

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 10th September 2019

2019/139 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr I Sherwood (Chair)
Mrs R Burt (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Bullock
Mrs J Easterbrook
Mr G Fox
Mrs S Hill
Ms H Wakeford
Mr I Welch
Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mrs P Matravers
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)

In Attendance

14 members of the public

2019/140 Visitors and Public Voice

(a) Minutes dated 9th July 2019 - amendment

A resident queried the information in paragraph 7 of minute 2019/123(a) which states that "The land in question at St Peter's Close has been earmarked for development for a long time". She said that she has information that the land was not earmarked for development. She said that it had been included for development in an earlier Local Plan but had subsequently been removed. It was now classified as a green field site.

It was explained that the minutes cannot be altered. They are an accurate record of what was said at the meeting and are already in the public domain. It was agreed to minute an amendment to the paragraph in question as above.

(b) Consultation on proposed development in St Peter's Close

A public consultation has been arranged by the developer for Friday 13th September from 3.00 - 6.30 p.m. at the village hall. Notices were posted on the notice boards and an announcement posted on Facebook. A resident asked why such an inconvenient time was chosen. The Clerk explained that this was the only time that the Village Hall was available.

2019/141 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 9th July 2019

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed subject to an amendment to minute 2019/123(a) paragraph 7 which was deemed inaccurate by a resident who has information that the land in St Peter's Close has not been earmarked for development. See minute 2019/140(a) above.

2019/142 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

(a) Overhanging trees in Old Orchard Close - Mrs Burt to contact Yarlinton again regarding the cutting back of these trees. **ACTION - Mrs Burt**

(b) Overhanging trees along path to Churchyard - The Ranger has cut these back.

2019/143 Highways

(a) A358 upgrade - Mr Sherwood met with representatives of the other local parish councils which are affected by the proposed upgrade to the road. The Rapps road will have a flyover to join the new upgraded main road. The Catherine Wheel road will be closed off. Surveys have shown 500 vehicles coming into Ilton each day, making 1,000 vehicle journeys in and out a day. If one of the roads is closed it will force all this traffic onto one narrow road. Alternatively lorries could use New Road in Ilminster which is itself slow and narrow. Councillors expressed concern at the closure of one of the roads. Mr Sherwood is working to try to get the Catherine Wheel road left open so there is a second entrance / exit to Ilton. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**

It was noted that traffic is backing up on the A303 as a result of the ongoing work.

- (b) Verge outside the new houses by Wyndham Arms - Highways have confirmed that they own the strip of land outside the new houses by the Wyndham Arms. It was suggested that a meeting is arranged with Highways to discuss maintenance of this strip of land. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) Bridge on Isle Abbots road - a stone has been knocked out of the bridge. This was reported and work is due to commence on 19th - 30th November with a road closure.

2019/144 Brook Green

- (a) The bat box project is ongoing, hopefully in September. **ACTION - Ms Wakeford**
- (b) The carved wooden bear - The bear was missing from Brook Green and was spotted outside a house in the village. It had been painted gold. The residents said they had found the bear in the water or in a bush. After contacting the Police, the Clerk and two residents asked for the bear to be returned, which it was. The bear will be returned to Brook Green as soon as it has been repainted. It will be securely refixed and chained.

2019/145 Footpaths

- (a) Footpath by Cad Green Cottage - The missing post which Mrs Burt has, has not been replaced yet. **ACTION - Mrs Burt**
- (b) Other Footpaths - Mrs Bullock asked for an update on the maintenance of all the footpaths but her contact at SCC is no longer responsible for footpaths. Mrs Bullock will follow this up. **ACTION - Mrs Bullock**

2019/146 Cemetery / Churchyard

- (a) Councillors have regularly walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems had been recorded.
- (b) Tree in Churchyard - A resident has reported that a large tree in the corner of the Churchyard is overgrown and possibly dangerous. It was noted that there may be a conservation order on the tree. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**
- (c) Interment of ashes - to take place on 25th September.

