

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 11th February 2020

2020/20 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:	Apologies	In Attendance
Mr I Sherwood (Chair)		
Mrs R Burt (Vice Chair)	Mrs P Matravers	29 members of the public
Mrs M Bullock		
Mrs J Easterbrook		
Mrs S Hill		
Mr G Mackenzie-Green		
Mr D Mico		
Ms H Wakeford		
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)		
Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)		
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)		

2020/21 Visitors and Public Voice

(a) Potholes

A resident said there are a number of potholes which need attention, particularly at the junction of Church Road and Cad Road.

(b) Planning application for new development adjacent to St Peter's Close

The application for the new development has been received. To date there are 49 objections registered on the SSDC website. Residents attended this meeting to set out their objections to the application and to ask the Parish Council to support their objections.

Before setting out the objections a resident asked if any of the parish councillors wished to declare an interest. All of the councillors present said they did not have an interest in the application. A resident challenged Mr Mico to declare an interest because he has done work for Cherwyn Developments Ltd who are applying for the planning approval. Mr Mico said he did not believe he had an interest because he is self employed and is not directly involved with this application. However to avoid an argument Mr Mico agreed to leave the room when the planning application is discussed by the parish council during the meeting.

A number of residents then set out their objections to the application as follows:

- (i) increase in traffic movements - approximately another 30 car movements per day through the very narrow bottle neck of St Peter's Close;
- (ii) lack of services in Ilton which makes it unsuitable for more development;
- (iii) this is a greenfield site;
- (iv) there is already sufficient development in Ilton which has seen a 25% increase in the last few years;
- (v) this development is contrary to South Somerset's SS2 planning policy;
- (vi) this development does not meet an identifiable housing need;
- (vii) access for emergency vehicles will be very difficult because of parked cars in St Peter's Close.
- (viii) Wessex Water have said that a sewage pump is necessary but the builders have said that a gravity fall is sufficient. Residents believe that there is not sufficient fall for gravity to work properly and a pump is necessary.

A resident spoke about her concern with the flood situation particularly with her house which backs onto the field. Flood water will be taken past her house to a pond. She is concerned about a ditch which may flood and also about the proposed pond which will become stagnant particularly in the summer and a source of insects and rats.

Another resident spoke about the issue of flooding in Rod Lane if houses are built on the field which will reduce the amount of water which can be soaked into the land and increase run-off to Rod Lane which already floods during heavy rain. This will make flooding worse and could cause properties to flood.

2020/22 Planning Applications - This item was moved forward on the agenda so that residents could stay to hear the council's comments.

Mr Mico left the room for the next item.

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| (a) | App No | 19/03505/FUL |
| | Proposal | erection of 15 dwellings, formation of new access etc |
| | Location | Land OS3875, part of St Peter's Close, Ilton |

After hearing residents objections, parish councillors discussed the application. After discussion Mr Mackenzie-Green proposed that Ilton Parish Council object to the application for the reasons cited by the residents. The proposal was seconded by Mr Sherwood. The motion was carried by a majority votes and the following comments were made to the District Council:

"Ilton Parish Council voted to oppose the application for the following reasons:

