

## ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 14th January 2020

#### 2020/01 Attendance and Apologies

##### Those present:

Mr I Sherwood (Chair)  
Mrs R Burt (Vice Chair)  
Mrs M Bullock  
Mrs J Easterbrook  
Mrs S Hill  
Mrs P Matravers  
Mr D Mico  
Ms H Wakeford  
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)  
Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)  
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

##### Apologies

##### In Attendance

Mr G Mackenzie-Green  
4 members of the public

#### 2020/02 Visitors and Public Voice

##### Litter picking

A resident asked if the children at the school or the youth club could be asked to do the litter picking. Councillors said that this already happens occasionally when a group will organise litter picking with their parents. Councillors cannot supervise children without their parents or carers being present. The litter needs to be done on a regular weekly basis.

#### 2020/03 Parish Council Vacancy

- (a) The District Council have informed the Clerk that there has been no request for an election and that the parish council can go ahead and co-opt to fill the vacancy.
- (b) Mr Grahame Mackenzie-Green attended the meeting to express his wish to fill the current vacancy. Mr Mico nominated Mr Mackenzie-Green, seconded by Mrs Bullock. All councillors were in agreement and Mr Mackenzie-Green was duly co-opted onto the parish council and completed the register of interests and code of conduct form.

#### 2020/04 District Councillor Report

##### (a) Local government in Somerset

Councillor Cavill said that the future of the District and County Councils was discussed last week. There are a number of options being considered. The County Council would like to go for a unitary authority for the whole of Somerset but the District Councils feel that this is too large an area to cover and prefer the options of more collaborative working. If the unitary authority option is chosen it would mean a lot more responsibility for parish councils because a tier of local government would be lost. Discussions are ongoing.

##### (b) Restrictions on Business Park Traffic

Planning can find no restrictions on any of the recent applications for the Business Park in relation to traffic accessing the Park. It seems likely therefore that there are no such restrictions.

#### 2020/05 County Councillor Report

Councillor Dance spoke about the proposals for a unitary authority for Somerset and said that this is not the preferred option for the District Councils who have agreed to work collaboratively in order to cut costs.

#### 2020/06 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2019

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

#### 2020/07 Matters arising from the minutes and any subsequent action taken

- (a) Website - Ms Wakeford said the new website is currently in draft mode. She will transfer all the minutes from the current site to the new one. **ACTION - Ms Wakeford**

- (b) Overspill Car Park - The Clerk has written to the Cricket Club. A question was asked if users of the land can help with maintenance instead of making a financial contribution. Another question was asked if this would affect ownership of the land. The Clerk said that the parish council owns the land which is registered with the Land Registry and assisting with the maintenance of the land would not affect ownership.

**2020/08 Highways**

- (a) A358 upgrade - There are no further developments.
- (b) Grit Bins - Councillors discussed grit bins at the recent Playing Field Development meeting and felt that they are not necessary because they would hardly ever be used and can look unsightly. Grit can be stored in a number of locations around the village for any unusual cold spells. Councillors agreed not to go ahead with grit bins for the village.
- (c) Village Hall Sign at corner of Copse Lane - The Clerk has reminded Highways that this sign has still not been replaced. **ACTION - The Clerk**

**2020/09 Brook Green**

- (a) Bridge - A contractor attended to repair the bridge but could not find any evidence of a broken slat.

**2020/10 Footpaths** - There was nothing to report.

**2020/11 Cemetery / Churchyard**

- (a) Councillors have regularly walked around the Cemetery and Churchyard and no problems had been recorded.
- (b) Tree in Churchyard - The Churchwarden has this in hand.

**2020/12 Recreation Ground Play Park**

- (a) Weekly Inspection Reports - the new fencing has been damaged by hitting or kicking. It has been reported to the Police as criminal damage and the PCSO will visit. There is nothing which requires attention. Councillors reported that children have been seen sitting and walking along the top of the fence.
- (b) Capital and Revenue Award - the grant towards the new fencing has been received. The final payment towards the cost of maintenance over 10 years has also been received as a lump sum. This marks the final payment of the grant award for the Play Park.
- (c) BMX Track - Play UK cannot do the work and cannot recommend any other contractor who can do a satisfactory job. It was agreed to leave the BMX Track for the time being. It can still be used. In the future some enquiries can be made to other local councils for details of their contractor.
- (d) CCTV - This was suggested as a way of preventing vandalism. CCTV will need an electricity supply which is not available at the Play Park.

*Councillor Dance left the meeting at 8.15 p.m.*

**2020/13 Recreational Development / Playing Field**

- (a) Playing Field Development meeting report - A meeting of the Playing Development Group was held in the Village Hall on 7th January at 7.15 p.m. The village hall is only available on Tuesdays after 7 p.m. or Thursday after 7 p.m. Councillors felt that the separate development meetings gave participants the opportunity to look in more detail at proposals and to include any residents who wish to attend. It was agreed to continue with monthly development meetings at the Village Hall on the Tuesday before the full council meeting. for the time being. The next Development Meeting will be on Tuesday 4th February at 7.15 p.m.
- (b) Skate Park - Mr Mico has been in contact with several companies who build skate parks and has met on site with one company. Metal ramps are cheaper but have a

much shorter life; concrete is more expensive and more durable. One company has provided a draft layout plan which will cost around £130,000. The company have indicated that there are a number of grants available and they will be willing to help source these grants. So far no other companies have provided any further information and Mr Mico is following this up to get some more quotes. The location of the skate park will be alongside the MUGA. It was noted that the drainage from the football pitch goes to the ditch and this will have to be considered if the skate park goes ahead.

