

# ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF ILTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025 AT MERRYFIELD HALL, ILTON (6.30pm to 7:35pm)

### PRESENT:

Cllr. J Bennett (Chair)

Cllr. A Gordon

Cllr. A Pidgeon

Cllr. S Ripley

Cllr. J Easterbrook

Mr T Heath (Clerk)

9 members of the public

Somerset Councillor J Roundell (left meeting after agenda item 5)

### **2025/183 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. L Pike, Cllr. I Sherwood, Cllr. B Vance, and Cllr. N Matravars

### **2025/184 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS**

No declarations of interest in agenda items were tabled.

### **2025/185 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Members unanimously **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2025.

**Proposed Cllr. J Bennett**

**Seconded Cllr. A Gordon**

### **2025/186 PUBLIC SESSION**

A Member of the Public (MoP) asked whether Council were aware of a traffic monitoring strip that was in place early to mid-October below St. Peters Close. Council was not aware of this but agreed to check with County Highways.

A MoP stated that in her opinion it is quite clear that there is significant opposition to the Councils proposed idea (plan) to sell the 'community car park' for housing development and asked that Council take the views of residents into account.

A MoP raised a point regarding the original purpose of the land when transferred into the ownership of the Parish Council.

MoPs raised matters regarding communications from the Parish Council to residents. The Clerk offered to meet a resident to assist him in the development of a communication and social media Policy, scheduled to be presented to Council at the November meeting.

A further MoP read a number of statements which included the parish council held £230,000 in the bank at the start of the financial year; approximately 4 times the annual budget, the PC said at the August meeting they were considering refurbishing the Rec ground car park, no one will park there and walk 300 yards to village hall or cricket club, the PC agreed this summer to spend £7000 on refurbishing the football field to bring it up to a standard suitable for Ilminster Youth Football, therefore the

taxpayers of Ilton are subsidising Ilminster Youth Football Club and the PC should be supporting village organisations, the village hall, cricket club, pub and church; not undermining them by taking away a parking facility. The same MoP questioned why the Parish Council are 'rehearsing' the full Council meeting behind closed doors. The Clerk responded by saying this is not the case, meetings, called by the Clerk are held to support the development of the next Council agenda. Somerset Councillor Roundell stated it is common practice for Councils to hold pre-meetings.

## **2025/187 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR REPORT**

County Councillor Roundell briefed Council on the following:

- Cost of living support is available via Citizens Advice
- A significant quantity of affordable homes are being built for the people of Somerset
- The Maternity Unit at Yeovil hospital is due to re-open on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026
- The 12-week planning prioritisation window at Somerset Council has finished
- Work has commenced on the 2026/2027 budget

## **2025/188 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) The bank reconciliation statement, dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 was unanimously **APPROVED** and duly signed by Cllr. Gordon.

**Proposed Cllr. S Ripley**

**Seconded Cllr. J Easterbrook**

b) Members unanimously **APPROVED** a list of payments, detailed below

£79.78	Asda	Fuel
£10.59	Screwfix	Tape
£94.25	SH Bartlett & Son	Turf
£29.25	Valda Energy	Electricity
£31.20	Scribe	Cemetery add on
£4.25	Lloyds Bank	Account Charges
£xxx.xx	Mr T M Heath	Democratic Services
£325.86	HMRC	PAYE
£3584.40	George Montague	Grounds Contract
£260.00	Nicola Mackenzie-Green	Litter Picking

**Proposed Cllr. A Gordon**

**Seconded Cllr. A Pidgeon**

Council **NOTED** receipts for September 2025, detailed below

£64.52	Lloyds Bank	Interest
£70.00	Walking Football	MUGA Hire
£143.00	Country Memorials	Headstone

c) Members **NOTED** receipt of the RFO financial report for period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 which included the latest accounting statement, detailed at appendix A.

d) Council **APPROVED** unanimously dispensing with the Scribe accountancy package from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 thus making a saving in financial year 26/27 of £487.20

**Proposed Cllr. J Bennett**

**Seconded Cllr. S Ripley**

- e) Council **NOTED** the removal from the Lloyds bank mandate of the previous Clerk, Mrs A Dallaway.
- f) The Clerk requested authority from Council to close the Bath Building Society account and redirect monies into a bank or building society that has the capability for real time, online banking. This will ensure the adherence to the adopted investment policy. Council **APPROVED** the Clerks request.

#### **2025/189 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

Council unanimously **RESOLVED TO ADOPT** an Information Technology policy, with two minor amendments to the draft issued to Members ahead of the meeting. Amendments being to capitalise 'Parish Council' and delete the name of the Clerk as the main point of contact and replace with 'the Clerk at clerk@iltonparishcouncil.gov.uk' The adopted policy to be made available for public viewing on the Council website.

**Proposed Cllr. Cllr. S Ripley**

**Seconded Cllr. J Bennett**

#### **2025/190 DATA PROTECTION OFFICER**

Council unanimously **AGREED** that the Clerk shall be the appointed Data Protection Officer for the Parish Council.

#### **2025/191 PLANNING**

Council reviewed four separate planning applications and sanctioned as detailed below.

##### **25/02381/S73A - S73A**

Barn Conversion, Drakes Farm, Church Road, Ilton, Ilminster, Somerset

Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) to allow changes to fenestration, addition of PV panels, re-positioning of flue, addition of cladding to west elevation, layout changes and erection of car port building which is also to serve as bat mitigation. In relation to planning approval 18/03961/FUL Conversion of a barn into two residential dwellings with associated parking and domestic gardens.