1. There is concern about flooding. Currently water flows down hill from this field to Rod Lane which frequently floods, up to the entrance to properties in Rod Lane. If building goes ahead on the field it will affect the ability of the field to absorb water making it more likely that flood water will flow into Rod Lane and flood properties there.
 2. A separate concern about flooding was raised. Building will take flood water past various homes in St Peter's Close to an attenuation pond. If water flow is excessive it could cause flooding of these properties.
 3. The ditch on the land will be moved to a few feet behind some of the back gardens in St Peter's Close and could flood the properties.
 4. There is concern that the attenuation pond will become a breeding ground for mosquitoes in the summer and will attract rats.
 5. The access into the new development will be via St Peter's Close which is very narrow and already quite congested with resident's parking. An increase in traffic will be potentially dangerous. Access for emergency vehicles through St Peter's Close would be very difficult with the cars already parked in a narrow road.
 6. Wessex Water have said that a sewage pump is necessary but the builders have said that a gravity fall is sufficient. Residents believe that there is not sufficient fall for gravity to work properly and a pump is necessary.
 7. The proposal is contrary to South Somerset's SS2 planning policy for the following reasons:
 - There is no identified housing need in Ilton which has seen a lot of new development in the last few years.
 - The development does not support the village
 - The development does not provide employment.
 8. Ilton has no infrastructure to support more development. There is no shop, the pub is listed for sale and is likely to close, there is no doctor's surgery, the bus service is very infrequent. More development is not environmentally sustainable and does not accord with South Somerset's policy to reduce CO2 emissions because residents of Ilton are forced to use cars for all their needs, due to a lack of local facilities and a proper bus service."
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| (b) | App No | 19/03248/S73 |
| | Proposal | Section 73 application to vary condition 5 of appeal decision to allow for alternative antenna |
| | Location | 12 Cottage Corner, Main Street, Ilton |

There have been some objections to the design of the alternative antenna. After discussion councillors agreed that it is smaller than the existing one and should not be so visible. Councillors agreed that they have no objections to the application.

2020/23 Parish Council Vacancy

Ms Hayley Wakeford resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons on 29th January 2020 with immediate effect. A formal vacancy notice has been placed on the notice board.

2020/24 County Councillor Report

Local government in Somerset

Councillor Dance said that discussions are ongoing about the future of local councils in Somerset. He does not believe that a single unitary authority is the best way forward. This would be very difficult for parishes because the support at district level would be removed. In a referendum in 2007 on a unitary authority, 20% were in favour and 80% against.

2020/25 County Councillor Report

Councillor Cavill said he has nothing to add to Cllr Dance's report.

2020/26 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

2020/27 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

- (a) Website - Following Ms Wakeford's resignation councillors were asked if there is anyone else who could take over the development of a new website but no-one felt able to take over.
- (b) Overspill Car Park - The Cricket Club have replied that the committee will discuss the request to contribute towards the upkeep of the land. The Clerk asked if they would rather help with the upkeep by cutting the grass for example.

2020/28 Highways

- (a) A358 upgrade - There are no further developments.
- (b) Village Hall Sign at corner of Copse Lane - The Clerk has reminded Highways that this sign has still not been replaced.
- (c) Water Level Sign at the Ford - this has been knocked over and bent. Highways have been informed and the matter has been passed to a superintendent for inspection.
- (d) Traffic Accessing the Business Park - The owner of the business park has spoken to the users of the park and asked them to be considerate. He has said that if residents notice a problem in the future, to let him know the type of vehicle so that he can talk to the people who are likely to be responsible. There are no restrictions on times of use of the business park.
- (e) Grit - A resident has asked where in the village grit is stored for use on the roads and pavements. Much of the grit which was collected in previous years is no longer usable because the bags rotted and split. Mr Sherwood has some fresh grit.

ACTION - The Clerk

2020/29 Brook Green

Strimming of the paths - Mr Mico said he will strim the paths on a voluntary basis.

2020/30 Footpaths

SCC have asked who is the Parish Path Liaison Officer (PPLO) for Ilton. The Clerk to forward the email to Mrs Easterbrook.

ACTION - The Clerk

2020/31 Cemetery / Churchyard

- (a) Councillors have regularly walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems had been recorded.

- (b) A Councillor raised the issue of the interment of ashes of a former resident for which it had been agreed to charge the family the resident amount. The Councillor felt that this would set a precedent for other people who had moved out of the village but wished to be buried here. The interment is to take place in an existing grave for which the family have exclusive right and the resident in question had left the village under a compulsory order when Copse Lane was developed. Councillors felt it is the correct approach in these circumstances to charge the resident amount.

2020/32 Recreation Ground Play Park

Weekly Inspection Reports - there is nothing new or urgent.

