

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.30p.m.**

In advance of the formal meeting opening, Cllr Gordon wanted to take an opportunity to note thanks to Mr Kelaart, who had tendered his resignation from the Council prior to the meeting. He commented that it was a shame to see him leave, and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.

**2024/1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Present:** Cllrs Gordon, Calvert, Pike, Vance, Sherwood, Bennett, Matravers and Ripley;  
Somerset Council Cllr Dance and Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Somerset Council Cllr Roundell Greene

**2024/2 Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

**2024/3 Somerset Council Councillor Report**

Cllr Roundell Green advised that there has been a public consultation launched on the Somerset Council 2024/25 budget. There are continuing meetings being held, working on cutting costs and doing everything possible to balance the budget by February when it needs to be finalised. There will be more information coming out to Town and Parish Councils in the coming weeks regarding asset and service devolution.

A full written report is due to be sent by Cllrs Roundell Green and Dance and will be circulated to councillors and published on the parish council website once available.

**2024/4 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Minutes were approved by councillors.

**2024/5 Planning Applications**

There were no applications to consider.

**2024/6 Accounts and Financial Information**

All reports were circulated to councillors for review in advance of the meeting.

- a) The council received a summary report of the net position by costs code and reconciliation report to 31/12/23. A discrepancy of £539 was noted against the reconciliation, due to a duplicate payment from a funeral director. This amount will be refunded, thus correcting the discrepancy.
- b) The council approved the list payments, which is annexed at the end of the minutes.
- c) The Clerk presented draft budget information to councillors, which was reviewed during the meeting. The Clerk reminded councillors that the previous years precept was £5000 less than anticipated costs for the year, but the Council were able to cover the shortfall due to a high level of unallocated reserves than at the time. For the 2024/25 financial year, the Council considered increased costs of village wide grounds maintenance and the potential impact of loss of services from Somerset Council due to the widely publicised financial crisis, as well as an overall increase in costs of goods and services. Measures were agreed to lessen the need to increase the precept by an amount needed to cover anticipated costs in full which included the following:
  - Using the previously earmarked reserve for Village Facilities and Amenities to cover the shortfall between the budgeted costs and precept until a break-even point was met. This will be reviewed each year when setting the precept to ensure costs can be met before reserves are depleted.
  - Ringfenced funds for the recreation field will be used for all maintenance, including grass cutting.
  - Release of the £4000 from general funds earmarked for drainage improvements.

Having discussed in detail, councillors agreed in majority to a precept of £55,000 for 2024/25.

**2024/7 Youth Club Grant Request**

Cllrs agreed unanimously to continuing funding the hall hire costs for the youth club at a value of £240.00 per year.

**2024/8 Young Person of the Month**

Nominations were received for two young people who had been litter picking throughout the village. Councillors agreed unanimously to award to them both for this month.

**2024/9 Councillor Updates**

No significant updated reported.

**2024/10 Outstanding Actions not covered in agenda items**

No updates.

**2024/11 Matters for Report**

A request has been received from the Church regarding improving the footpath through the churchyard. Quotations will be sought and considered at a future meeting.

**2024/12 Summary of actions from the meeting**

- a) Churchyard path costs - SC

**2024/13 Items for the next meeting**

- b) Churchyard path (if information available).
- c) Councillor roles & responsibilities including committees.

*Councillors should notify the clerk of motions for inclusion at the next meeting at least 7 clear days before the date of the meeting.*

**Date of next ordinary meeting:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, at 6.30pm at Merryfield Hall

The Vice-Chair closed the meeting.

Signed .....

Date .....

## **Annex 1. Payments Authorised**

Voucher							
No	Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Minute Ref
100	10.01.2024	£8.96	£1.79	£10.75	Administration Expenses (Clerk)	Kim Larsson	
99	10.01.2024	£2,274.30	£454.86	£2,729.16	Co-Mingle Bins	Somerset Council	2023/120
98	10.01.2024	£348.00	£69.60	£417.60	Scribe Accounts Annual Fee	Scribe (Starboard Systems)	