

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

It was noted that there was no meeting held in June because Covid-19 restrictions meant the Hall could not accommodate more than 10 people and the regulations allowing remote meetings had not been extended by the Government. For the same reason the July meeting had to be held after restrictions on the use of the Hall were lifted on 19th July.

2021/63 Attendance and Apologies

Present

Mr I Sherwood (Chair)
Mrs J Bennett (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Bullock
Mrs R Burt
Mrs J Easterbrook
Mrs S Hill
Mr G Mackenzie-Green
Mr D Mico
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mr A Dance (County Councillor)
Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)

In Attendance

3 members of the public

2021/64 Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

2021/65 Visitors and Public Voice

- (a) It was noted that sadly Mr Cavill, our District Councillor, is ill again and the Council extended its good wishes for his recovery.
- (b) The flower trough is looking lovely. The Chairman thanked Mrs Simpson on behalf of the Council for planting and maintaining the flower trough.
- (c) A Councillor reported that a resident has asked him to pass on their thanks to the Council for everything they do.

2021/66 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 4/05/21

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2021/67 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held by Zoom on Tuesday 4/05/21

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2021/68 Matters Arising - There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

2021/69 Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy on the Parish Council has been advertised and SSDC have confirmed that there has been no request for an election. The vacancy can now be filled by co-option. Andrew Pidgeon was present this evening to express an interest in the vacancy. He was asked to confirm at the end of the meeting if he would like to come onto the Council and if so, he could be co-opted at the next meeting in August.

2021/70 County Councillor Report - Cllr Dance's report was circulated by email.

2021/71 Planning Applications

- a) App No 21/01027/HOU

Proposal Demolition of existing single story flat roof extension and erection of new.

Location Anhaleg, Rod Lane, Ilton

There were no objections to the proposal by any councillors. SSDC were informed that there were no objections.

- b) App No 21/01905/HOU
Proposal Erection of two story rear extension
Location 8 Pennys Mead, Ilton

There were no objections to the proposal by any councillors. SSDC were informed that there were no objections.

2021/72 Accounts Payments and Receipts

- (a) Cheques - cheques raised this month cover May, June and July as follows:

001292 - £ 74.20 - Cad Green Garage, Diesel
001293 - £ 440.00 - Stuart Talbot, Playday
001294 - £ 173.16 - SSDC Ranger
001295 - £ 516.77 - Bradford, Timber and Cement for benches
001296 - £3,321.60 - David Ogilvie, 4 benches
001297 - £ 325.29 - Salary and admin expenses
001298 - £ 24.58 - Nuts and Bolts for benches
001299 - £ 114.00 - Elite Playground Inspections
001300 - £ 186.48 - SSDC Ranger
001301 - £ 55.00 - Cad Green Garage, Diesel
001302 - £ 39.00 - The Wider View, Newsletter printing
001303 - £ 15.00 - Somerset Playing Field Association subscription
001304 - £ 165.59 - TEEC website hosting
001305 - £ 325.58 - Salary & Admin expenses
001306 - £ 213.00 - HMRC, paye
001307 - £ 114.00 - Elite Playground Inspections
001308 - £ 63.58 - Parts for tractor
001309 - £ 840.00 - Arbortech, tree in Cemetery
001310 - £ 19.98 - Padlock for car park gate
001311 - £ 186.48 - SSDC Ranger
001312 - CANCELLED
001313 - £ 160.70 - Cad Green Garage, Diesel
001314 - £ 60.00 - Elite Playground Inspections, replace limiters
001315 - £ 260.40 - SALC Subscription
001316 - £ 4,688.58 - John Wainwright, tarmac
001317 - £ 343.81 - Salary & Admin expenses
001318 - £ 114.00 - Elite Playground Inspections
001319 - £ 9,240.81 - John Wainwright, tarmac
001320 - £ 114.00 - Elite Playground Inspections
001321 - £ 79.62 - Parts for tractor repair

- (b) Councillors requested that the £440.00 paid for the Playday should be returned because the Playday has been cancelled this year. **ACTION - The Clerk**

- (c) The Clerk confirmed that the final amount outstanding from the Warren Trust grant which was being held by SSDC has now been drawn down and is in the Lloyds account. Councillors requested that a new bank/building society account is opened so that the amount held in Lloyds does not go above the protected amount.

ACTION - The Clerk

2021/73 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Perimeter Footpath - This was completed this morning and is looking good. People have been jogging and children cycling on the path. There was an issue with one of

the loads of tarmac and a new load at no cost was agreed. The Clerk to follow up the credit note. **ACTION - The Clerk**

