

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

COVID - 19 EMERGENCY

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held by remote connection using Zoom on

Tuesday 12th May 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the public were invited to attend the remote meeting using Zoom and to contact the Clerk prior to the meeting with any questions or comments they wished to make. Due to time constraints members of the public were advised that they would not be able to speak at the meeting.

2020/58 Attendance and Apologies

Those present by Zoom:

Mr I Sherwood (Chair)
Mrs M Bullock
Mrs S Hill
Mr G Mackenzie-Green
Mr D Mico
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)
Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Those present by phone:

Mrs R Burt (Vice Chair)
Mrs J Easterbrook

Apologies

Mrs P Matravers

In Attendance

4 members of the public

2020/59 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020.

The minutes were agreed and will be signed when this is possible.

2020/60 Grass Cutting

It was noted that this was temporarily halted at the beginning of lockdown because the SSDC grass cutting teams were stood down. A volunteer in the village cut the Cemetery and an alternative contractor cut the playing field. SSDC cutting teams have now recommenced but are a little behind. Grass cutting should be back to normal in the next few weeks.

2020/61 Presentation and approval of Annual Accounts to year end 31/03/2020

Accounts to 31/3/2020 were distributed to all Councillors. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Mr Mackenzie-Green, seconded by Mr Mico, and approved by all councillors.

2020/62 Annual Governance Statement

This was approved by all Councillors. The external auditor still requires a physical signature on all forms and the Clerk arranged for the forms to be signed by the Chairman.

2020/63 Internal Audit

The annual internal audit has not yet been carried out due to the restrictions of the lockdown. The Clerk has arranged for this to be done in the next few weeks.

2020/64 Annual Accounting Statement

As required by the external auditor. The Statement was approved and signed by the Chairman.

2020/65 Accounts Payments and Receipts

- (a) £1,248.00 CIL payment was received. This will be transferred to the CIL account at the earliest opportunity.
- (b) The Clerk arranged for all cheques to be signed by the Chairman and one other signatory.

The following cheques were raised:

001179	- £	625.20	- Salary & admin expenses April & May
001180	- £	138.60	- HMRC - PAYE
001181	- £	6,357.51	- SSDC - Grass cutting for year
001182	- £	10.46	- Parrett IDB - Rates
001183	- £	745.62	- BHIB - Insurance
001184	- £	247.62	- ACS - Paint for skate ramp
001185	- £	500.00	- Romanian Children's Homes donation for litter picking
001186	- £	189.00	- Elite Playgrounds - Inspections and maintenance
001187	- £	506.16	- SSDC - Ranger
001188	- £	260.00	- N Mackenzie-Green - litter picking
001189	- £	117.00	- PCC of Ilton - Grant for planning application for roof

2020/66 Report by County Councillor

Councillor Dance reported as follows:

We are definitely seeing a slow down in reported cases tested for Covid-19 across Somerset giving a total of 530 confirmed cases. Sadly we have lost 95 people to this virus. Hospitals still remain under capacity and there have been no new cases within care homes across Somerset which remain stable.

Somerset County Council are continuing to spend over £200,000 a week on PPE and have supplied over 1.4 million items of equipment to date.

SCC Community Resilience team have answered over 3,000 calls for help and have made over 1,200 calls to vulnerable residents. The number to call is (0300)7906275. SCC are also doing follow up visits to vulnerable residents who do not respond after 3 calls. Sadly however cases of domestic abuse have risen.

The Household Recycling Centre has re-opened with an odd / even number plate system and no traders allowed. The green bin collections will be restored from this Monday.

Simon Stevens from the NHS is hoping to re-open for critical care facilities again next week.

There was a report on SCC's financial position and it looks like for the year 2019/20 Somerset County Council will have an underspend of around £7 million. This underspend will be used to top-up reserves. However we are already being warned that due to the Covid-19 virus and loss of revenue they are predicting a shortfall of around £14 million for 2020/21.

2020/67 Planning Applications

All planning applications have been received by email and documents are available on the SSDC website. Two applications were considered by councillors prior to the meeting by email and telephone.

- (a) Application: 20/00166/FUL
 Proposal: Conversion of barn to annex/holiday accommodation
 Location: The Old Cider House Ilford Ilminster Somerset

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

- (b) Application: 19/03505/FUL (Amendment to previous application)
 Proposal: Erection of 15 dwellings, formation of new access etc
 Location: Land OS 3875 Part St Peters Close, Ilton

Before commenting by email on the proposed second amendment to the plans the Parish Council email restated that the Parish Council still does not support the overall application for the reasons put forward in the email of 11th February 2020.

