

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on
Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

2023/20 Attendance and Apologies

Present: Cllrs Simpson, Sherwood, Mackenzie Green, Gordon, Matravers, Pike Kelaart and Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs Burt, Ripley, County Cllrs Dance & Roundell Greene, District Cllr Cavill.

In Attendance: 13 members of the public

2023/21 Declaration of Interest – there were no declarations of interest.

2023/22 Visitors and Public Voice

There were a number of questions/comments from the residents in attendance regarding the recreation field. These included how much the proposed skatepark would cost now, expecting there to have been an increase in costs and consideration to work already carried out towards the project. In addition, it was raised as to whether a further census should be carried out to find out current views on development of the recreation field.

2023/23

a) Review of Skatepark Funding and Feasibility

i. Funding

Cllr Gordon presented information obtained in discussions with National Lottery and Clarks Foundation, who were viewed as the primary grant giving opportunities.

Both organisations advised that to fulfil their main criteria for awards, communities would need to have carried out significant fundraising as well as have a traceable public consultation and a community that is involved from day 1. National Lottery also advised that grants from section 106 agreements are not counted as funds raised and advised not to allocate these to the project when making applications.

Cllr Simpson investigated activity to date, and could not find any evidence to support fulfilling the criteria for funding. Based on the guidance received from funding organisations coupled with our own research and findings, it is unlikely the skatepark project would qualify for funding.

ii. Feasibility

Original costing for the skatepark was £150,000 + vat, and increased to £161,000 in December 2022. The new quotation is £185,000 + vat. It was noted that neither of the quotations included any sundry items such as linking pathways, lighting, landscaping, fencing or CCTV if required. The current quotation is valid for 6 months from January 2023 and the cost is anticipated to increase at this time.

Currently there is a balance of c £110,000 remaining of the field development grant, of which £75,000 was ring-fenced for the skatepark. The remaining value of this grant, together with additional reserves held for other village projects is insufficient to cover the cost of the skatepark. Additional grants and fundraising would be necessary to enable the skatepark to go ahead.

Based on the guidance and information from National Lottery and Clarks Foundation, Cllr Gordon proposed the ring-fenced £75,000 for the skatepark be moved to the General Field Reserves, to assist with the application of future grants. These funds would remain restricted to developments of the recreation field.

Councillors voted in majority in favour of the proposal (6 for, 1 against).

b) Consider ways of gauging public opinion on field development

After discussion of possible ways to gauge residents up to date views, including how these needed to meet criteria for fundraising, Cllr Simpson proposed the council undertake a full public consultation to ask what the village would like on the recreation field, with the various ways in which a consultation could take place to be discussed in detail at the next ordinary parish council meeting in February. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Cllr Simpson consequently proposed that no further development takes place on the field, protecting the remaining field development reserves for decisions following the consultation. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

It was agreed that Cllr Gordon would contact Maverick to thank them for their work on the project so far and advise that it is currently on hold, pending a public consultation. Cllr Gordon will also contact National Lottery and Clarks to offer thanks for their information and guidance to date.

Before closing the meeting, Cllr Simpson referred back to the visitors for any further comments. A number of general comments were made and residents were invited to attend the next ordinary meeting and public consultation in due course.

Date of next ordinary meeting: Tuesday 14th February 2023, at 6.30pm at Merryfield Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Elaine Simpson, Chairman