2019/147 Recreation Ground Play Park

- (a) Inspection Reports - These are now sent by email. There is nothing new or urgent.
- (b) New Fencing - Agreement has been reached with SSDC that the parish council can use the remaining £6,577.53 from the original grant award for the Play Park towards the new fencing. Quotes have been received from Colourfence for two sides of the Play Park for a total of £9,346.40 + VAT. The work of replacing the fence is due to start on Tuesday 5th November.
- (c) Revenue Funding - £10,762 is still outstanding from the original grant for the Play Park. This is funding that was intended to be paid yearly over 10 years. To date, no payments have been received from this fund. SSDC are considering transferring the full amount to the parish council.
- (d) Maintenance issues on Annual Inspection Report - There are a number of fairly minor items which need to be attended to which were picked up at the annual inspection. The Clerk will organise this. Comments were made that some of the equipment does not meet the current standards. The Clerk checked with SSDC's advisor who said that some of the equipment dates back to the 1990s and was made under the older standards. Standards are not retrospective and this is therefore not necessarily a problem. The points listed are minor and do not compromise safety. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (e) Somerset Playing Fields Association are offering a free Playground Awareness & Inspection Training. No one is available to attend.

- (f) Playday Report - The weather was lovely and over 200 people attended the event with lots of children and families.

2019/148 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Football Pitch - Seven invitations to tender were sent and four were returned. The tenders were considered by councillors with advice from SSDC and Gary Slade who will be the Project Manager. Parsons were invited to a meeting to discuss the work and after discussion Parsons were awarded the job. Work should start very soon. The grass will first be sprayed before work gets under way to lay the drainage. The site will be fenced off but Heras fencing is not considered necessary because the work is not considered hazardous. Machinery will be securely enclosed or removed. The work should be finished before the end of the year, including seeding if weather permits. It is proposed to ask Parsons to quote to maintain the pitch next year. Ms Wakeford asked that Parsons let the parish council know when they are spraying so that gardeners can ensure they wash their produce. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Grant for football pitch - The grant award has been received from SSDC which should cover the work plus the cost of project management with some left over for maintenance.
- (c) Outdoor Gym Equipment maintenance and inspection - Mr Welch has moved away from the village and the inspection and maintenance of the gym equipment will be taken over by another councillor who will liaise with Mr Welch regarding any instructions issued by the company.
- (d) Outdoor Gym - New mats around the table tennis table have been installed by the company. They have also replaced the bolt covers on the cycle equipment which the annual inspection report highlighted as missing, and left some spare covers.
- (e) Wildflower Meadow - The ecologist, Chris Smith, has finished his report which is being circulated in hard copy. He has provided a pdf version on disc.
- (f) Community Gardens - There is an issue with compost and a request was made for compost bins. It was suggested that compost is taken home for composting or recycling.
- (g) Hiring the MUGA - A notice has been put on the notice board in the Playing Field reminding people that the MUGA is available for hire for organised team games and for tennis. Tennis is free to residents. The notice has also gone on Facebook. The Clerk to alter the contact details. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (h) Lock-up - Ms Wakeford will keep the key to the lock-up where the tennis nets are stored.

2019/149 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme

It was agreed to have the Ranger twice a month after Christmas. He has done a good job on the hedges and has tidied things up.

2019/150 Planning Applications

- (a) App No 19/01850/HOU
Proposal Loft conversion including rear dormer window and roof lights to front and rear
Location Green Acre, Rod Lane
- This application was due by 15th August - Mrs Burt commented that in her opinion there are no problems with the application. Councillors were emailed and could view the application on line. There were no objections.
- (b) App No 19/01952/S73A
Proposals Vary conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (visibility), 6 (landscape) and 7 (removal of demolished buildings)
Location Hill Farm, Cad Road.

The application was due by 23rd August. Mrs Burt commented particularly about the proposal to vary the height of the buildings and said that although there are no objections to the application, particularly given the fact that the buildings are already built, nonetheless she is disappointed that the original plans were amended without consent. Councillors agreed with Mrs Burt's assessment and comments were sent to SSDC.

- (c) App No 19/02109/FUL
 Proposal Erection of a dwellinghouse and a bungalow with associated access
 Location Land Adjacent West Cottage, Main Street, Ilton

Concern was expressed about the second entrance to this development to service these two buildings. This second entrance is on a busy corner with cars parked on the other side of the road. Councillors were concerned about the extra traffic.

- (d) App No 19/02135/HOU
 Proposal Erection of a detached double garage and associated landscaping
 Location Green Acre, Rod Lane, Ilton

There were no objections to this proposal.