- (c) Floodlighting - Councillors agreed that floodlighting should be provided at the beginning of the project when the footings go in at the start of any work.
- (d) Larkfleet compound - Larkfleet will be finished by early March and will return the compound to its original condition. They will lift and dispose of the tarmac base and silos. The stone is good clean stone and will be moved to a heap in the corner nearest the footpath for the parish council to use for whatever it wishes. Topsoil will be replaced from the topsoil on site and the area will be machine bladed leaving it ready to seed. The area cannot be used as a car park because this did not form part of the original planning application and the area will be very close to new residents' houses. Larkfleet are aware that the parish council wish to use wild flower seed on the compound land. Ms Wakeford to let the Clerk know the type of seed.

**ACTION- Ms Wakeford / the Clerk**

There will be an access gate for occasional vehicular access to the field which will be kept locked with a combination lock. There will be pedestrian access beside the gate.

- (e) Outdoor Gym Equipment - further to the quote for weekly inspections which was reported at the last meeting, the Clerk has asked SSDC if the inspection would include the monthly oiling of the moving parts. The Clerk has also emailed Freshair Fitness to request the maintenance pack which should have been provided when the equipment was installed but was never received. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (f) MUGA Hiring - The Ilminster Youth team using the MUGA on Wednesday evenings have returned to their slot at Ilminster and no longer require the slot in Ilton. The team using the MUGA on Monday evenings will continue.
- (g) MUGA Hiring for tennis - It was reported that residents had been told not to use the tennis nets because of a problem with drainage of the post holes. Councillors were surprised at this advice because water will flow out of the holes as soon as the posts are put in. Residents will be told the MUGA can be used for tennis provided they give 24 hours notice to the Clerk or to Ms Wakeford.
- (h) Benches - SSDC have confirmed they do not have any benches on order so the parish council will need to pay the full delivery charge. Benches can be ordered at a later date. The Clerk will check the situation with SSDC then. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (i) Tree planting - Ms Wakeford set out a provisional plan for tree planting on the field for Saturday 25th January at 10 a.m. Please bring a spade. Notice will go out on the Facebook page. The planting is intended to be a good compromise between grass and woodland leaving room for strimming and mowing between the trees. There will be over 200 trees left which can be used in other places or donated.
- (j) Grass Cutting - A local farmer used the grass from the field last year in return for cutting the hedges. Once the trees are planted, and with the football pitch in place, the area of grass will be reduced. Councillors wish to reduce the frequency of grass cutting at Brook Green and use the usual contractor, which this year is SSDC, to cut the Playing Field. It was agreed again that once the trees have been planted, a meeting will be planned on the field to assess the situation. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (k) Hedges - at the moment it is too wet to cut the hedge. The Clerk to follow this up with the local farmer to confirm that he will cut the hedge this year. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (l) Dogs in the Field - The signs have been ordered. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (m) Garden Plots - The plots are doing very well. There is currently one spare.

**2020/14      General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme** - There was nothing to report.

**2020/15      Planning Applications** - There were no planning applications.

**2020/16      Correspondence**

- (a) PCSO Malissa Thompson has left to become a Police Officer. Ilton's new PCSO is Mike Bell.
- (b) The figures for the attendance at the Playday in the summer show that Ilton did well with a good attendance. Councillors confirmed that they wish to continue with the playdays. Councillors were asked to suggest any other activities that could be included and will email the Clerk with any suggestions.
- (c) SALC training events - there are two still available - Thursday 20/02/2020 - The Code of Conduct Explained and Thursday 30/01/2020 - Councillor Essentials. The Planning Event is full. The Clerk was asked to express Ilton's interest in the Planning workshop for any future dates which are arranged. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (d) Well Wessex Day - Tuesday 21st January 2020 at Bath & West Showground
- (e) Clerks and Council direct
- (f) Somerset Waste Partnership January briefing.

**2020/17      Accounts payments and receipts**

- (a) Balances @31/12/2019 - Treasurers Account = £45,746.48 / Business Account = £37,799.99.
- (b) Received from SSDC - £35,559.50 which is £6,577.00 for the remainder of the Play Park grant (which covered most of the cost of the fence); £10,762.00 for the Play Park maintenance fund (which is to be used over 10 years at approx £1,000 per year, starting two years ago); £18,220.50 as the first claim of the grant for the football pitch.  
From Ilminster Youth for hire of MUGA - £35.00  
From Barry Gibbs - interment - £190.00.  
From Western Power Distribution - Wayleave Payment - £24.69.
- (c) The following cheque was raised:  
0011626 - £ 302.62 - Salary and admin expenses November

**2020/18      Matters and items to report**

- (a) Gates left open - Mrs Matravers reported that on two occasions a gate in their field leading to Cad Road had been left open. It was agreed to put this in the next issue of the Merryfield Messenger. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Merryfield Messenger is to be published very soon and Councillors were asked if there is anything they would like to include. It was agreed to information on the tree planting, the garden plots with one still being available, tennis which can be booked, walkers to shut all gates behind them and dogs to be kept on a lead on the Playing Field.
- (c) Grass cutting - The grass was cut in the Play Park and on the Village Green and verges this week.

**2020/19      Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council**

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 7.30 p.m. at Merryfield Hall

The next Playing Field Development meeting will be on Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7.15 p.m. at Merryfield Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.10 p.m.

Ian Sherwood - Chairman