

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

COVID - 19 EMERGENCY

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

Tuesday 14th July 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.

2020/91 Attendance and Apologies

Those present by video link:

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

Apologies

Mrs J Easterbrook
Mrs P Matravers
Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)

In Attendance

1 member of the public

Those present by phone:

Mrs R Burt (Vice Chair)

2020/92 Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

2020/93 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 9 June 2020.

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

2020/94 County Councillor Report

Cllr Dance summarised SCC's report on the local situation as follows:

Confirmed COVID-19 cases and mortality

The total number of confirmed cases in Somerset to date is 1,281. Only two more cases were recorded in the last week. No further COVID-related deaths were added to the total of 199 for the county.

The Somerset Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP)

The plan is now published and operational, and plans are in place for a range of responses: growth, business pilots, tourism and safe opening. It is a model of its kind and is being used by other authorities. Cllr David Fothergill will chair a new board to engage with communities to better understand difficulties and how we live with this virus.

The priorities of the LOMP are:

- Prevention of outbreaks, especially at high risk places e.g. food processing, abattoirs
- Access to adequate testing – with Army support. Currently the main testing centre is at Taunton racecourse. Further testing centres in Yeovil, Minehead, Street (6th 7th 8th July at Strode College), Dillington (from 13th July). Testing site needed in Frome area.
- Contact tracing. At the moment at national level 25% positives are not being reached, so SCC is doing work locally with Public Health England looking for a more flexible model.
- Responding to an outbreak. There is no legislation to lock down locally. The Government had to secure House of Commons agreement to lock down Leicester. SCC would like to work with consensus rather than legislation

Care homes and social care

There has been a steady decrease in infections in care homes in Somerset. Now that the position has stabilised, SCC is exploring ways of encouraging volunteers and unemployed people to work in the care sector.

Work to identify vulnerable individuals continues, and there is a concern to get rough sleepers into permanent accommodation. 130 people have been formally identified as homeless in Somerset.

Successful bids

The Local Enterprise Partnership (Devon & Somerset) submitted bids for 120 'shovel-ready' projects and was awarded £34.5m - one of the biggest awards in the country. It is yet to be decided how much will come to Somerset.

Separately, SCC was awarded £4.8m for a scheme for highways improvements - the J 26 roundabout on the M5.

Unitary Authority

This is a change that will affect every resident and is being pushed through by SCC, so far there has been no proper consultation. The draft business plan has been prepared which envisages creating one council for the whole of Somerset and reducing councillor number to 100 in total from the present 300. There will be bigger wards with just the one councillor per ward. Parish Councils will be required to take on more responsibility and are likely to have to raise the precept. Although change is needed it should not be rushed through and figures done during the present Covid emergency. SSCDC have been investing in business property and so will bring money into any new structure. All the districts are opposed to the creation of the one unitary authority. In the 2007 referendum people voted to keep the current set up of district councils. There are elections scheduled for next May and they could be used to hold a referendum. If there is to be a unitary authority it should be two, not one, as Somerset is too big for one unitary authority.

Ilton have already filled in the recent consultation to say that Ilton Parish Council is not in favour of one unitary authority. Councillors were asked for their opinion on one unitary authority and all councillors voted no to a single unitary authority.

2020/95 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (a) Ditch in the Playing Field - We are still chasing the Risk Assessment which the Ranger did for the ditch. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Christmas Tree - An estimate for a 15' Christmas tree from Yarcombe Wood Products is £140. Councillors agreed to go ahead and Mrs Easterbrook will pre-order a tree. **ACTION - Mrs Easterbrook**
- (c) Ilton Cricket Club - A very nice thank you letter has been received from the Cricket Club thanking the Parish Council for the grant towards their fundraising drive.

2020/96 Planning Applications

App No 20/01591/OUT

Proposal Outline application for erection of dwelling and garaging.

Location Hill Farm, Cad Road, Ilton

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

2020/97 Accounts Payments and Receipts

- (a) Balances @ 30/06/2020 - Treasurers Account = £56,436.70 / 30 day account = £37,809.60.
- (b) The Clerk arranged for all cheques to be signed by the Chairman and one other signatory.

The following cheques were raised:

001197	- £ 120.00	- Eagle Plant, move container
001198	- £ 519.48	- SSDC, Ranger labour
001199	- £ 114.00	- Elite Playgrounds - Inspections
001200	- £ 199.80	- HMRC, Paye
001201	- £ 666.51	- Salary & admin expenses July and August
001202	- £ 28.80	- Macs Printing, posters for Play Park
001203	- £ 117.65	- G Mackenzie Green, paint for container
001204	- £6,724.00	- Cowling Agriculture, grass cutting machinery
000001	- £4,100.00	- Cowling Agriculture, grass cutting machinery (CILaccount)
001205	- £ 97.27	- G Mackenzie-Green, material for fitting out container
001206	- £1,171.20	- Slade Parry, project management
001207	- £1,800.00	- Arbor Tech, Churchyard trees
001208	- £ 856.00	- Crewkerne Agricultural, Strimmer etc
001209	- £ 114.00	- The Play Inspection Company, annual inspection