- (b) Larkfleet Compound - A meeting was held with Larkfleet and several councillors and it was agreed to re-instate the ditch. There has been no further contact and the Clerk to chase. The ditch needs to be done before winter. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) Skate Park - Maverick have sent through a Design & Access Statement and plans. There are a few corrections to be made. Otherwise it is ready to go to planning.
- (d) Grass Cutting and equipment - This is going well and all areas have been cut and are looking very nice. There is a team of volunteers cutting the grass and more than one piece of machinery is needed. The team would like to hire a lawn mower to ensure that the correct one can be purchased for next year. At the moment the cost of the hire is £60 a week. Concern was expressed about the cost of hiring a lawn mower and it was felt that it would be a better use of money to buy what is needed. However it was felt important to get the right equipment and hiring it should ensure that no mistakes are made. Councillors reluctantly agreed to continue with the hire of the lawn mower and to check to ensure whether a longer hire can be arranged at a reduced rate. A Councillor asked if we had bought the wrong equipment in the beginning. The answer was no but we need more equipment and we need to ensure it is the right equipment.
- (e) Working Group - Councillors would like to set up a working group of 5 - 6 people to manage the Field and grass cutting in general. They would like to have a budget so that it is not necessary to come to the Parish Council meetings for every expenditure. Taking on the grass cutting for the village has meant a steep learning curve. Now they would like to produce a plan for a year and it would not need to be discussed at every meeting. The Chairman reminded Councillors that it would need to be reported at meetings because the working group would not have its own set of minutes. The budget figures and plan will be presented to the Council in time for the next meeting. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green / Mr Mico**
- (f) Wild Areas - A Councillor said there are not enough areas for wild life and bees and suggested that some of the field could be left wild. **ACTION - Mrs Hill**
- (g) Community Gardens - The quote to do the fencing around the Gardens was £2,500 which councillors felt was too much. There has been no progress with asking for volunteers to do the work. The plot holders had previously said they did not want the fence. The current fencing is an eyesore and Councillors agreed by a majority in favour to take it down.
- (h) Benches - The holes have been prepared for the benches. Mr Mico said he could put them in if he has the time. It was agreed to ask Rick Hyett to do the benches now that he has finished the path.
- (i) Small gulley - A resident emailed to say a dog had tripped in the drainage gulley which is now covered by grass. It was felt that this is a very shallow gulley which should not be dangerous.
- (j) Doggy bag stations - The Clerk circulated information about 'stations' which are set up to dispense free doggy bags. Councillors felt that people should provide their own doggy bags and that free ones would get thrown around. The idea was rejected.

2021/74 Cemetery

- (a) The Ranger will top up any graves which have sunk in the autumn. A Councillor asked the Clerk to check that it is permitted to top up graves. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Tree stumps - the stumps of the conifer trees which were removed several years ago are still very prominent and are making grass cutting difficult. They need to be ground down properly. It was proposed to ask Arbortech to do the work because the stumps they ground down by the gate were done properly. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2021/75 Churchyard

- (a) The work on the tree in the Churchyard has been completed and looks very nice.
- (b) Headstones - A Councillor said some of the headstones are sinking. The Parish Council is not responsible for replacing sinking headstones. Those which are in danger of falling can be laid down and have to stay where they lie. It is too costly to stand them up again safely as they are extremely heavy. They can be moved but the Diocese would need to issue a faculty to allow any stones to be moved. Some were removed a few years ago but it is not clear now where they were put.

2021/76 Recreation Ground Play Park

- (a) Gate -The Clerk was asked to chase delivery of the new gate. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Bin Lid - The Annual Inspection reported that this is missing.**ACTION - Mr Sherwood**
- (c) Bike Ramp - The weekly inspection reported that a bike 'ramp' had been constructed which was potentially very dangerous. Mr Sherwood removed it.
- (d) Fires -The weekly inspection reported that there had been fires in the Play Park.

2021/77 Brook Green

It has been strimmed and is looking very nice.

2021/78 Footpaths

The footpaths are not being strimmed often enough and some are blocked. SCC does not have the money to do the work and it is low priority for them. Some parishes are maintaining their own footpaths and a question was asked about how much can the parish council do. Where a path crosses a field it is the responsibility of the farmer to maintain the footpath. There is also lack of signage and some broken stiles. A question was also asked about whether the parish council should try to get the Merryfield Lane path recognised as a designated footpath. SCC have confirmed that no designated footpaths will close but there is a limited amount of time to apply for those which are used historically as footpaths to be re-designated as an official footpath. It was agreed to walk as many footpaths as possible and if possible to cut back where we can.

2021/79 Highways

A358 upgrade - A group of local parishes have put together a report to Highways England setting out their requests for the new road, including from Ilton a request to keep the Catherine Wheel road as a slip road onto the new road to ease traffic on the Rapps Road. So far Highways England have rejected this request. A road working compound has been set up on the Ilton Business Park which has resulted in more traffic along Main Street.

2021/80 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme

A councillor asked if the Ranger can cut the hedges in the Play Park because of the brambles, and in the Churchyard and Cemetery.

2021/81 Parish Information Booklet

Mrs Bennett forwarded the draft of the Parish Information Booklet which was approved so far by councillors. There is some more work to do on the Booklet. Mr Sherwood thanked Mrs Bennett for a very good job. **ACTION - Mrs Bennett**

2021/82 War Memorial

Work on the main cross has started. At the moment the plan is to put the cross on the Village Green for two weeks in November and then in the Cemetery for the rest of the year in a shelter. There will be a plaque for the war dead and a plaque for the pilots and that would be permanent. The whole project, including the shelter, would cost approximately £6 - £7,000. The plaques cost about £150. Once there is a final plan SSDC will be approached

for pre-planning advice because it is unclear at the moment whether planning consent is needed.

ACTION - Mrs Bennett, Mrs Easterbrook

2021/83 Website

The new website is almost ready to go live. Councillors did not wish to have their photos on the website.

ACTION - The Clerk

2021/84 Matters and items to report

(a) Notice Board - The Clerk reported that the locks on the notice board are rusty and the board itself needs a coat of varnish. Mrs Easterbrook offered to look at it.

ACTION - Mrs Easterbrook

(b) Dogs on Football Pitch - The Clerk was asked to make a notice to ask people to keep their dogs off the football pitch.

ACTION - The Clerk

(c) Hedges - There are a number of houses where the hedges are hanging over the public footpath. The Clerk to draft a letter.

ACTION - The Clerk

2021/85 Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be on Tuesday 24th August 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Merryfield Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.30 p.m.

Ian Sherwood, Chairman