

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on
Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

Mr Pidgeon acted as Chair for this meeting. He opened the meeting by wishing Mr Sherwood well and a speedy recovery.

2021/109 Attendance and Apologies

Present	Apologies	In Attendance
Mr A Pidgeon (Chair)	Mr I Sherwood (Chair)	5 members of the public
Mr W Bragg	Mr A Dance (County Councillor)	
Mrs M Bullock	Mr M Cavill (District Councillor)	
Mrs R Burt		
Mrs S Hill		
Mr G Mackenzie-Green		
Mr D Mico		
Mr N Matravets		
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)		

2021/110 Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

2021/111 Visitors and Public Voice

This was deferred until the relevant part of the meeting and at the end.

2021/112 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 24/8/21

Mr Mackenzie-Green proposed the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting be approved, seconded by Mrs Bullock. All councillors were in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

2021/113 Matters Arising - There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

2021/114 Parish Council Vacancy

Mr Will Bragg and Mr Nick Matravets have both indicated that they would like to be co-opted to fill the two vacancies. SSSC have confirmed there has been no request for an election. Mr Mico proposed the council co-opt Mr Matravets, seconded by Mrs Bullock. All councillors were in favour. Mr Nick Matravets was duly co-opted as a parish councillor. Mr Mico proposed the council co-opt Mr Bragg, seconded by Mrs Hill. All councillors were in favour. Mr Bragg was duly co-opted as a parish councillor.

2021/115 County Councillor Report - Cllr Dance sent his apologies.

2021/116 Planning Applications

App No 21/01998/LBC
Proposal Re-alignment of roof and replace bargeboards. Replacement of temporary guttering
Location Drakes Farmhouse, Church Road, Ilton TA19 9EY

There were no objections to this application. It was noted that the application should refer to Drakes Farmhouse which is separate from Drakes Farm.

2021/117 Accounts Payments and Receipts

(a) Financial Report to the end of August was circulated to all councillors. There were no questions regarding the report.

(b) Cheques - the following cheques were raised:

001333 - £ 57.00 - Cad Green Garage, Diesel
001334 - £ 391.98 - Southwest Concrete, for benches
001335 - £ 372.96 - SSDC Ranger, July
001336 - £ 480.00 - PKF Littlejohn, Audit
001337 - £ 324.28 - Bradfords, hire of mower, postcrete for gate
001338 - £ 213.00 - HMRC, paye
001339 - £ 324.82 - Salary and admin expenses

(c) On-line banking to be arranged.

ACTION - The Clerk

(d) Grant request - From Yeovil Shopmobility who hire mobility aids for shoppers and for use at home. The Clerk was asked to put out a note asking how many residents use this service at Yeovil. The request will be considered again. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2021/118 Recreational Development / Playing Field

Mrs Simpson wished to pass on her thanks, particularly to Mr Mackenzie-Green, for all the work he and the other volunteers are doing in the Field. She and many other people in the village really appreciate all the hard work and it is looking lovely.

(a) Working Group - The grass cutting is ongoing and is all up to date and the Village is looking very tidy. There is an ongoing problem with a minority of dog walkers who do not pick up or keep their dog on a lead.

(b) Dogs - The Chairman asked for ideas of how to encourage dogs to be kept on a lead and for people to pick up after their dog. The working group will draft a sign noting the dangers of toxicaria from dog faeces. If the problem continues it may be time to consider a by-law with fines or a complete ban on dogs on the Playing Field. It was noted that a number of Playing Fields do ban dogs although it was agreed that the Parish Council does not want to take this action at this time.

ACTION - Working Group

A resident has suggested on facebook that there should be a separate fenced off area just for dogs to be let off the lead. Councillors were in agreement that this is not a good idea. The area would quickly become very unsanitary. Dogs can be walked off the lead on the adjoining fields when there are no animals, and also at Brook Green.

(c) New Mower - The purchase of a new mower is waiting for the new container to arrive. This is on order.

(d) Additional Dog Waste Bin - SSDC have indicated that because the field is very large and there is only one bin on the far side they feel it is appropriate for another bin to be located around the Willow Road entrance (the new houses). They will confirm this in the next few weeks.

(e) Benches -The benches have been installed.

(f) Community Gardens - The suggestion to put a box hedge around the plots was not approved at the last meeting because of concerns about maintenance and ongoing costs. The working group have suggested that the fence is re-instated with the plot holders taking responsibility for maintenance of the fence. A number of plot holders were present at the meeting and were asked for their comments. It appears that there have been some problems with communication between the plot holders and the Parish Council. It was agreed to draw a line under this and ensure that in the future there is good communication. The fence will be re-instated. A majority of councillors were in agreement. Mr Bragg would like to be copied in to any emails.