2020/33 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Playing Field Development meeting report - notes of the meeting held on 4th February circulated to all in attendance.
- (b) Skate Park - no further progress on this. It was agreed to contact other companies for quotes. **ACTION - Mr Mico / Mrs Bullock**
- (c) Larkfleet compound / wildflower seeding - no councillors are able to take on the responsibility of seeding the compound with wildflowers. It was also felt that a wildflower meadow would be very expensive and time consuming to maintain. The Clerk has contacted Larkfleet and asked them to go ahead and seed with grass seed.
- (d) Outdoor Gym Equipment weekly inspections - Freshair Fitness have sent the maintenance pack which consists of paint and some screw driver bits. They recommend the moving parts are oiled with WD40.
- (e) Quotes for weekly inspections of gym equipment - SSDC have quoted £6.78 per weekly inspection until April 2020, thereafter £13.57. This is a corrected quote because it was not realised this was a different site. This does not include the oiling of the moving parts. £13.57 equals £705.64 per year. Currently the Play Park is £176.41 per quarter, which also equals £705.64 per year. A company called Elite Playground Inspections have quoted to inspect both areas weekly - the Play Park £55.00 per month and the Playing Field £40.00 per month. This comes to £1,140 per annum. This will include lubricating the gym equipment and tightening loose nuts and bolts etc and lubrication where necessary. They can also carry out repairs. Councillors agreed to accept Elite Playground's quote. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (f) Benches - these will be ordered later in the year. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (g) Tree Planting - this took place on Saturday 25th January. A group of native trees were planted by the gate at the bottom corner of the field and 5 rows of more decorative trees were planted on the former temporary football field by the Cricket Club fence. About 100 trees in total have been planted. The remaining trees have been donated to a similar project. The Clerk applied to SSDC for a pack of 50 trees which are being given to local councils. They can be picked up at the Lufton Depot between 12 – 15:30 on Thursday 13th February. **ACTION - Mrs Hill**
- (h) Hedges - Mr Mico is arranging with a local contractor to cut the hedges.
- (i) Dogs in field signs - these have been delivered and will be put up this week.
- (j) Grass Cutting - Mr Sherwood and the Clerk have a meeting on the field with SSDC on Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. to discuss grass cutting. The whole field will be cut except for the new football pitch. Mr Mico said he has asked for a quote from a local contractor to cut the grass. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood / The Clerk**
- (k) Lock-up key - it was agreed that Mr Mico and Mr Mackenzie Green will each hold a copy of the key to the lock-up with the Clerk holding a spare. Keys were distributed.

2020/34 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme - There was nothing to report.

2020/35 Correspondence

- (a) Letter from Cllr Val Keitch, leader of SSDC, about the future of local government in Somerset
- (b) Letter from Cllr David Fothergill, leader of SCC, about the future of local government in Somerset.
- (c) Recycling Briefing January 2020.
- (d) SSDC are asking that every parish should have an Environment Champion.
- (e) Citizens Advice South Somerset with a request for a donation. In previous years Ilton Parish Council have given a donation of £75. After discussion Mr Sherwood proposed a donation of £75 this year, seconded by Mrs Bullock. All Councillors were in agreement.

2020/36 Accounts payments and receipts

- (a) Balance at bank @ 31/01/2020 = Treasurers account = £45,273.02
- (b) The following cheques were raised:
 - 001167 - £ 338.00 - Salary and admin expenses January.
 - 001168 - £ 168.72 - SSDC Ranger Labour November
 - 001169 - £ 168.72 - SSDC Ranger Labour December
 - 001170 - £ 96.00 - Macs Printing - Dog signs
 - 001171 - £ 36.00 - The Wider View - Merryfield Messenger Printing
 - 001172 - £ 75.00 - Citizens Advice South Somerset - donation

2020/37 Matters and items to report

2020/38 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The next Playing Field Development meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.15 p.m. at Merryfield Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.25 p.m.

Ian Sherwood - Chairman