2020/98 **Playing Field**

- (a) Perimeter Footpath - The quotation from Rick Hyett for an asphalt perimeter footpath was accepted. The cost will be £32,000 for the main path plus the path to the MUGA at an additional cost of £2,250. The work should be done later in the summer.
- (b) Skate Park - Invitations to tender for a skate park to the value of £150,000 have been sent. Once they have been received Mr Mico will email tenders to all councillors and grants will be applied for. **ACTION - Mr Mico**
- (c) Grass Cutting - Ilton Parish Council are considering buying its own grass cutting machinery and the grass to be cut by volunteers. Councillors were asked to consider if this should go ahead. The insurance company have confirmed that provided volunteers are properly trained and have the required protective equipment, that they will be covered by the council's insurance policy. There are four volunteers ready to start. All equipment will be stored in the large container which will be fitted out to store equipment properly and provided with electricity and a security system. The Clerk confirmed (after checking with SSDC) that we can use CIL money to buy the equipment. The estimated cost of all the machinery required is £13,000 which will be covered by two years' grass cutting by outside contractors. Mr Mackenzie-Green will manage the volunteers with help from Mr Mico. There is a company who will come to the site to provide training. Mr Dance offered to provide top-up training. After much discussion Mr Sherwood proposed that the motion to buy the machinery is accepted, seconded by Mr Mackenzie-Green. All councillors except one voted in favour of going ahead, who felt it is a good idea but is dubious that volunteers will be reliable enough. Accordingly it was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the equipment. It was felt that if the experiment does not work, the machinery can be sold. The possibility of renting equipment was suggested but this has not been considered. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green, Mr Mico**

Mr Dance left the meeting after this item at 8.05 p.m.

- (d) Old Fence Posts - The last remaining posts have been removed.
- (e) Picnic Tables - The picnic tables from Brook Green are not being used very much now that the Playing Field is available. They were removed and renovated and re-sited at the Playing Field.
- (f) Container - The container has been moved and repainted green. There have been reports that children are climbing onto the roof and notices to say "Do Not Climb" have been placed on the container. The paint used on the top of the container is special bitumen paint to stop rust and warning notices have been put on the container about the bitumen paint. The container needs to be connected to the electricity supply ready for a security system. It was agreed to ask a local electrician to do the work. **ACTION - The Clerk**

- (g) Football Pitch - Councillors are not satisfied with the work on the new football pitch. There are a lot of stones and the pitch is not level. The Clerk will contact the Project Manager to set up a meeting with the contractor. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (h) Gym Equipment - this was re-opened on 4th July and notices asking people to respect social distancing have been put up.
- (i) Ilton Garden Plots - It was commented how well the Garden Plots are doing. The project has been a great success. As this is now likely to be an established part of the Playing Field it would be nice to get better fencing installed. The current fencing is very shaky. It is also easy for dogs and other animals to get in. It was suggested that the Parish Council pay for new stock fencing. A quote for £580 for the supply of materials has been received. The plot holders to do the work themselves. Councillors were asked to approve expenditure of up to £600 to provide new fencing for the Garden Plots. All Councillors voted in favour. The Clerk to contact the Garden Plot Group. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (j) Larkfleet Compound - The Compound is still a mess with gravel and other things lying around. Larkfleet have assured the Council that they are committed to leaving the compound tidy and have apologised for the overrun of their occupation of the area. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (k) Trees Planted in Field - Over half of the trees which were planted in January have died. Mrs Hill has the trees which came from SSDC and these can be planted later in the year when the ground is wet enough. These are all quite large trees rather than flowering ones. The Clerk will look to see if there are any more free trees from the Woodland Trust or other organisations which can be planted in the winter. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2020/99 Cemetery

The removal of the two cypress trees at the Cemetery which was booked for July has been delayed due to the urgent nature of work to the lime trees in the Churchyard. This work will be done later in the year as soon as possible.

2020/100 Churchyard

The lime trees in the Churchyard are in a dangerous condition and need urgent attention. Arbortech were due to do the work on the cypress trees at the Cemetery and have agreed to reschedule the work to do the lime trees in the Churchyard in July. The Parish Council is legally required to look after the closed Churchyard.

2020/101 Recreation Ground Play Park

The Play Park re-opened on 4th July. Warning notices have been placed on gates. The Clerk has completed a risk assessment.

2020/102 Brook Green

The benches and picnic tables have been renovated, with 3 being made into 2, and re-sited in the Playing Field. SSDC have cut the grass at Brook Green by mistake. There are still two benches at Brook Green. It was suggested that a meeting should be held at Brook Green to look at what should be done. It would be possible to make a rustic bench with tree trunks and / or a railway sleeper. It was thought better not to have tables to make it more difficult for anyone to use it for drugs etc. **ACTION - Agenda Item September**

2020/103 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme

The Ranger is doing a good job. If there are a lot of volunteers it may be possible to reduce his hours.

2020/104 Issues raised by residents by email

There were no issues raised by residents.

2020/105 Issues councillors wish to raise or to report

- (a) Dogs in Playing Field - There is still an issue with dogs running free and owners not picking up after their dog. People ignoring the request to keep their dog on a lead will be asked to comply with the request and warned that the Council could ban dogs completely if problems continue. **ACTION - Agenda Item September**
- (b) Tennis Nets - These were set up regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They were not used except for one councillor and his son. Several people expressed interest so there may be more enquiries.
- (c) Zoom - It was agreed to cancel Zoom for August.

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 7.30 p.m. either on Zoom or at the Village Hall, to be decided according the Covid situation. At present the Village Hall is limited to 10 people and unless this increases it will not be possible to hold meetings there.

The meeting finished at 9.00 p.m.

Ian Sherwood
Chairman