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Public Session

Five members of the public spoke. Regarding a meeting with Abri and land at the bottom of the car-park and who's ownership it is in and mentioning the dog fouling within the parish.

Council urged members of the public to be far more conscientious with regard to their pets.

Another point was raised on the objections to the St Katherines development, agenda item 7.6, identifying errors on the Somerset Council planning portal.

Pot holes were bought up and 59 are currently in the parish that need addressing. Council will put the Somerset Council highways reporting link on the Facebook page.

Increased provision of football pitches was asked in connection to agenda item 7.9 and would there be further consultation. There was a request for a water container to be placed in the cemetery for the use of watering flowers on plots. Locum clerk will address these matters.

Somerset Council Councillors

There were no Somerset Councillors in attendance.

The Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ilton Parish Council** held at the Merryfield Hall, Ilton on **Tuesday 28th July 2026** at 6.30pm when the following business was conducted.

PRESENT: Councillors J Bennett (Chair), A Pidgeon, K Simpson, K King, I Sherwood, S Ripley, N Matravers, A Gordon and J Easterbrook together with the Locum Clerk and Locum support.

27 members of the public present.

7.1 To receive any apologies for non attendance

There were no apologies for absence.

7.2 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7.3 To receive and approve the Minutes of the the meetings on Tuesday 23rd June full council, Friday 17th July staffing committee and the extra ordinary meeting ref planning on 21st July 2026.

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the various meetings and signed by the Chairman. Proposed and seconded 8-0-1.

7.4 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman provided an update on the resignation of the RFO and an update on volunteer's day. The chairman provided information on the local community governance review information meeting held at Ilminster Town Council. The locum clerk read out correspondence from a resident with regard to risk assessments and parish council land on Copse Lane.

7.5 Finance & General Purposes

- a) The items of expenditure were noted and the payments list was approved 9-0-0
- b) The receipts list was noted
- c) The RFO report and bank reconciliation was noted to end June 2026

7.6 Planning

- a) 26/01315/FUL land East of St Katherines Close - council resolved to pass no comment on the application, however Council wished to highlight to Somerset Council on lack of highways report in the application. Council wished to mention additional flooding in their return. Council made the point that all members of the public should submit views on every planning application. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0.

7.7 To review Council IT equipment and approve updates

A short discussion was had and it was resolved that the locum clerk would purchase the suitable printer/scanner specified using best value within the £300 budget. Council resolved to approve the contract to use CloudyIT as the council's chosen IT provider. Both items proposed and seconded Printer approved 9-0-0 and Cloudy IT 9-1-0

7.8 To discuss and agree costs of maintaining the current football pitch

A debate was led by Cllr Simpson on estimated and future potential costs to maintaining a football pitch. Majority of council disagreed with Cllr Simpsons costings. Council voted against 8-1-0

CLOUDYIT QUOTE WAS
8 / 1 CILLA £3832.76 +
£120PA + £160 MONTHLY.
→ THESE FIGURES WILL
BE LESS.

7.9 To discuss and approve proposal from Ilminster Football Club

The proposal was discussed and approval was given to continue discussions with Ilminster Football Club. Proposed and seconded 8-0-1

7.10 To receive an update on planning application for MUGA Car Park

An update was provided by the Chairman and Cllr Pidgeon. It was resolved to approve the plans and move forward with the planning application via the architect in the name of the Parish Council. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0

7.11 To receive an update on the Grit Bin routes in order to make a decision on installing Grit Bins in the village

An update was provided and it was resolved to defer until further clarification from Somerset Council has been obtained by the locum clerk. 9-0-0

7.12 To propose and agree design, size, numbers, locations and budget of the sheltered seating areas

A thorough discussion was had on sizes and placings. It was agreed smaller ones were preferred and Cllrs are going to send the clerk firmer instructions. The vote was 5-4-0 for the smaller size

7.13 To approve implementing a village consultation about the installation of a Dog Park

A discussion was had on the merits or not of a dog park in the recreation ground and it was resolved to approve a village consultation subject to costings and recommendations from the working party (Cllr King, Cllr Bennett and Cllr Simpson). The consultation, subject to cost, would be by way of a leaflet produced and printed and delivered to every household in the parish requesting thoughts. The leaflet content would in addition be placed on Facebook. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0

7.14 To approve the installation and wording of the Memorial stone for Mr Skinner.

The memorial application was approved. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0

7.15 To approve the costs of carrying out Parish Council risk assessments by Atlas Management

It was approved that Atlas should carry out the remaining council risk assessments. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0

7.16 To discuss the specification for the clearing of the ditches and french drains to the south side of the Rec

Item deferred. Specifications are needed. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0

7.17. To discuss and approve purchase of new strimmer for use by the volunteers

It was approved to purchase a new strimmer (as circulated to Cllrs) for use around the parish by volunteers at the most competitive cost. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0

7.18 Copse Lane field

- To discuss and resolve 28 days usage issue of Copse Lane field
- To discuss and approve use of pre-application consultant to look into what would be involved in getting planning permission

A debate was had and it was resolved to engage with a consultant for pre application on the land usage advice. Proposed and seconded 9-0-0

At this point it was proposed to suspend standing orders to complete the meeting. Proposed and seconded. 9-0-0

Cllr King left the meeting at 8.30pm

7.19 To discuss and approve the installation of fencing along the river bank at Brook Green

It was resolved to defer this item. 9-0-0

7.20 To receive any additional reports from Councillors

At this point Ben Jenner-Hurford a Liberal Democrat on Ilminster Town Council acted as representative of Somerset Councilor Jo R-G addressed council on her absence.

7.21 Other matters referred to officers

- Update on bin emptying costs
- Update on Merryfield Hall grant application
- Storage update

- Churchyard update

The locum clerk gave an update on the bin emptying costs, the hall grant, storage update and churchyard update.

7.22 Date of next meeting – 25th August 2026 at The Merryfield Hall 18.30 hours.

Cllr Easterbrook left the meeting 8.45pm

Council voted to exclude the members of the press and public. 7-0-0

7.23 Exclusion of Press and Public – as outlined in the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972,

The grounds maintenance contract was discussed and it was resolved to provide adequate notice on the current contract at the appropriate time. Proposed and seconded 7-0-0

Added statement on Copse Lane field. The 28 day usage has already been used and the Clerk was instructed to let the Cricket Club know that field usage will be on hold subject to the pre-planning application results.

A plan for parish volunteers was discussed and it was acknowledged that a new grounds maintenance tender will need to be produced at the appropriate time.

Council received recommendations from the staffing committee to begin the recruitment process of a Clerk/RFO combined role (with inclusion of council finance package Scribe) on 20 hours per week on scale point 22 using the model contract of employment. Position to be advertised through SALC. Nest pension scheme provided at LGPS rate.

Council is to retain the locum advisory support to be reviewed regularly. Proposed and seconded 7-0-0

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed: J. Bennett.

Dated: 26.08.2026.