

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on
Tuesday 24th August 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

The Parish Council does not normally meeting in August but because there are a number of projects under way it was decided to call a meeting in August four weeks after the last one in July.

2021/86 Attendance and Apologies

| Present | Apologies | In Attendance |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Mr I Sherwood (Chair) Mrs M Bullock Mrs S Hill Mr G Mackenzie-Green Mr D Mico Mr A Pidgeon Mr A Dance (County Councillor) Mrs S Morley (Clerk) | Mrs R Burt Mr M Cavill (District Councillor) | 4 members of the public |

2021/87 Resignations from Parish Council

The Chairman informed members present that Mrs Bennett and Mrs Easterbrook have both resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect. A Councillor wished it to be minuted that one of the reasons they resigned was because of constant complaints from residents and that the local newspaper had been contacted to register a complaint with the Parish Council.

2021/88 Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

2021/89 Visitors and Public Voice

- (a) The new website is looking very good and there have been a number of very positive comments about it. The Clerk to send a direct link to Cllr Dance.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (b) Mrs Simpson said she cannot apply for one of the vacancies on the Parish Council because of pressure of work. However she would like to volunteer for any job which is available and offered to take over as Volunteer Footpath Officer. The Chairman thanked Mrs Simpson for volunteering.
- (c) A question was raised about increased activity at the Business Park. The answer is that a compound has been set up in the Business Park for the A358 upgrade.

2021/90 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 27/7/21

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2021/91 Matters Arising

- (a) Notice Board - Mr Sherwood has cleaned the lock and it is now serviceable again. Mr Mackenzie-Green will renovate it in the autumn. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green**
- (b) No Dogs on Football Pitch poster - This is still in hand. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) Overgrown Hedges - Letters have been sent to residents with overgrown hedges.

2021/92 Parish Council Vacancy

The period of notice has finished and there has been no request for an election. Mr Andrew Pidgeon confirmed that he is still interested in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor. He has completed his paperwork and returned it to the Clerk. Mr Mico proposed that Mr Pidgeon be

co-opted onto the Parish Council, seconded by Mr Mackenzie-Green. All Councillors were in favour. Mr Pidgeon was duly co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

2021/93 County Councillor Report

Cllr Dance reported that planning applications for new housing are still being held up due to the phosphate issue in Somerset. The application for the skate park should not be affected in the same way.

The Secretary of State has decided that Somerset will have one unitary authority, not the two most people voted for. Cllr Dance registered his concern about the very short time to get everything sorted out before elections in May 2022. The Boundary Commission will need to be involved. There has not been a decision about the number of councillors but it is likely to be between 70 - 110, which is much less than currently. It is difficult to see how councillors will be able to properly cover all the parishes they will be allocated under the new system. It is also very difficult for staff of the five existing councils at the moment. It is certain the work of parish councils will increase.

2021/94 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

Cllr Dance responded to a question about the outstanding planning application for St Peter's Close and said due to the phosphate issue it is on hold but once that has been resolved it will come forward again to be considered.

2021/95 Accounts Payments and Receipts

(a) Cheques - the following cheques were raised:

| | | | |
|--------|-----|-----------|--|
| 001322 | - £ | 990.00 | - John Wainwright, tarmac |
| 001323 | - £ | 86.40 | - Bradfords, hire of mower |
| 001324 | - £ | 12,000.00 | - D.W. Hyett & Sons, Perimeter path |
| 001325 | - £ | 559.44 | - SSDC Ranger, June |
| 001326 | - £ | 149.70 | - Cad Green Garage, Diesel |
| 001327 | - £ | 334.09 | - Salary and admin expenses |
| 001328 | - £ | 114.00 | - Elite Playground Inspections |
| 001329 | - £ | 33.69 | - G Mackenzie-Green, reimbursement for tractor parts |
| 001330 | - £ | 50.00 | - SALC, training |
| 001331 | - £ | 924.00 | - Easy Gate Ltd, Play Park gate |
| 001332 | - £ | 259.00 | - Portal Payment to SSDC Skate Park planning application |

(b) On-line banking was discussed which councillors had previously decided against. After discussion councillors voted unanimously to register for on-line banking and requested that the Clerk set it up.

ACTION - The Clerk

2021/96 Recreational Development / Playing Field

(a) Working Group - The Working Group put forward a number of items to be considered as follows:

(i) New Mower - the maximum cost of a new mower will be £2,750. They are hoping to arrange a demo and will then decide on the best model. At the moment a mower is being hired for £32 per week. Approval was granted to go to the maximum of £2,750.