The Parish Council feels that this second amendment is more sympathetic to the residents in Hillview Close than the previous amendment, and notes that the buildings behind numbers 4 and 5 Hillview Close are more spaced out. It is still however the case that by placing flats almost directly behind number 5 Hillview Close this property will be continually overlooked by the top floor flat residents.

One suggestion that has been made is that if the application is approved, a better layout might be to move the bungalows which run alongside Rod Lane to behind Hillview Close and place the houses and flats alongside Rod Lane where there is a greater distance to other houses which could be more easily screened.

- (c) Application: 20/01057/HOU
Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to side of dwelling
Location: 2 Old Orchard Close, Ilton TA19 9HR

Councillors had no objections to the proposal.

- (d) Application: 20/00953/FUL
Proposal: Erection of new premises (offices & workshop) & access to existing service road
Location: Plot 5, Conquest Business Park, Old Way, Ilton

Councillors had no objections to the proposal.

- (e) App No 20/00983/FUL
Proposal Alternations to change north aisle roof covering from lead to zinc etc
Location St Peters Church, Church Square, Ilton

Councillors had no objections to the proposal.

2020/68 Grant Request

The PCC has asked the Parish Council for a grant of £117.00 to cover the planning application fee for the Church Roof to replace the lead, which was stolen, with zinc. Mrs Bennett proposed the Parish Council make the grant, seconded by Mr Sherwood. Councillors were asked individually if they agree to the grant and all agreed except for Mrs Burt who did not agree.

2020/69 Cemetery / Churchyard

The two cypress fir trees at either side of the entrance gate to the Cemetery have become very large and take a lot of light from the Cemetery. The advice we have received is that they were topped off at about 3m high about 25-30 years ago and have both grown thick multi stemmed crowns. They are currently semi mature. In terms of maintenance, the lower crown could be lifted to improve access, views and general appearance but they will continue to grow and height reduction would be a temporary measure and leave them looking more squat than they are now. The alternative is to take both trees down and replant with something smaller and pretty, such as a flowering cherry. One quote has been received for the work. Councillors all agreed that the trees should be removed and replaced with an alternative. The Clerk was asked to get two more quotes. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2020/70 Issues Raised by Residents by Email

There were no issues raised by residents.

2020/71 Issues Councillors Wish to Raise or Report

Litter Picking

Some years ago litter in the village was a problem and the job of litter picking was advertised at £10 per week but no-one came forward. Mr Sherwood offered to do the job in return for a donation to a charity of his choice. A young boy in the village also did the Play Park in return for £5 per week. Following lockdown Mr Sherwood has been unable to do the litter picking because he is shielding. It was therefore suggested that the young man who is doing the

Play Park should take on the whole village. It was intended to discuss this issue at the meeting but unfortunately the Zoom meeting timed out.

Following the meeting the Clerk sent an email to all councillors asking them if they approve paying the young man £12 per week for approximately 2 hours work a week litter picking around the village. A majority of councillors indicated by email or phone that they are in favour of this which should be reviewed in 6 months.

2020/72 Reports

There were a number of reports which usually would be presented to the meeting. There was no time to present them at the Zoom meeting but they are included here as a record.

- (a) Recreation Ground Play Park - The Play Park was closed at the beginning of lockdown and inspections were temporarily halted. These have now recommenced. The skate ramps have been repainted. Paul Hart welder has been asked to repair the small area of corrosion in one of the ramps. The inspector was been asked to do a couple of small maintenance jobs which have been done.
- (b) Recreational Development / Playing Field
 - (i) Football Pitch - work on the pitch is on going. The area should be sprayed with weed killer and the area seeded within the next week or so.
 - (ii) Gym Equipment - The equipment was taped off at the beginning of lockdown. The inspector found that the limiters on the air skier and one of the pedals on one of the bikes are faulty. The installers have been contacted for repair.
 - (iii) Perimeter Path - Requests for a quotation have been sent to a number of local contractors with a request to quote for either a gravel path or an asphalt one with a further option of giving their advice as to the best type of path for this area.

2020/73 Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

No date was set for another meeting. It is expected that another meeting will be held in June or July to consider the quotes for the perimeter path and any other issues.

The meeting finished at 8.15 p.m.

Ian Sherwood
Chairman