

## ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

### COVID - 19 EMERGENCY

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

Tuesday 9th June 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.

At the beginning of the meeting the Chairman thanked Councillors and the members of the public for attending the meeting.

#### 2020/74 Attendance and Apologies

##### Those present by video link:

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

3 members of the public

#### 2020/75 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. In the past declarations of interest have been made when applicable before the relevant item on the agenda. In the future this item will be added at the beginning of the agenda.

#### 2020/76 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2020.

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

#### 2020/77 County Councillor Report

Cllr Dance reported as follows:

- R rate for Somerset as part of South West is still just below 1, the second highest region in the country. London is 0.4.
- Care home outbreaks are slowing, there are of course ongoing cases but the acceleration is slowing down.
- Somerset has had 147 deaths, 80+ in hospitals, 57 in care homes, rest in the community.
- Weston Hospital is still closed to new intake and will not take new admissions for another week. Patients are diverted to Musgrove where they are coping although it is unexpected pressure.
- Somerset County Council will be developing a local OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN through June, currently waiting for guidance from Government. At present only PM and Sec of State can order lockdown on any scale, new legislation will be needed for any possible local actions. SCC and other Councils can advise residents and visitors if infection numbers increase locally.

The full report is added as an addendum to these minutes.

## **2020/78 District Councillor Report**

- The planning office has been busy with the new format which aims to get all documents at the beginning of the application to ensure planning officers do not need to chase applicants. Hopefully this will speed things up.
- Enforcement protocols are being looked at.
- A directory of food suppliers is available from SSDC.

## **2020/79 Planning Applications**

App No 20/01320/FUL

Proposal Erection of an agricultural livestock building

Location Burleaze Farm, Cad Road, Ilton

Ilton Parish Council considered the above application and have no objection to the proposal.

## **2020/80 Grant requests**

### **(a) Merryfield Messenger Printing costs**

A request for extra funding to cover the costs of printing the current edition of the Merryfield Messenger. Councillors previously approved a grant of up to £100 per year to cover the costs of printing the Messenger with an estimated 3 issues a year. So far the following amounts have been spent - £42 in November and £36 in February making a total of £78 leaving £22 remaining from the original sum of £100 promised. The current edition, which is the third of three this year, has cost £39. Councillors have been asked if they will approve the whole of the £39 to cover the cost of this edition.

After discussion Mr Sherwood proposed that the Parish Council pay the whole cost of printing the magazine, seconded by Mrs Bullock. All councillors voted in favour of paying the whole £39 to cover the printing costs. The motion was carried.

A councillor asked if this is to be an ongoing cost each year. Councillors agreed that the Messenger is very beneficial for the village. Mr Sherwood proposed that the council agree to fund the Messenger for 3 issues next year up to £100, seconded by Mr Mackenzie-Green. If there is an over spend again next year this can be considered at the time. It was agreed that support for the newsletter will be agreed on a yearly basis.

### **(b) Cricket Club COVID-19 Challenge**

Ilton Cricket Club have set a challenge for club members as a group to walk or cycle the equivalent of the 874 miles from Lands End to John O Groats. A crowd funding page has been set up and the England Cricket Board has pledged £100. The Cricket Club are asking if Ilton Parish Council will match the England Cricket Board's donation with a donation of £100. The fundraising is for new facilities including disabled toilets, new changing and shower facilities, new viewing and seating area.

After discussion Mr Sherwood proposed that the Parish Council make a grant to the Cricket Club of £100, seconded by Mrs Burt. Five councillors voted in favour of the grant, one abstained and one was against. The motion was carried.

## **2020/81 Accounts Payments and Receipts**

- (a) Balances @ 31/05/2020 - Treasurers Account = £59,057 / 30 day account = £37,808.
- (b) The Clerk arranged for all cheques to be signed by the Chairman and one other signatory.

The following cheques were raised:

001190	-	£ 335.87	-	Salary & admin expenses June
001191	-	£ 114.00	-	Elite Playgrounds - Inspections
001192	-	£ 247.62	-	ACS - Paint for skate ramp (previous chq 1184 cancelled)
001193	-	£ 180.00	-	Paul Hart welding, skate ramp repair
001194	-	£ 408.00	-	Zac Bessell, hedge and grass cutting playing field
001195	-	£ 100.00	-	Ilton Cricket Club, grant
001196	-	£ 39.00	-	The Wider View, Merryfield Messenger

(a)      Perimeter Footpath

Before sending out requests to quote for the perimeter path, the Clerk spoke to two local councils who both had identical paths to the one which currently runs to the MUGA. The specifications for this gravel path were advised by SSDC. Both the two local councils said they had had their gravel path covered by asphalt because after a few years the path became uneven and water-logged. Both councils said that although it was not a problem covering it with asphalt because the foundation had already been laid by the gravel path, with hindsight they would go for asphalt at the outset.

Accordingly the Clerk sent out requests for 3 different quotes: one using the same consolidated gravel specification already used to the MUGA; one using a specification for asphalt which was drawn up with advice from one of the councillors and one of the local councils who had used asphalt, and a third quotation request for the contractor themselves to quote using their own specification.