(g) Football Pitch- Notices asking people not to allow their dogs on the football pitch have been ordered at a cost of £68.00 for 4 x A4 5mm on Foamex board.

The goals have been re-located and pegged to the ground.

The working group are looking at getting the pitch marked out professionally initially and Ilminster Football Club have agreed to help.

- (h) Storage Container - This has been ordered.
- (i) Field Levelling and Wild-flowers - These will be native species. The field levelling will be done at the same time.
- (j) Larkfleet Compound - We have heard nothing more. Mr Mackenzie-Green to ring; the Clerk to email. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green / The Clerk**
- (k) Skate Park - The planning application was submitted 3 weeks ago and the fee paid on line. So far the application has not appeared. Mr Mackenzie-Green to ring Maverick. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green**
- (l) Annual Hedge cutting -The hedges have been cut. There are some dead trees in the hedge which should be removed. The Clerk to write to the Warren Trust and the farmer Andrew King for permission. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (m) Gully - There have been complaints from a resident about the drainage gully at the end of the Field. This was dug to drain the Field in the winter along the line of the ditch which Larkfleet filled in and which they have agreed to re-instate. The new ditch will be a shallow trench to drain the water in the winter. The Clerk to reply to the resident. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2021/119 Cemetery

Topping up graves - A working party will be organised to top up the graves.

2021/120 Churchyard - There was nothing to report.

2021/121 Recreation Ground Play Park

- (a) Gate - The postcrete for the new gate has been delivered and the gate will be fitted as soon as possible by the Inspector.
- (b) Chain Link Fencing - Mr Sherwood is to ask the Inspector if he can replace the fencing. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**
- (c) Entrance in Copse Lane - A sign has been ordered in aluminium dibond at a cost of £62.00. If there are still problems with parking the Council will have to request yellow no parking lines.

2021/122 Brook Green

- (a) Bridge - The bridge rail has been repaired. The bridge needs some more attention.
- (b) Dogs - The Clerk to do a notice for the website letting people know they can walk their dogs off the lead at Brook Green. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2021/123 Footpaths

Mrs Simpson reported that she has walked a number of the footpaths with her secateurs and cut back in places. There are other people interested in helping. The field on the left just over the Ford in Frost Lane has been cut so it is easier to use that route. The first stile across the field is wobbly and needs to be reported. Mrs Simpson will liaise when she is back from holiday.

2021/124 Highways

A358 upgrade - Mr Bragg agreed to take an interest in the A358 upgrade. There are two forums coming soon. The Clerk to forward the A358 emails. **ACTION - The Clerk**

Recently the 303 was closed and motorists were speeding down Cad Road to avoid the holdups on the A358. The Police should be alerted to have a presence on Cad Road.

2021/125 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme

The Ranger is doing a very good job.

2021/126 War Memorial

This will be ready for Remembrance Sunday in November. It will be good to arrange a service and Mr Mackenzie-Green will speak to the Vicar. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green**

2021/127 Christmas Tree

Mrs Easterbrook has said she will organise the tree. Mrs Bullock to liaise.

ACTION - Mrs Bullock

2021/128 Public Voice

Mrs Bere commented on how nice everything is looking now that the benches are all in. The Field is a great facility and she thanked Councillors.

2021/129 Matters and items to report

- (a) Village Trough - This is looking nice. Mrs Simpson asked if she should plant some winter flowers. Councillors agreed that this is a very good idea.
- (b) Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund - This fund is for small grants for expenditure to do with re-opening facilities such as village hall and is to be applied for by Parish Councils. It closes on 30th September. The Village Hall do not wish to apply for a grant because they feel they have had a lot of grants already. There are no other ideas for projects.
- (c) Somerset Bus Partnership - Bus Service Improvement Plan - There is a Zoom meeting on Thursday 16th September
- (d) Online seminar re wildflower verge and management - This is on 29th September via Zoom. Debbie Hart, Mrs Hill and Mr Bragg will attend for Ilton.
- (e) Request for comments about the new warding arrangements for the new unitary authority. - Comments to be made by this Friday.
- (f) Clerks and Councils direct - for information. Passed to Mr Bragg.
- (g) Signs - Councillors requested "Use at your own risk" signs, particularly for the winter.
- (h) Meetings - A question was asked about whether we could move the meeting to a different night so that they do not clash with the skittles evening which the pub are putting on. A Wednesday was suggested, alternatively to start at 6.30 p.m. The Clerk to check with the Village Hall. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2021/130 Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Merryfield Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.50 p.m.

Andrew Pidgeon, Chairman of the meeting