

## ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

### COVID - 19 EMERGENCY

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

Tuesday 8th September 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.

#### 2020/106 Attendance and Apologies

Those present by video link:	Apologies	In Attendance
Mr I Sherwood (Chair)		
Mrs R Burt (Vice Chair)	Mrs P Matravers	2 members of the public
Mrs J Bennett	Mr A Dance (County Councillor)	
Mrs M Bullock	Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)	
Mrs S Hill		
Mr G Mackenzie-Green		
Mr D Mico		
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)		
Those present by phone:		
Mrs J Easterbrook		

2020/107 Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

#### 2020/108 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 14 July 2020.

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

#### 2020/109 Matters Arising from the Minutes

##### Ditch in the Playing Field

Councillors have considered the risk of the ditch. It is beginning to fill up with grass and hedge cuttings and is only wet in the winter months. Councillors have considered filling it in but this is not an option as it acts as a drain for the football pitch. Councillors have also considered fencing it but this would make cutting the hedge and grass difficult. After consideration Councillors think it does not pose a high risk and suggest that it is left as it is with warning notices spaced along the length of the ditch.

#### 2020/110 Planning Applications

Planning Applications - to date there has been 1 application which was forwarded to councillors by email and comments sent to the planning department.

- (a) App No 20/00953/FUL  
Proposal Erection of new office/workshop building etc  
Location Plot 5, Conquest Business Park, Old Way, Ilton  
Ilton Parish Council considered the above application and had no objections.
- (b) Application: 19/03505/FUL  
Proposal: Erection of 15 dwellings, formation of new access etc  
Location: Land OS 3875 Part St Peters Close, Ilton

This application was due to be considered by the Area North Committee in August but was postponed until September and will now be considered in October because

the flooding issue has still to be resolved. Mrs Burt has agreed to attend the Zoom meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and to put the Parish Council's objections to the committee. A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding the Area North meeting. It was further agreed that Mrs Burt and Mr Mackenzie-Green will both attend the Zoom meeting in October to put forward the Parish Council objections to the new development.

**ACTION - Mrs Burt / Mr Mackenzie-Green**

## 2020/111 Accounts Payments and Receipts

- (a) Balances @ 31/08/2020 - Treasurers Account = £43,819.30 / 30 day account = £37,812.48.
- (b) Received £260.00 in respect of memorial at the Cemetery.
- (c) The Clerk arranged for all cheques to be signed by the Chairman and one other signatory.
- (d) Signatories to the bank account - Mrs Bennett and Mrs Hill have both agreed to be new signatories to the account. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (e) Opening new saving account - This was supposed to be opened just before lock-down. Mrs Bennett has agreed to be a signatory along with Mr Sherwood, Mrs Hill and Mrs Bullock. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (f) Debit Card - A request was made for a Council debit card. The Clerk will see if this is possible. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (g) Audit - The audit has been successfully completed and notices placed on the website.
- (h) The following cheques were raised:
  - 001210 - £ 166.62 - A Easterbrook, electricity in container
  - 001211 - £ 480.00 - PKF Littlejohn, audit
  - 001212 - £ 244.19 - SALC subscription
  - 001213 - £ 228.00 - Elite Playgrounds - Inspections, 2 months
  - 001214 - £ 410.05 - Salary & admin expenses September

## 2020/112 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Perimeter Footpath - Planned starting date is Monday 21st September. Excavated earth will be put in bunds. It was suggested that bulbs are planted on the bunds.
- (b) Skate Park - Mr Mackenzie Green is planning to do a survey with the children in the village to make sure they would like a skate park before any further action is taken. Mr Mico reported that progress with the bids is slow. He will circulate them once they have been received. However it is on hold for the time being until the survey has been done. **ACTION - Mr Mico / Mr Mackenzie-Green**
- (c) Grass Cutting - Some of the machinery has been purchased and the rest has been ordered. All the grass cutting will be done in house by volunteers from the beginning of next year. The Clerk to inform SSDC. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green / The Clerk**
- (d) Container - Electricity supply has been fitted to the container. It has been painted dark green and special bitumen paint used on top. Signs "do not climb" and warning of bitumen paint put on the sides.
- (e) Football Pitch - Mr Sherwood had a meeting with the contractor and the Project Manager a few weeks ago. The contractor has said there is some more work to do on levelling the pitch which will be done very soon. It is likely to be necessary to put weed-killer down once the grass is established but if it is cut regularly that may not be necessary. The Project Manager will have a meeting with the contractor at the end of the week to see if the work is now satisfactory.
- (f) Ilton Garden Plots - These will be fenced with post and rail and stock proof wire when the ground is soft enough. This should prevent dogs and other animals from getting into the gardens.

- (g) Larkfleet Compound - Work is ongoing to clear the compound. The Clerk has written to find out when they are likely to be finished.
- (h) New Trees - Mrs Hill has some trees which were given by SSDC last year although some of them have been damaged in the recent storms. A resident has some self-seeded young trees which the parish can have. The Woodland Trust are giving away trees again this year. The Clerk missed the deadline for delivery in November and will apply for delivery in March. Mr Mackenzie-Green will collect the trees from Mrs Hill and the resident and plant them to replace those that have died.

**ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green / The Clerk**

- (i) New benches - A councillor asked what has happened to the new picnic benches which were on order for the Playing Field. These are still on order but have been delayed because the supplier has had some personal problems. The new metal benches will be ordered after the perimeter path has been completed.

- (j) Boules - A boules pitch has been suggested and Mr Mackenzie-Green will price this up.

**ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green**

### **2020/113 Cemetery**

- (a) Cypress Trees - The removal of the two cypress trees at the Cemetery is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd September.
- (b) Building rubble - A number of complaints have been received about a quantity of building rubble left along the side fence of the Cemetery and the damaged gate from the back of one of the gardens into the Cemetery. After writing to the resident concerned and two councillors speaking to him, the rubble has now been removed. The gate has yet to be repaired.

### **2020/114 Churchyard**

Work was done in July - a full crown reduction to the large, mature lime tree on the boundary of the churchyard that had recently shed a large couple of branches and work to reduce the adjacent, smaller lime tree in the corner, majority of all mistletoe removed at the same time. Epicormic growth at the base cut back and hedge reduced to manageable level, and also work to lift the low branches from the old yew tree at the front of the church. All brushwood material cut into manageable pieces and chipped into a pile in the corner. Cordwood material cut into manageable pieces and stacked in situ as requested. The full cost of the work was £1,500 + VAT.

### **2020/115 Recreation Ground Play Park**

The patch on the skate ramp which was recently repaired had lifted and has been repaired again by the contractor.

### **2020/116 Brook Green**

- (a) Long term plans for maintenance of the area - Councillors suggest that the area is left and the grass cut in late July after the flowers have seeded so that wild flowers will grow. It was also suggested that some wild-flower seed mix is spread. Paths will be cut regularly and areas cut around seating areas for picnicing. Some of the wood from the cypress trees in the Cemetery can be used to build rustic seating.
- (b) Several 4 x 4s have used the area as a race track and it has been suggested that the bank of the river is cut with a steep slope to prevent this happening. The Clerk to liaise with the Rivers Authority the next time they are due to dredge the river.

**ACTION - The Clerk**

- (c) Seating - A resident wrote a letter about the removal of the picnic tables at Brook Green and asked if the parish council can put some seating at Brook Green. The previous benches were rotten and unsafe and the three benches have now been repaired into two and placed in the Playing Field. Councillors felt that tables at Brook Green are not a good idea as they had been used for drug use. One by the water was set in concrete and was ripped out. Councillors agreed that there should be

some seating at Brook Green and that some new rustic benches can be sited by the paths. It was agreed to use some of the wood from the cypress trees at the Cemetery when they are cut later in the year. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood / Mr Mackenzie-Green**

#### **2020/117 Footpaths**

Mrs Bennett has agreed to take over the footpaths from Mrs Easterbrook.

#### **2020/118 Highways**

The drains opposite the Old Post Office are not clearing and water is puddling after rain. Residents have reported they are being drenched by passing cars and lorries. The Clerk has reported this to Highways.

Copse Lane and Main Street drains - these are not draining. Mrs Burt is the Councillor responsible for Highways and will report to Highways. **ACTION - Mrs Burt**

#### **2020/119 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme**

It was agreed to keep the Ranger for the time being but we may be able to reduce his hours once the volunteer team are established.

#### **2020/120 Grants**

An application has been received from Radio Ninesprings for a donation towards building an FM transmitter for the Chard area to provide Ilton and its people with a service of local community radio. Councillors felt that Ilton is nearer to Taunton than to Yeovil and there is good local radio service from Taunton. There does not seem to be any need for more local radio stations. Councillors voted unanimously not to give a grant to Radio Ninesprings.

#### **2020/121 Issues raised by residents by email**

There were no issues raised by residents not already covered on the agenda.

#### **2020/122 Issues councillors wish to raise or to report**

- (a) Dogs in Playing Field - The Clerk has had some email correspondence with a resident regarding keeping their dog on a lead and the resident is now complying with the request. Several councillors have spoken to residents and requested they also comply with the request for the safety of everyone.
- (b) Individual Responsibilities - The Chairman remarked that some consideration needs to be given to individual councillors' responsibilities and that all councillors should have an area of responsibility. This is usually considered in the Annual May meeting which was cancelled this year due to the virus.
- (c) Zoom - The Clerk is paying for Zoom again, month by month, but it is less than previously because it does not seem to be necessary to pay extra for the telephone option. It will now be £14.39 per month instead of £23.99.
- (d) Ground Maintenance Volunteer - Guy Danvers has agreed to be the Ground Maintenance Volunteer and work with Mr Mackenzie-Green on grass cutting etc. He will attend Parish Council meetings in a non-voting capacity and be a key holder for the container. If a vacancy is available on the Council he is interested in filling it. Mr Sherwood proposed that Mr Danvers is appointed as the Ground Maintenance Volunteer, seconded by Mr Mackenzie-Green. All councillors were in favour. The Clerk will amend the contact list. **ACTION - The Clerk**

#### **2020/123 Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th October 2020 at 7.30 p.m. either on Zoom or at the Village Hall, to be decided according to the Covid situation.

The meeting finished at 8.30 p.m.

Ian Sherwood Chairman