(ii) Additional Dog Waste Bin - The Clerk has been in touch with SSDC who have said they will patrol the area over a few months and then decide if they are prepared to agree to a new bin.

(iii) Benches - Costs for installing the new benches have already been agreed and will cost a maximum of £600.

(iv) Box Hedge around garden plots - Concern was expressed over the costs of maintaining a box hedge and the time necessary to do this properly. A lot of

preparation will be necessary as well as weeding etc. It was agreed to defer a decision over a box hedge.

- (v) Football Marking Out Equipment - Cost is likely to be in the region of £400. The was agreed.
- (vi) Storage Container and fitting out - The maximum cost to be £4,000 for a new container. Approval was granted for this expenditure.
- (vii) Field Levelling etc - Approval was sought to spend up to £2,780 on ensuring the field does not damage the grass cutting equipment. Approval was granted.
- (viii) Wild-flower seeds - Likely expenditure is £1,200. This has already been discussed and approved and approval was granted for this expenditure. A lot of seeds have already been planted.
- (viv) Annual Hedge cutting - Expenditure of £240 per annum. Approval was granted.
- (b) Five Year Plan for grass cutting - Mr Pidgeon presented a five year plan which shows that the grass cutting should break even in 3 years time.
- (c) BMX Track - Provision of a BMX track is being re-considered because of joy-riding (see item (j) below).
- (d) Larkfleet Compound - Larkfleet have acknowledged that (i) a further stone picking exercise is required; (ii) following this further grass seeding and top dressing to barren patches to be applied; and (iii) the open field ditch to run into the pond to be dug.
- (e) Skate Park - Maverick have submitted the planning application and the fee has been paid.
- (f) Grass Cutting - This is going well and all areas are up to date.
- (g) Community Gardens - The surrounding fence has been removed.
- (h) Benches - Mr Mico to fit these as soon as possible.
- (i) Sensory Garden - There are plans to create a sensory garden, perhaps for next year.
- (j) Joy Riding - it has been reported that a young lad has been joy-riding on a motorbike on the Field. The Clerk to arrange for notices to be placed on the new estate entrance.
ACTION - The Clerk

2021/97 Cemetery

- (a) Topping up graves - the Clerk checked with the Cemetery manager at Yeovil who has confirmed that it is OK to top-up graves which are sinking although relevant permission would be required for war graves.
- (b) Tree stumps - A quote has been received from ArborTech of £50 to grind the stump in the Cemetery. This was agreed by Councillors.
ACTION - The Clerk

2021/98 Churchyard

Tree stumps - A quote has been received from ArborTech of £190 to grind the 4 stumps in the Churchyard. This was agreed by Councillors.
ACTION - The Clerk

2021/99 Recreation Ground Play Park

- (a) Gate - The new gate has been delivered. Elite Inspections have quoted £250 to install the gate. The quote was approved.
ACTION - The Clerk
- (b) Bin Lid - Mr Sherwood has repaired the bin lid.
- (c) Chain Link Fencing - This was in very poor condition and has been removed. There have been a number of complaints about its removal and it was agreed to put back new fencing. Mr Sherwood to speak to the Elite inspector to see if this is something he can do.
ACTION - Mr Sherwood

- (d) Entrance in Copse Lane - There have been some problems with people parking in front of the entrance to the Play Park. The Clerk to do some notices for the gate "Emergency Vehicle Access. Please Keep Clear" **ACTION - The Clerk**

2021/100 Brook Green

The grass has been cut. One of the rails of the bridge is off and is lying in the water. Mr Mackenzie-Green will repair it. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green**

2021/101 Footpaths

Mrs Simpson has volunteered to take over as Voluntary Footpath Warden.

2021/102 Highways

A358 upgrade -There are ongoing negotiations with Highways England over the issues to do with the upgrade, including keeping Catherine Wheel open as a slip road.

2021/103 General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme

The Ranger to be asked to spray round the edge of the fence in the Play Park. **ACTION - Mr Sherwood**

2021/104 Parish Information Booklet

Mrs Bennett will finish the proposed booklet. **ACTION - Mrs Bennett**

2021/105 War Memorial

Plaques in oak for the soldiers will cost over £1,000. The plaques in brass picked out in black will cost much less. It was agreed to go for brass plaques which will look very nice. **ACTION - Mr Mackenzie-Green**

2021/106 Website

The new website is live. Link is: <https://iltonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

2021/107 Matters and items to report - There were no matters to report.

2021/108 Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Ilton Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Merryfield Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.45 p.m.

Ian Sherwood, Chairman