

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

2019/192 Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mr I Sherwood (Chair)
Mrs R Burt (Vice Chair)
Mrs J Easterbrook
Mr D Mico
Ms H Wakeford
Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mrs M Bullock
Mrs S Hill
Mrs P Matravers
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)

In Attendance

4 members of the public

2019/193 Visitors and Public Voice

(a) Ilton Good Neighbours Group

Mrs Julia Vane is co-ordinating the Group. Mrs Gribble has done a brilliant job getting the group set up and is now stepping down.

(b) Traffic accessing the Business Park

Councillor Cavill is looking into whether there are any restrictions on the times commercial traffic can access the business park. So far he has not been able to find out the information but will contact the planning department again. There is growing concern in the village about the amount of traffic particularly at night. It was suggested that the parish council could check with the business park direct.

ACTION - Councillor Cavill / The Clerk

(c) Proposals for land adjoining St Peter's Close

A resident noted that the revised plans for the land adjoining St Peter's Close were dated prior to the public consultation so they do not appear to be based on feedback. The resident also said that she had approached SSDC to clarify its discussions with the developer and SSDC had said that he had not made contact with SSDC. It was pointed out by Councillor Cavill that SSDC have identified affordable housing needs within South Somerset communities.

2019/194 Parish Council Vacancy

(a) Mr Mico completed the paperwork and his appointment as a Parish Councillor was ratified.

(b) Mr George Fox has resigned from the Parish Council. The Clerk published the required notice last week which gives voters a chance to call an election. The time limit on requests is 24th December which means that provided there is no request for an election, the vacancy can be filled by co-option in January.

2019/195 District Councillor Report

Councillor Cavill said that because of the period of purdah immediately before the forthcoming election on 12th December, there have been very few meetings and there is nothing to report.

2019/196 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

2019/197 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

(a) Website - Ms Wakeford said she has set up a domain name. There is an option of a free plan or £3 per month. She will get the site set up ready for approval.

ACTION - Ms Wakeford

2019/198 Highways

(a) A358 upgrade - Mr Sherwood reported that the plan is still to keep the road into Ilton through Rapps open but to close off the Catherine Wheel road. All vehicles including

all the commercial vehicles to the two business parks, will have just the one road into Ilton. Mr Sherwood is working to try to get agreement to keep the two roads open. There will be no access to the A358 after Ilton until Hatch Beauchamp. The Nags Head pub will be demolished and a new road will start from there.

- (b) Speedwatch - No-one has contacted the Clerk this month to offer to help with Speedwatch. The request was put on Facebook. So far we have just 2 or 3 people who have volunteered which is not enough to begin to set up the group.
- (c) Speed monitoring - Highways have monitored the speed along Main Street near St Peter's Close. The mean speed was 27.8 mph, the 85% speed was 35 mph. Highways have said these figures are too high to consider a 20 mph speed limit and show that a 30 mph is the right speed limit for this section of road. They are unable to consider a 20 mph speed limit unless average speeds are 24 mph or less.
- (d) Grit Bins - Highways have confirmed that their criteria for the location of grit bins are generally at the top or bottom of hills or on junctions. They will need to approve the locations. At the moment grit bins are being filled for free but this is not guaranteed to continue each year. The Clerk to arrange a meeting. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (e) Grit Bin purchase - The Clerk provided some comparison figures from Impbins.com - (1) Mini grit bin 2 cu ft / 50 litres = £39.00 (2) 6 cu ft / 175 litres = £75.00 (3) 12 cu ft / 350 cu ft = £105.00. The Clerk to research other companies. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (f) Village Hall Sign at corner of Copse Lane - This sign has been collected from the house owner but has not been replaced. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2019/199 Brook Green

- (a) Damage - A 4 x 4 is causing some damage to the area.
- (b) Bridge - One of the slats on the bridge is broken. Mr Sherwood to arrange for repair. **ACTION - The Chairman**
- (c) Grass Cutting - It was agreed to reduce the frequency of the grass cutting now that people are using the playing field. This will offset the grass cutting on the playing field. The Clerk to arrange this in the spring. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2019/200 Footpaths

Sign on Cad Road - This has been re-erected.

2019/201 Cemetery / Churchyard

- (a) Councillors have regularly walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems had been recorded.
- (b) Tree in Churchyard - Mr Sherwood has liaised with the Churchwarden who will have the tree inspected.

2019/202 Recreation Ground Play Park

- (a) Weekly Inspection Reports - nothing new or urgent.
- (b) Capital and Revenue Award - the form has been signed and returned to SSDC for the final payment for the Play Park refurbishment.
- (c) BMX Track - It was agreed to get some quotes to refurbish the BMX Track. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2019/203 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Playing Field Development meeting report - A very successful playing field development meeting was held and a lot was discussed. It was agreed to make this a regular monthly meeting. The Clerk to book the Village Hall. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Skate Park - Mr Mico to report fully at the next Development meeting when a suitable tender can be agreed and sent out.
- (c) Larkfleet compound - Larkfleet anticipate finishing off on site by Easter at the latest. They are aware that the parish council would like to use a wildflower mix, not grass, to replant the area. Ms Wakeford to research seed mix. **ACTION - Ms Wakeford**