2019/151 Correspondence

- (a) Somerset Waste Partnership briefing.
 (b) Somerset Waste Partnership September briefing
 (c) SSDC Annual Parish Meetings - Area North - 24th Oct 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Norton sub Hamdon Village Hall. Mr Fox said he would like to go. **ACTION - Mr Fox / The Clerk**
 (d) Free of charge dedicated Parish Council website template available. There are yearly charges. It was suggested the parish council asks if it can have a page on the Village Hall website. **ACTION - The Clerk**
 (e) Police Report - There were 253 investigated crime reported for the month July 2019 with 27 arrests and 33 reports for Area North.

2019/152 Accounts payments and receipts

- (a) Grant - It was agreed by email to give a donation of £215.00 to the fete on 31st August in aid of St Margaret's Hospice to cover the cost of an inflatable helter skelter and a giant inflatable assault course.
 (b) Grant - A letter was received on behalf of the Ilton Good Neighbours Group for a start-up grant of £100.00. Councillors agreed with this request.
 (c) Grant - A grant was requested from Ilton Friendship Club towards the Christmas lunch which this year will be in January because people are often very busy in December. Councillors agreed to give the same amount as last year which was £350.00.
 (c) Balance @ 31/8/2019 Treasurers Account = £38,511.00
 (d) The following cheques were raised:
 001126 - £ 207.80 - HMRC - paye
 001127 - £ 639.99 - Salary and admin expenses July and August
 001128 - £ 114.00 - The Play Inspection Company - annual inspections
 001129 - £ 506.16 - SSDC - Ranger Labour April, May, June
 001130 - £ 1069.20 - Slade Parry, Football pitch project management
 001131 - £ 215.00 - Grant for inflatables at village fete
 001132 - £ 129.60 - Eagle Plant container July and August
 001133 - £ 25.00 - Queen Camel Parish Council for SALC training course
 001134 - £ 2803.92 - Premier Fencing SW - 25% deposit - fencing Play Park
 001135 - £ 168.72 - SSDC - Ranger Labour July
 001136 - £ 482.36 - Farm & Countryside Liaison Service, Field management
 001137 - £ 100.00 - Ilton Good Neighbours grant

001138 - £ 18.40 - R Burt travel expenses
001139 - £ 350.00 - Ilton Friendship Club - grant for Christmas lunch

2019/153 Matters and items to report

- (a) Ilton Youth Club - A card was received from the Youth Club thanking the parish council for its contribution towards the day-out during the summer holidays to Noah's Ark. The young people enjoyed the trip which went very well.
- (b) Merryfield Messenger -The Messenger publication dates are erratic. There will possibly be two a year in the future but there is no timetable as yet. The parish council offer to fund publication up to £100 per year is most welcome.
- (c) Land beside West Cottage - a resident reported in July that contractors were burning green wood which was producing a lot of acrid smoke and causing breathing problems for nearby residents. The Clerk contacted the Environmental Health department who visited the site and the burning was stopped and will not be repeated.
- (d) Christmas Tree - A 15' tree has been ordered from Yarcombe Woodland. It will be delivered in the first week of December. Mr Sherwood has the lights from Mr Amor.
ACTION - Mrs Easterbrook
- (e) Hedge Cutting - A resident said that after the hedge was cut by the overspill car park, the thorns that were left on the pavement caused several punctures to her son's wheelchair with the result that he could not use it for several days until it was fixed. She requested that the area is tidied up after the hedges are cut in the future.
- (f) Brambles overhanging the pavement - Complaints have been received about brambles not being cut back and overhanging the pavement in places. The Clerk will speak to the residents.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (g) PlayUk - have had to cut back on work due to staff shortages so may not be able to install the new benches which are on order. The Clerk to check. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2019/154 Resignation

Mr Welch has moved out of the village and tendered his letter of resignation. He said he is sorry to have to resign but is living too far away from the village to be able to remain on the parish council. Mr Sherwood thanked Mr Welch for all the work he has done in getting the Playing Field developed, particularly the work on the MUGA and Gym Equipment.

2019/155 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8th October 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The meeting finished at 9.15 p.m.

Ian Sherwood - Chairman