Five quotations have been received with prices ranging from £25,000 to over £100,000. After discussion councillors proposed accepting the quotation from Rick Hyett which comes in at £32,000 with a probable saving of £3,645 if the Parish Council buys the asphalt direct from the supplier so that VAT can be reclaimed. Mr Sherwood proposed accepting Rick Hyett's quotation, seconded by Mr Mico. All councillors voted in favour and the motion was carried. Additional work to cover the existing gravel path with asphalt is quoted at £2,250. The Clerk to contact all contractors and arrange a site meeting and start date.      **ACTION - The Clerk**

(b)      Skate Park

Several councillors have been looking at the possibility of building a skate park in the Playing Field. The skate ramps currently in the Play Park are metal ramps and are coming to the end of their life. One patch of rust has recently been repaired. It looks to be possible to build a good new usable installation of concrete skate ramps for approximately £150,000. It has been indicated that grants should be available to cover most of this expenditure. Councillors are therefore asked to approve the sending out of invitations to contractors to bid for a skate park to the value of £150,000.

Several councillors expressed reservations about spending so much money on one facility. It was suggested that a survey of the village is carried out to make sure people would like a skate park and feel it is a good way to spend the money. Councillors were told that at the moment all that is being considered are what companies can offer for £150,000. Once the plans have been received it will be necessary to apply for grants. Until plans are received it is not possible to know how much money it would cost. It is possible that most of the expenditure can be covered by grants. It is considered realistic that grants of at least £100,000 towards the project can be obtained.

Surveys were carried out a couple of years ago. Councillors agreed that they would like to do another survey to check that residents would like a skate park.

Councillors agreed to the first stage and invitations to submit a plan for a skate park to the value of £150,000 will be sent out.      **ACTION - Mr Mico**

(c)      Grass Cutting

Long term plans for grass cutting on the Playing Field need to be considered. Our contract needs to be renegotiated this year. It has also been suggested that a good solution may be to buy the machinery to cut the Playing Field.      **ACTION - Agenda Item July**

(d)      Container

A request has been made to move the container in the car park which is rather an eye sore for people living in the houses alongside the car park. It was suggested that it is moved to the opposite corner where it will be shielded by the trees. The quote from Eagle Plant to move the container is £100. All councillors were in agreement.      **ACTION - Mr Mico**

(e) Larkfleet Compound

It was noted that Larkfleet should have been clear of the compound by the end of March but the lockdown has prevented this and there is still a lot of activity and machinery and debris to clear. The Clerk to contact Larkfleet to ensure that it is left tidy and in good order. It would also be helpful if they are clear before the path is done so that it can be extended to the entrance from the new development.

**ACTION - The Clerk**

(f) Car Park

There is concern that residents bordering the Playing Field may drive cars from the car park to the backs of their properties. It was proposed that when the path is done soil is used to extend the bund to the boundary fence to prevent this from happening. Mr Sherwood and Mr Mackenzie-Green will look to see how to do this.

**ACTION - Mr Sherwood, Mr Mackenzie-Green**

(g) Football Pitch

The football pitch has been sprayed and seeded.

(h) Gym Equipment

The gym equipment remains closed. The tape had been removed and has now been replaced. Freshair Fitness have been to repair the limiters and the pedal on the bike.

(i) Benches

It is still the intention to have some benches and picnic tables around the field once the perimeter footpath has been done.

**ACTION - Mr Sherwood, The Clerk**

**2020/83 Issues raised by residents by email**

One issue was raised which was the lighting of bonfires. During the current emergency the District Council has asked residents not to light bonfires. Residents lighting bonfires will be advised of the current guidance.

**2020/84 Cemetery / Churchyard**

Councillors agreed at the last meeting to remove the two cypress trees at the Cemetery. A total of 3 quotes have been received and Arbortech has been asked to do the work which should be done in July. It was noticed that there is a plum tree by the fence at the bottom of the cemetery which has a dead branch. The extra quote to remove this at the same time was £60.00. The contractor has been asked to leave the green brushwood chippings in a pile behind the hedge at the right hand side of the gate so that it can be used once it has rotted down. He will also leave the wood in a pile cut into manageable sized pieces.

**2020/85 Play Park**

The Play Park remains closed. There is no indication when it will be possible to re-open.

**2020/86 Brook Green**

Mrs Mackenzie-Green collected two bags of litter from Brook Green recently so it would appear that it is being used. Currently it is very overgrown. Mr Mico and Mr Mackenzie-Green will go and trim the paths.

**ACTION - Mr Mico, Mr Mackenzie-Green**

**2020/87 Footpaths**

The footpath at Pennys Mead is still blocked. SCC are aware of the problem. Mrs Easterbrook will keep chasing them.

**ACTION - Mrs Easterbrook**

Problems with the footpath which crosses the A303 has been reported to Highways but nothing has been heard back.