- (d) Outdoor Gym Equipment - weekly inspections - the cost of inspections by SSDC of the gym equipment would be £6.78 per week + VAT - this equals £352.56 per year.
- (e) Perimeter Path - It was agreed at the Development Meeting to go ahead with the gravel path next year after any installation work has been done. To do the path before work has finished would be costly because drainage and heavy vehicles would disturb it. Councillors were all in agreement. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (f) MUGA Hiring - It was agreed to hire the MUGA on request for group training sessions including during the weekends.
- (g) MUGA Hiring for tennis - A request was received on Saturday morning to hire the MUGA for tennis that same morning. As it was such short notice it was not possible to arrange it. Councillors agreed that the MUGA should not be used for tennis at the weekends when children and groups are more likely to use it. 24 hours notice must be given of a hiring so that access to the net can be arranged. Ms Wakeford has the key to the look-up with the nets. The Clerk to amend the notice. **ACTION - The Clerk.**
- (h) Benches -Councillors agreed to order two more benches once the trees have been planted. The ones by the MUGA are the OE Bench Seat from David Ogilvie and cost £598 + VAT each plus £145.00 delivery to Somerset. The Clerk to check with SSDC if they have a delivery pending and then arrange an order when required. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (i) Community Gardens Compost Bins - It was agreed to have 3 compost bins by the gate and to ensure that the area is kept tidy.
- (j) Tree planting - Ms Wakeford set out a provisional plan for tree planting on the field which would include a couple of copses and a wooded area similar to the one at Barrington. It was felt that the temporary football pitch can be planted with trees because the children have the MUGA now which they can use. The temporary pitch is too wet to use in the winter and has not been used by many children since the MUGA has been finished. Councillors agreed with the plan. Tree planting to go ahead in January. Ms Wakeford has the plastic protection tubes for the young trees.
- (k) Football Pitch - The new pitch will not be ready until next year because the weather deteriorated before the seeding could be done. The Project Manager is satisfied with the work done to date and it has been agreed to pay Parsons for the work so far. An application for an interim grant payment has been submitted.
- (l) Shoot-out area - An area which can be used for shoot outs and informal play should be left alongside the new football pitch for when it cannot be used. The goals are on wheels and can be moved around. This area will need to be kept well mowed.
- (m) Grass Cutting - Once the trees have been planted SSDC will be asked for a price for cutting the grass in the remainder of the field. The new football pitch will be maintained by Parsons for the first year. If the temporary football is planted the money saved can be used for the rest of the field. It was also suggested that the frequency of grass cutting at Brook Green can be reduced now that people are using the Playing Field and the area left to go wild with just the paths being cut. The money saved can be used to cut the Playing Field grass. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (n) Hedges - the Clerk has asked Chris Matravers if he will be cutting them this year.
- (o) Dogs in the Field - There have been some incidents recently of dogs harassing children and people in the field. It was agreed that dogs must be kept on a lead in the Playing Field. The Clerk to arrange for 6 x A4 signs vinyl anti graffiti gloss seal on 3 mm die bond metal board with radius corners. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (p) Temporary toilet - This has been left in the field. The Clerk to arrange collection. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2019/204 General Maintenance - SSDC Ranger Scheme

It has been agreed to have the Ranger for two days a month.

2019/205 Planning Applications

App No 19/03086/S73
Proposal Vary condition no 2 to revise layout
Location Land Adjacent West Cottage, Main Street, Ilton

Councillors considered the above application and have no objections to the proposal.

2019/206 Correspondence

Somerset Waste Partnership Briefing November and Christmas and New Year collection dates.

2019/207 Accounts payments and receipts

- (a) Balances @30/11/2019 - Treasurers Account = £18,699.43 / Business Banking Instant = £52,797.96 / 2nd Account (CIL Account) = £2,892.00.
- (b) Transfer required from Business Bank Instant to Treasurers Account of £15,000 to cover payment to Parsons.
- (c) The following cheques were raised:
 - 001161 - £ 207.60 - HMRC - paye
 - 001162 - £ 319.01 - Salary and admin expenses November
 - 001163 - £ 168.72 - SSDC Ranger labour October
 - 001164 - £22,785.60 - Parsons Landscapes Ltd - football pitch part payment
 - 001165 - £ 129.00 - Yarcombe Woodland Products - Christmas tree

2019/208 Precept

The budget for 2020/21 shows expenditure of £21,700 is expected although it is still very difficult to set an exact budget because the costs of maintaining the field are still not certain. The precept this year was £20,000. Councillors agreed that this will need to be increased to meet the expected expenditure. The tax base has gone up this year because there are more houses in the village. An increase of 3.67% will yield a precept of £22,000 which is an increase of £2.39 per year per band D tax payer. Mr Mico proposed the precept be raised to £22,000, seconded by Ms Wakeford. All Councillors agreed the increase.

ACTION - The Clerk

2019/209 Matters and items to report

- (a) Hedge cutting by flail - There were complaints this year and last year about hedge cuttings left on the road and footpath. Councillors were concerned that this is causing problems. The tyre of a wheelchair was punctured this year. Councillors said that either the contractor needs to brush or blow away the cuttings or it needs to be co-ordinated with the Ranger's visit so that he can clear it up.
- (b) Overspill car park - Councillors noted that over £350 was spent on maintaining the overspill car park this year including grass cutting and strimming, weed killing and hedge trimming. The land is used mostly by the Cricket Club and only occasionally by other residents and the Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to request a contribution from the Cricket Club.

ACTION - The Clerk

2019/210 Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The meeting finished at 9.00 p.m.

Ian Sherwood - Chairman