

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on  
Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

**2021/131 Attendance and Apologies**

**Present**

Mr I Sherwood (Chair)  
Mr W Bragg  
Mrs R Burt  
Mrs S Hill  
Mr G Mackenzie-Green  
Mr D Mico  
Mr N Matravars  
Mr A Pidgeon  
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

**Apologies**

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

**In Attendance**

2 members of the  
public

**2021/132 Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.**

**2021/133 Visitors and Public Voice**

Mrs Simpson has put winter pansies into the flower trough and it is looking very nice. The Chairman thanked Mrs Simpson for doing the trough.

**2021/134 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14/9/21**

Councillors approved the minutes and they were signed by Mr Pidgeon who chaired the last meeting.

**2021/135 Matters Arising**

- (a) Change to time or day of the meetings - The only other available day when the village hall is free is Thursday and this is not convenient for everyone. It was suggested that meetings could begin at 6.30 p.m. if the Hall is free. One Councillor objected to the change of starting time feeling that meetings had started at the same time for over 15 years. Councillors were asked to vote on changing the starting time to 6.30 p.m. and the vote was 7 to 1 in favour of the earlier start. The Clerk to liaise with the village hall to see if this is possible. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (b) Christmas Tree - The tree has been ordered.

**2021/136 County Councillor Report - Cllr Dance sent his apologies.**

**2021/137 Planning Applications**

- (a) App No 21/02776/HOU  
Proposal Single storey rear extension, porch to front & new parking access  
Location 2 Spurwells, Ilton TA19 9HP  
Councillors had no objections to the application.
- (b) App No 21/02659/FUL  
Proposal New concrete skate park and landscaping  
Location Ilton Recreation Ground Land OS8349, Copse Lane, Ilton  
The Parish Council is the applicant. There were no objections.
- (c) Enforcement Case Ref 20/00179/ENF  
Alleged Breach  
Site Address Ashford Barn, Isle Abbotts Road, Ilton TA19 9ED  
The complaint has been moved to the Stage Green: Triage and Assessment stage.

## 2021/138 Accounts and Financial Information

- (a) Financial Report to the end of September was circulated to all councillors. There was one question about the Ranger, how often he comes, who employs him and who directs the work he does. The Ranger currently comes twice a month, he is employed by SSDC and Mr Sherwood oversees his work..
- (b) Cheques - the following cheques were raised:
- |        |     |          |                                                        |
|--------|-----|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 001340 | - £ | 4,518.00 | - Cleveland Containers, new container                  |
| 001341 | - £ | 306.00   | - Elite Playground Inspections and repairs             |
| 001342 | - £ | 400.00   | - Timpson, plaques for soldiers                        |
| 001343 | - £ | 156.00   | - Macs Printings, Signs - no dogs and no parking       |
| 001344 | - £ | 120.00   | - Martin Wyatt, flail hedge cutting                    |
| 001345 | - £ | 247.20   | - Somerset Landscapes, pitch marking                   |
| 001346 | - £ | 55.00    | - Cad Green Garage, Diesel                             |
| 001347 | - £ | 288.00   | - Arbortech, stump grinding Cemetery and Churchyard    |
| 001348 | - £ | 186.48   | - SSDC Ranger                                          |
| 001349 | - £ | 120.00   | - Elite Playground inspections, resurface cone climber |
| 001350 | - £ | 160.75   | - Bradfords, hire of mower, wood, credit note ballast  |
| 001351 | - £ | 19.75    | - Royal British Legion, wreath                         |
| 001352 | - £ | 310.90   | - Salary and admin expenses                            |
| 001353 | - £ | 52.00    | - The Wider View, printing Merryfield Messenger        |
| 001354 | - £ | 18.48    | - Mr Mackenzie-Green, items for soldiers               |
| 001355 | - £ | 7.55     | - E Simpson, flower trough                             |
- (c) On-line banking forms signed. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (d) Easy Gate have contacted the Council to say they have lost the cheque recently sent to them. It was agreed not to issue another cheque until the current one has been stopped. **ACTION - The Clerk**

## 2021/139 Donation request

The 1st Ilton and Broadway Scout Group have requested a donation to go towards the cost of badges for the children. Councillors voted to approve a donation of £100.

## 2021/140 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Working Group - The new container will be fitted out as another lock-up for equipment. A new mower will be bought. The grass cutting is going well and strimming has been done. Some areas need a weed killer treatment. Mr Mackenzie-Green will get the weed killer. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green**
- (b) Additional dog bin - The Clerk went back to SSDC to ask them to reconsider a new bin given the huge size of the Field and the fact that there is only one bin. SSDC would like to meet on the Field. The Clerk to arrange a date. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) Community Gardens - A Councillor said that if the gardens are fenced on all four sides it won't be possible to mow the bank because the fence will be in the way. If it put far enough away from the bank it will be too close to the plots on that side. The Councillor felt that it should only be fenced on three sides. The working group are waiting for a quote to fence all four sides. Several contractors have said they are not interested in using the fencing wood that we already have. Most of this will be used in other places so it is not available for the fence for the gardens. **ACTION - Mr Mico**
- (d) Football Pitch- The pitch has been marked out with white lining but it is too close to the path so the company who did the work will come back and do it again without charge.
- (e) Storage Container - This has been delivered.
- (f) Field Levelling - nothing further to report.