**2020/88 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme**

Mr Sherwood reported that the Ranger is doing a very good job. This week he worked around the bus shelter and the Churchyard and Play Park and some work in the Playing

Field. Mr Sherwood has the phone number of the supervisor for the grass cutting teams and is keeping a record of when the grass is cut.

**2020/89      Issues raised by councillors**

(a)      Ditch in Playing Field

A councillor asked what has happened about the ditch in the Playing Field which had been under review a couple of months ago. The Clerk said that the Ranger had done a risk assessment which seems to have got lost somewhere and she will chase SSDC about this again. Mr Cavill and Mr Dance had intended to have a look but lock-down had prevented this. Mr Cavill said he will have a look. **ACTION - Mr Cavill, The Clerk**

(b)      Christmas Tree

Mrs Easterbrook asked if the Council wants to have a tree this Christmas. Councillors agreed. Mrs Easterbrook will make enquiries and get costs. **ACTION - Mrs Easterbrook**

**2020/90      Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be by Zoom on Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting finished at 8.50 p.m.

Ian Sherwood  
Chairman

## ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES 9th June 2020

### Report by Councillor Dance

- R rate for Somerset as part of South West is still just below 1, the second highest region in the country. London is 0.4.
- Care home outbreaks are slowing, there are of course ongoing cases but the acceleration is slowing down.
- Somerset has had 147 deaths, 80+ in hospitals, 57 in care homes, rest in the community.
- Weston Hospital is still closed to new intake and will not take new admissions for another week. Patients are diverted to Musgrove where they are coping although it is unexpected pressure.
- Somerset County Council will be developing a local OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN through June, currently waiting for guidance from Government. At present only PM and Sec of State can order lockdown on any scale, new legislation will be needed for any possible local actions. SCC and other Councils can advise residents and visitors if infection numbers increase locally.

### **Schools**

- 1st June is being accepted as a target date for more pupils, it is not a 'go or no go' milestone. SCC working with headteachers and unions. The majority of schools are already open for children of key workers. Approx 75% of primary schools in Somerset will be opening to more pupils from Monday 1st June. Some of the older, smaller schools will need more work before they can be open with social distancing measures.
- The schools will be staggering days or hours, parents polled through the schools have said that 60% will NOT be sending children to school next week. SCC expects a relatively quiet start to schools next week but as lockdown eases the schools will be ready to accommodate more pupils.
- We do not yet know how absences will be marked at schools, it is parental choice and there will be no actions against parents from either schools or SCC.
- The Somerset Outdoor Curriculum for primary schools will ensure half a day of outdoor education a week thereby increasing the teaching space for each school.

### **Paula Hewitt, Economic and Community Infrastructure**

- SCC is still waiting for guidance from Govt on registration of all births. Registrations of deaths is currently an online service with support for those accessing the service.
- Marriages delayed, awaiting guidance.
- Libraries – planning to open the five larger libraries first. 100% increase in use of E books during lockdown.
- All building works have continued including A Block of County Hall, with social distancing in place.
- Household Waste recycling centres – no major issues with the reopening. Back to usual summer opening days/hours from Monday 1st June. Still not taking additional materials but will be re-introduced in due course. Commercial waste still not accepted, to be reviewed as soon as possible.
- Suez contractors addressing any missed collections, improvements expected within the next week.
- Economic development and recovery – Somerset Growth Board being stood up again, also other bodies. Regulation Meeting planned for July.
- Funding for Active Travel work is just £120,000 for all of Somerset. Dept for Transport intend that money to replace public transport usage with cycling and walking. Will hopefully be combined with District monies for High Street works to better ensure safety of people travelling and in towns. Noted that Bristol & Bath already have measures in place, possibly accessed resources through the West of England Combined Authority, hence speedier response.
- The Active Travel Cell is led by Alyn Jones working with District colleagues. The Dept for Transport monies through SCC must be committed within 4 weeks and spent quickly.

Proposals may be dealt with as temporary or emergency Traffic Regulation Orders, so possible to put in place much more quickly.

- Parking enforcements – NSL will recommence work on enforcement on roads and streets next week. They will enforce on eg double yellow lines, but where parking is allowed eg residents parking they will use warning letters for the first week before reintroducing fines.
- Districts will decide on charging in car parks, NSL will respond to each District's decision.
- Planned and remedial work on the Highways continues, also work by utilities.
- School transport has been arranged for those who need it, with plans for social distancing.
- No change so far to numbers using public transport with no reports of overloading.
- Gully emptying service will recommence on 1st June.
- Rights of Way team are standing up volunteers and other work from 1st June.
- SW Heritage Trust will start phased reopening from mid July.

#### **Chris Squire, Human Resources & Organisation Development**

- Excellent response from all areas of SCC, low number of sickness occurrences with only three confirmed cases of Covid19. Other members of staff shielding/self isolating/caring responsibilities.
- SCC now working with NHS concentrating on the 'lost year' for pupils, students and those leaving colleges.
- Also working on making office spaces safe for those returning to work in offices