

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on
Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 6.30 p.m.**

2021/171 Attendance and Apologies

Present

Mr I Sherwood (Chair)
Mrs M Bullock
Mrs R Burt
Mr G Mackenzie-Green
Mr D Mico
Mr N Matravers
Mr A Pidgeon
Mr A Dance (County Councillor)
Mrs S Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mr M Cavill (District
Councillor)
PCSO John Martin

In Attendance

4 members of the
public

2021/172 Resignation from the Parish Council - Mr Bragg and Mrs Hill have tendered their resignations from the parish council. The clerk confirmed that the vacancies have been advertised and residents have until 24th December to request an election. If no request is received the council will be able to co-opt to fill the vacancies.

2021/173 Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

2021/174 Visitors and Public Voice

- (a) Christmas Tree - The Council was asked if it would make a donation to the Dorset and Somerset Young Farmers in aid of the Somerset Air Ambulance to remove the Christmas tree. Mrs Easterbrook will arrange collection of the tree. Councillors agreed to make a donation of £15 to remove the tree.
- (b) Footpaths - Mrs Simpson will step down as footpath warden but will continue with the flower trough.
- (c) Jubilee 2022 - Mrs Bennett said that the government has now set out its plans for the Queen's Jubilee in June 2022. On Thursday 2nd June beacons are being lit around the country. It is planned that on Friday there will be a Church service, on Saturday a party and on Sunday a lunch. The parish council were asked if they would like to be involved in the beacon. Ilton does not have a tall beacon but a bonfire in the Field could be arranged and Councillors agreed that they would like to be involved.

2021/175 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9/11/21

Councillors approved the minutes which were duly signed by the Chairman.

2021/176 Matters Arising

Training - Two training sessions have been carried out for strimmers and mowers. A third session is arranged for 16th December for tractors. The village hall has been booked for the morning.

2021/177 County Councillor Report

Cllr Dance reported that there are currently a number of Covid briefings with advice about attending parish council meetings. There will be an election in May for the new unitary authority and this will include parish council elections as well. County wards are being doubled and there will be 2 unitary authority councillors covering a much wider area, where there are currently 6 councillors. The District Council will continue until 2023 after which the new authority, called Somerset Council, will take over with 110 councillors.

There will be community networks set up. There will be 4 planning committees for the whole of Somerset where now there are 4 per district.

2021/178 Planning Applications

App No 21/03533/HOU
Proposal Erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwelling
Location 15 Hawthorn Road, Ilton TA19 9FR
Councillors had no objections to the application.

2021/179 Accounts and Financial Information

- (a) Financial Report to the end of November was circulated to all councillors.
- (b) Councillors approved the expenditure on lunches for the volunteers attending the training sessions.
- (c) A councillor suggested that the parish council make a donation for a Christmas trip to a pantomime or similar visit for the village children. Donations have been made in the past for children's events when the donation has been given to the organiser of the event. No such event has been planned so far and so a donation cannot be made at the present time.
- (d) A councillor proposed that the £75,000 earmarked for the skate park by the parish council should be kept in a separate bank account so that it is not 'lost'. The Clerk explained that money is earmarked in the paper accounts as restricted for the Field and can only be spent on the Field. The £75,000 earmarked for the skate park forms part of this restricted amount and it has been minuted that it has been set aside for the skate park. Currently there is £85,000 in the Building Society. The name on the account cannot be easily changed. £10,000 could be removed and put into Lloyds but this risks the Lloyds account going over the £85,000 which is protected by the government. Councillors voted to remove £10,000 from the Building Society so as to leave £75,000 earmarked for the skate park in that one account.

ACTION - The Clerk

- (e) Cheques_ the following cheques were raised:
 - 001368 - £ 114.00 - Yarcombe Woodland Products - Christmas tree.
 - 001369 - £2,894.40 - Skills Training Centre - volunteer training
 - 001370 - £3,573.60 - Ben Harms, memorial cross
 - 001371 - £ 114.00 - Elite Playground Inspections, monthly inspections
 - 001372 - £ 382.72 - Salary and admin expenses
 - 001373 - £ 213.00 - HMRC, paye
 - 001374 - £ 52.00 - The Wider View, Messenger printing
 - 001375 - £ 180.00 - Elite Playground Inspections, limiters and seals
 - 001376 - £ 42.40 - A Pidgeon, reimbursement lunch expenses volunteers
 - 001377 - £ 29.60 - G Mackenzie-Green, blade for mower
 - 001378 - £ 61.51 - Sweets for the children from the sleigh
- (f) The tax base figures have not yet been received. It was agreed to set the precept in January.

2021/180 Recreational Development / Playing Field

- (a) Working Group - The mower which was on hire has now been returned and it is planned to buy a mower before the spring grass cutting begins.

ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green.
- (b) Tractor - The tractor has been taxed and insured for another year.
- (c) Additional dog bin - This should be delivered in December.
- (d) Football Pitch - The cost of paint to line the football pitch is £15.00 each time. It has now been done 3 times since the first set of lines were put in. At the moment there is no team using the pitch and the question was asked if it is a waste of money to keep lining it. Children are using the pitch and a councillor thought that if the lining is not

done people's enthusiasm may dwindle. Hopefully someone in the village will come forward to set up and run a team. It was agreed to keep lining the pitch.

- (e) Community Gardens fencing - Three quotes for the fencing were circulated to all councillors. Two councillors felt that a new fence was not a necessary expenditure and it should not go ahead at all. It was proposed that the quote from Trees and Fencing be accepted. Five councillors voted in favour of the fence and 2 voted against having a fence. It was therefore agreed to accept the quote from Trees and Fencing and the Clerk was asked to contact them. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (f) Storage Container - This will be fitted out before the Spring.
- (g) Field Levelling - The field is too wet at the moment.
- (h) Tree Planting / Dead trees - The Clerk to contact the Warren Trust again to set up a meeting about the trees. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (i) Wildflower seed offer - An offer of free wildflower seeds has been received. A project must be outlined in order to apply. The Field Committee will consider a suitable project. **ACTION - Field Committee**
- (j) Skate Park - Mr Mico has been trying to contact the National Lottery to apply for £125,000 for the skate park. The cost of the skate park has increased by 10% in the last year and the new price will be held for a year so the council needs to move fairly quickly. **ACTION - Mr Mico**
- (k) Owl Box - The council have secured a pole which was taken out of the road and an owl box has been donated. An ecologist will suggest the best location. **ACTION - Mr Pidgeon**

2021/181 Cemetery

A working party needs to be set up to level the graves which have sunk. This will be best done in the Spring.

2021/182 Churchyard - There was nothing to report.

2021/183 Recreation Ground Play Park

- (a) Colour Fencing - Some of the damaged panels are dangerous and need to be replaced. Some have already been replaced free of charge by the company who installed the fence. Two quotes have been received from the company who installed the fence, one for £980 to replace just those panels which are dangerous and one for £2,000 to replace all the damaged panels. It was agreed to replace just those panels which are dangerous.
- (b) Chain Link Fence along path - A volunteer has offered to help put up the new fence.
- (c) CCTV - It was agreed to consider at CCTV in the Play Park. **ACTION - The Clerk**

2021/184 Brook Green

4 x 4s are again joy riding in Brook Green and damaging the river bank. The Police have been informed.

It was agreed to cut the grass more regularly next year.

2021/185 Footpaths

Mrs Simpson has stepped down as footpath warden. Mr Matravers has agreed to take over as footpath warden. **ACTION - Mr Matravers**

2021/186 Highways

A358 upgrade - Consultation with Highways England is ongoing. Mr Bragg was leading on the A358 for the council. Mr Matravers agreed to take over. **ACTION - Mr Matravers**

2021/187 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme

The Ranger has done the Cemetery and his next job will be the hedge by the bus shelter. He has missed a couple of days because of Covid.

2021/188 War Memorial

A cheque for £820 was presented to the Royal British Legion. This was made up from the sponsorship of the soldier silhouettes which raised £570, £160 from breakfasts in the village hall and £90 collection on the day. Councillors expressed their thanks to the generosity of the people of Ilton for such a large sum of money and to everyone who organised the service and helped on the day. The service saw a large turnout of people from Ilton and it is planned to repeat it next year.

2021/189 Storage bags for soldier silhouettes

Mrs Bullock has offered to make storage bags for the silhouettes and the brass plaques. The cost of material is approximately £100. Mr Mackenzie-Green proposed that the parish council pay the cost of the material, seconded by the Mr Mico. All councillors were in favour of paying the cost of the material.

2021/190 Copse Lane Overspill car park

Councillors reviewed the use of the overspill car park. Currently it is used by the Cricket Club and the Village Hall and can be used by anyone who needs extra parking facilities for an event. A councillor felt that the council should consider the value of the land as an asset for the village. Another councillor felt that at the moment it would be better to keep the land for the future rather than dispose of it. After discussion councillors agreed to get a valuation of the land.

ACTION - Mr Pidgeon

2021/191 Retirement of Clerk

The advertisement has been prepared and is ready to be sent out. Because it is Christmas a closing date of the 31st January has been set.

2021/192 Matters and items to report

Christmas Sleigh - This will go round the village on 23rd December and give sweets to the children.

ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green / Mr Pidgeon

Dog Warden - Mr Mackenzie-Green was thanked for liaising with the SSDC Dog Warden who has visited the village on several occasions and spoken to residents and put up notices. Hopefully this will result in fewer people not picking up after their dog.

2021/193 Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 6.30 p.m. in Merryfield Hall (NOTE STARTING TIME OF 6.30 p.m.)

The meeting finished at 8.20 p.m.

Ian Sherwood, Chairman