- (g) Wild-flowers - Several councillors attended a very interesting seminar about wildflowers. SSDC can send someone out to advise. The Clerk to forward the recent ecological report to Mr Bragg, Mr Matravers and Mrs Hill. A question was asked if there is to be a separate section for wildflowers. Mrs Hill would like to involve the School in planting flowers and trees. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (h) Larkfleet Compound - We have heard nothing more. Mr Mackenzie-Green to ring; the Clerk to email. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green / The Clerk**
- (i) Dead trees - Letters were sent to the farmer and the land owner regarding the dead trees. A meeting is to be arranged with the land owner.
- (j) Dogs on lead - There is already a PSPO in place for the whole of South Somerset although it has not been explained how it is to be enforced. The Clerk to chase a reply. It was noted that a number of Recreation Grounds in the area ban dogs, although councillors agreed they are reluctant to do this in Ilton. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (k) MUGA - The School want to use the MUGA for football practice and tennis. Mr Mico is happy to put up the nets. There were no objections.

#### **2021/141 Cemetery**

##### Update of Cemetery fees

It was agreed to increase the Cemetery fees to bring Ilton into line with those charged by Ilminster. Two other changes were agreed: (1) not to charge for burials for children under 16 which is in line with Ilminster and (2) the inclusion of a new clause No 3 at the beginning of the fee schedule in relation to charges for non-residents so that people who have previously lived in Ilton and still have family living in Ilton or buried in the Cemetery will be charged at the resident rate. This is a clause which a couple of local cemeteries have. All Councillors agreed to the changes.

**2021/142 Churchyard** - There was nothing to report.

#### **2021/143 Recreation Ground Play Park**

- (a) New Gate - Steven Day from Elite Playground Inspections tried to install the new gate and hit the main electricity cable which runs along the side of the Play Park and down the path to the Copse Lane 'close'. It was a blessing that he was not killed or injured. It appears that the cable was only buried to a depth of 450 mm which is the minimum depth. It was not marked in any way. Western Power restored power quickly and are coming back to fill in the hole.
- (b) Chain Link Fencing - This has been ordered from Bradfords in Taunton.

#### **2021/144 Brook Green**

It was felt that Brook Green should be mowed more frequently and the strimming should be lower to encourage people to use the area more. This was agreed.

#### **2021/145 Footpaths**

A report was received that a local farmer had put an electric fence along the hedge line leaving no space to walk along the footpath. The Clerk reported this to SCC. A Councillor said that the sheep have recently been moved from the field and the electric fence has been taken down.

Mrs Simpson said she is walking the footpaths with her secateurs in hand and there are a few people who have offered to help.

There is a social media thread currently running on NextDoor regarding the footpath from Ilton to Ilminster which crosses the A303. Walkers want to get the footpaths safe and usable again. The underpass is owned by Chris Matravers and he has no problem with people

using it but it floods in winter and is not very high and therefore difficult to pass through. It was agreed that for the time being the Parish Council will not get involved.

#### **2021/146 Highways**

- (a) A358 upgrade - There is currently an open consultation. All the papers were passed to Mr Bragg and Mr Matravers. **ACTION - Mr Bragg & Mr Matravers**
- (b) Fence on Bridge in Cad Road - The fence is damaged. It has been reported to Highways who have passed this to the area superintendent for inspection.
- (c) Lamppost on corner of Pennys Mead and Copse Lane - This is not working and has been reported to Highways who have said that as this is in a development area it is the developer who is responsible and they will contact them.

#### **2021/147 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme**

The Ranger is doing a very good job.

#### **2021/148 War Memorial**

The War Memorial will be erected on the Village Green on 1st November and will be taken down on 30th November. There will be 20 soldiers representing all those who lost their lives in the two wars as well as the airmen buried in the Cemetery. On 11th November there will be a short dedication service by Rev Phil Denison. The School have said they will come to the service. On Sunday 14th November, Remembrance Sunday, there will be a service with wreath laying starting at 10.30 a.m. The names of all the dead will be read out, with a couple of hymns and the last post and national anthem. There are promises of attendance from all three services plus the USAF who were based at Merryfield during the war and St Johns Ambulance. Larkfleet have said they will send a representative. The Village Hall has been booked so that service personnel attending can change into their uniforms and people can use the toilets.

A wreath has been ordered from the Royal British Legion at a cost of £19.25.

Councillors agreed to pay the cost of hiring the Village Hall for the morning.

People are being asked to sponsor a soldier for £30 with all the money going to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. A number of soldiers have already been sponsored. Mr Pidgeon proposed that the Parish Council also sponsor a soldier. If all the soldiers are sponsored this will raise £600 for the British Legion. Councillors agreed to sponsor a soldier for £30.

#### **2021/149 Matters and items to report**

- (a) Social Media - The Ilton Community Facebook page has been closed down. There is an Ilton page where things can be posted. There is also an Ilton Recreation Ground page which is currently dormant. Mr Mackenzie-Green will speak to the administrator and look to get the page running again. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green**
- (b) Dog bin at Frost Lane - This is currently out of the ground. Mr Bragg and Mr Matravers will restore it. The Clerk will send the regulations regarding the height of dog bins. **ACTION - Mr Bragg & Mr Matravers**
- (c) Unitary Council - Mr Bragg attended the conference about the new unitary authority and what this will mean for small local councils. It is envisaged that small councils will group together with 12-15 small councils in each group for mutual support.

#### **2021/150 Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 6.30 p.m. in Merryfield Hall (NOTE NEW STARTING TIME OF 6.30 p.m.)

The meeting finished at 8.50 p.m.

Ian Sherwood, Chairman