school summer holidays.

ACTION - The Clerk

(c) Swings - There was a report that some of the swings have been twisted round but they were OK when inspected.

(d) Playday - The posters have not been received as yet.

ACTION - The Clerk

2019/132 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Football Pitch - Invitations to quote for the new football pitch were sent out with a closing date set for one month on 22nd July. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Outdoor Gym Equipment maintenance and inspection - The Clerk sent an inspection template to Mr Welch who will use it electronically and send the completed sheets to the Clerk. Mr Welch reported that everything is in order at the moment and the equipment is still being well used.
- (c) Grass cutting around MUGA and temporary football pitch - Mr Welch has requested extra requirements for the grass cuttings as follows: strimming and maintaining the outdoor gym area; extending the area cut around the MUGA to three mower lengths rather than one which will enable balls to be retrieved easier; continuing to cut the area between the community gardens and the car park and to pick up the cuttings; continue to do the path, temporary football pitch and areas around the MUGA. The extra areas to be cut and strimmed will cost an extra £350 per year. Councillors unanimously approved the extra expenditure. **ACTION - Mr Welch**
- (d) Grass cutting in field - The grass has been cut.
- (e) Wildflower Meadow - The ecologist, Chris Smith, has visited the field several more times in the last month. He commented on the large number of butterflies last time he walked round. **ACTION - Meeting to discuss planting**
- (f) Perimeter Path - The Clerk measured the length of the perimeter path which is currently being kept cut short. This is the proposed layout of the new gravel path and measures 750 metres from the car park entrance to joining up with the current path just by the seat by the MUGA. It was agreed just to do the perimeter path and not to include the two paths which are being mowed from the footpath entrance to the field to where they join the perimeter path, or to do the path which goes along the side of the temporary football pitch, behind the houses and back up alongside the community gardens. It was noted that there have been a number of comments in the village about whether a gravel path is necessary. The path which is being mowed is very accessible and dry and easy to walk on at the moment. It was also noted that when the football pitch is constructed, installation of the drains will dig up the new path. It was agreed not to do the path until after the football pitch has been done. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (g) Barred Wire and Scrap metal - The barred wire and scrap metal has been removed.
- (h) Benches - 3 new picnic benches and tables have been ordered for around the MUGA area. Delivery will take a while because supplier is a one-man business. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**
- (i) Community Gardens - These are looking very good. The extra 5 plots have been allocated.
- (j) Ride-on Mower - Councillors agreed that it is a good idea in principle for the Council to buy its own ride-on mower. The Council's insurers have confirmed that if someone is using it by request of the Council, then they are covered by the Council's insurance. This includes councillors or anyone else paid or unpaid.
- (k) Hiring the MUGA - Notices that it is available for hire to be put on Facebook and the notice board and hopefully in the new Merryfield Messenger. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (l) Dog poo - A reminder about picking up after your dog was posted on the Ilton Recreation Facebook page and the General Ilton Facebook page. A poster to be put on the new notice board. The Chairman noted that SSDC have advised that dogs should be on leads or banned altogether from public play spaces. It is hoped that we will not have to resort to banning dogs. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2019/133 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme

Mr Sherwood asked councillors to authorise some extra Ranger hours during the summer months. Councillors agreed an extra day this month. Mr Mico will be asked to trim the car park.

ACTION - Mr Sherwood

2019/134 Planning Applications

App No 19/01259/HOU
Proposal Construction of dropped kerb etc
Location 1 Spurwells, Ilton

Councillors considered the above application and have no objections to the proposal.

2019/135 Correspondence

- (a) Somerset Waste Partnership June 2019 briefing
- (b) Invitation to the Chair of Somerset County council Annual Civic Service on 28th September 2019 at Tatworth - there were no councillors free to attend.
- (c) Clerks & Councils Direct
- (d) Police Report - There were 203 investigated crime reported for the month of June 2019 with 24 arrests and 43 reports of ASB for Area North.

2019/136 Accounts payments and receipts

- (a) Grant - an application has been received from the Youth Club for a grant to help towards a Youth Club trip to Noah's Ark Zoo. Councillors commented that the Youth Club has grown since Jemma took over and is very successful. They recently repainted the bus shelter and raised £85.50 on a sponsored run towards the cost of the new gym equipment. Mr Sherwood proposed a grant of £250, seconded by Mrs Bullock. Councillors agreed unanimously with the proposal.
- (b) Grant - an application has been received from Sarah Welch to give a donation to help with attractions at the fete on 31st August to raise money for St Margaret's Hospice. The Clerk was asked to ask if the Council could sponsor something specific for the fete. Council would like more details. It was agreed that ideas could be considered by email in advance of the next meeting in September. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) Balance @ 30/06/2019 - Treasurers Account = £39,217.84
- (d) The following amount was received - £85.50 from the Youth Club sponsored run.
- (e) The following cheques were raised:
 - 001121 - £ 361.08 - Salary and admin expenses
 - 001122 - £ 57.60 - Eagle Plant container June
 - 001123 - £ 100.00 - SALC training courses
 - 001124 - £ 12.00 - Dog poo posters
 - 001125 - £ 250.00 - Youth Club grant

2019/137 Matters and items to report

- (a) Merryfield Messenger - The Clerk has spoken to one of the organisers of the new Village Hall newsheet which has been circulated in the Village to ask if the Parish Council can be included in any future editions. Councillors suggested that the Parish Council could contribute towards the cost of the newsheet. Printing is already in the budget for printing Ilton Talking. It was felt that if it is produced quarterly at £25.00 a time the Council would be prepared to pay £100 a year towards costs. Mr Sherwood proposed £100 a year, seconded by Ms Wakeford, agreed unanimously. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Dog running wild - Several complaints have been received about a dog running wild and attacking people. No one was aware who the dog belonged to. The situation will be monitored.

- (c) Christmas Tree - Two years ago the tree was 20' and cost £100 and Chris Matravers collected it. No-one was sure where the tree came from. Mrs Easterbrook has a quote of £120 + VAT + £15 delivery for an 18' tree. Councillors agreed that this seemed like a fair quote. Before the tree is ordered the hole should be measured to ensure it will fit. Mr Amor has the lights. **ACTION - Mrs Easterbrook**
- (d) Old Orchard Close - Some of the trees are overhanging the pathway. Mrs Burt to contact the residents. **ACTION - Mrs Burt**
- (e) Village Green Path to Churchyard - A resident has reported trees are overhanging the path. Mr Sherwood to look at the problem. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**

2019/138 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The meeting finished at 9.15 p.m.

Ian Sherwood - Chairman