Council **SUPPORT** with no comments

##### **25/02402/S19 - S19**

Barn Conversion, Drakes Farm, Church Road, Ilton, Ilminster, Somerset

Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) to allow changes to fenestration, addition of PV panels, re-positioning of flue, addition of cladding to west elevation, layout changes and erection of car port building which is also to serve as bat mitigation. In relation to planning approval 18/03962/LBC for Conversion of a barn into two residential dwellings with associated parking and domestic gardens.

Council **SUPPORT** with no comments

##### **25/02309/HOU**

Application to extend the two chimneys to minimum 1800mm above the level of the ridge.

Old Leggs Farm Podgers Lane Ilton Ilminster Somerset TA19 9HE

Council **SUPPORT** with no comments

**25/02310/LBC**

Application to extend the two chimneys to minimum 1800mm above the level of the ridge.

Old Leggs Farm Podgers Lane Ilton Ilminster Somerset TA19 9HE

Council **SUPPORT** with no comments

Council **NOTED** the position of applications awaiting determination as detailed below

**23/00404/FUL**

The Stables, Ashford Old Farm, Isle Abbotts Road, Ilton, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9ED  
Change of Use of land to a travelling caravan site consisting of 3 pitches each containing 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan, 1 utility dayroom and associated works (partly retrospective)

**17/01068/AGN**

Land At Ilford Farm, Frost Lane, Ilton, Ilminster, Somerset

Notification of intent to erect a general-purpose agricultural building.

**25/02105/LBC**

Ye Olde Well Cottage, Cad Road, Ilton Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9HF

Internal remedial works to floor, walls and joinery (Implemented)

**2025/192 VOLUNTEER GROUP**

a) Cllr. Pidgeon reported to Council on tasks completed since the last meeting.

- Church Rd & Cad Rd, Frost Lane & Cad Road "T" Junction splays cut.
- Hedge between Old Orchard Close and Frost Lane in Church Road cut back to clear ditch line.
- Copse Lane/Playpark entrance roadway cleared.
- Play Park equipment cleaned and play areas cleared of debris and overgrowth.
- Timbers replaced on Picnic Tables & Benches
- Fallen tree cut and removed (storm damage)
- Brambles cleared from areas between beech hedges and residents fence line in Playpark. Entrances cleared of Bramble growth.
- Playpark area seedbed cleaned, maintained and reseeded.
- Hedge reduced in height and cut back at Merryfield Lane & Church Road Junction.
- New base for bench location excavated Merryfield Lane/Church Rd. Lorry damage to verges repaired
- Village grass verges cut twice.
- Cemetery seed bed prepared and seeded.
- Partially fallen branch cut removed and made safe (storm damage).
- Gateway entrance to Rec repaired and seeded.
- Field Perimeter pathway strimmed and cleared to full width.
- Mound area in Rec cleared of debris prepared and seeded.
- Football pitch cut.
- Re-turf goalmouth areas on Football Pitch, reseed other area.
- Bridge repairs in Brook Green undertaken.
- Partially fallen branches in Brook green cut and made safe (storm damage).

- b) Members unanimously **APPROVED** a cost of up to £303.80 for the renewal of the tractor insurance.

**Proposed Cllr. A Gordon**

**Seconded Cllr. J Easterbrook**

- c) The motion to purchase 20 lamp post poppies at a cost of £95.00 was **WITHDRAWN** as Cllr. Bennett reported these had now been provided free of charge.

#### **2025/193 RANGER TASKS**

Two tasks were set as priority, those being tar the cracks in the recreation field path and clearing of weeds along pavement edges.

#### **2025/194 CRIME, DISORDER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

No matters were discussed.

#### **2025/195 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- a) The Clerk reported that a meeting has been arranged with Somerset Council Highways division to seek recommendations on alleviating parking issues opposite Merryfield Hall. Recommendations to be brought back to Council for their consideration.
- b) Council **APPROVED** the forming, under the leadership of Cllr. Vance a speed watch group who initially shall consider the objectives, benefits, costs and administration with recommendations made back to Council at a future meeting. The Council received two kind offers of support from the public, this being Elaine Simpson and Barbara Hall.

#### **2025/196 CORRESPONDENCE**

No matters were discussed that required a Council decision.

#### **2025/197 ITEMS OF INTEREST AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

No items were requested.

#### **2025/198 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 25th November 2025 starting at 6.30pm

## Appendix A

		£
1	Lloyds Current Account	5,909.77
2	Lloyds Instant Access Account	48,800.70
3	Bath Building Society	89,244.06
4	Hinkley and Rugby Building Society	50,000.00
5	Outstanding Payments	0.00
	<b>Total as Cashbook</b>	<b>193,954.53</b>
	<b>Less Ringfenced Lines</b>	
6	General Reserve	27,742.02
7	Rec Field Development Project	97,045.28
8	Play Area Refurbishment of existing Equipment	3,973.01
9	Play Area Procurement of new Equipment	12,874.21
10	Asset Maintenance/Refurbishment (non play area)	4,800.00
11	Procurement of new Assets (non play area)	11,888.00
12	CIL	4,212.18
13	Legal Cost Provision	5,000.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>167,534.70</b>
	<b>Working Capital</b>	<b>26,419.83</b>
14	2025/2026 Expenditure Budget	77,872.86
15	2025/2026 Expenditure	45,650.67
	<b>Remaining 2025/2026 Budget</b>	<b>32,222.19</b>
16	2025/2026 Receipt Budget	74,390.09
17	2025/2026 Receipts	68,587.73
18	<b>2025/2026 Receipt Forecast</b>	<b>5,802.36</b>
	<b>Unallocated Funds</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Approved by:

Date: