

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6.30p.m.**

The Community Engagement Officer from RNAS was in attendance during the open session of the meeting and offered an opportunity for the Council and residents to give comments/feedback in relation to Merryfield Airfield. He has advised he will be happy to also come to future meetings if residents have any concerns regarding operation of Merryfield.

**2023/181      Attendance and Apologies**

**Present:**            Cllrs Kelaart, Calvert, Pike, Vance, Sherwood, Bennett, Matravers and Ripley;  
Somerset Council Cllr Roundell Green and Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

**Apologies:**        Cllr Gordon and Somerset Council Cllr Dance

2023/182        **Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest.

**2023/183      Somerset Council Councillor Report**

Cllr Roundell Green advised that there has been a public consultation launched on the Somerset Council 2024/25 budget. There are continuing meetings being held, working on cutting costs and doing everything possible to balance the budget by February when it needs to be finalised. There will be more information coming out to Town and Parish Councils in the coming weeks regarding asset and service devolution.

Cllr Roundell Green advised she had attended the recent Planning Committee meeting where the application for a solar farm off Merryfield Lane was passed. She commented that the traffic management seems to have been well thought through and that it had been explained there will only be 15 large vehicles travelling to site at the start of the works to deliver materials, following that it is expected to only be smaller vehicles of staff working on site.

A full written report was also circulated to councillors and this will be published on the parish council website.

**2023/184      Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Minutes were approved by councillors.

**2023/185      Planning Applications**

23/02332/OUT: Land Os 4025 Frost Lane Ilton Ilminster Somerset TA19 9EU

Proposal: Outline Application with all matters reserved for the erection of one self-build dwelling.

Councillors noted this application is the same site where two previous "Permission in Principle" applications have been refused. The for refusal previously have been addressed in this new application and it will be the responsibility of the planning authority to determine if the proposed mitigations are acceptable.

As raised on the previous PIP applications at this site, Councillors raised concern in relation to the development of the site having a detrimental effect on visual amenity and further risk of additional vehicles accessing the highway where there is poor visibility on a narrow single width highway. In addition, there are concerns in relation to flood risk at this site and increase in surface water run off due to development. During recent bad weather Frost Lane and the land adjoining was severely affected. Serious consideration must be given to the impact on the site and surrounding properties and land of increased incidents of flooding that are occurring.

Considering the above, Councillors voted in majority to OBJECT to the application.

The response will be submitted to Somerset Council Planning and will subsequently be available on the respective application on the Planning Portal <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/?district=South+Somerset>

### **2023/186      Accounts and Financial Information**

All reports were circulated to councillors for review in advance of the meeting.

- a) The council approved the financial statement up to 30/11/23.
- b) The council approved the list payments, which is annexed at the end of the minutes. Agreed payments include flowers laid as a tribute at Mrs Matravers funeral on behalf of the Council and community.
- c) It was agreed that the bank mandates for all accounts with Lloyds and West Country Savings will be amended to include the following councillors as signatories: Cllr Pike, Cllr Kelaart and Cllr Ripley, in addition to Cllr Sherwood remaining as a signatory.
- d) Cllrs discussed the areas which may be impacted by service cuts from Somerset Council and will review in January when it is hoped more information will be available.

### **2023/187      Use of PO Box Address**

Councillors agreed in majority to use of a PO Box address for the Council. This address will be the published address for the Council, moving away from use of the private address of the Clerk.

### **2023/188      Key Holders**

Cllr Pike now has a list of keys and will track who they are issued to.

### **2023/189      Bench at Merryfield Lane**

Councillors agreed unanimously to costs of repairing the bench to a maximum of £150 including paint for the metal ends.

### **2023/190      Social Media and Communications**

Councillors agreed that as there is already an Ilton Facebook page which is a community page, moving forward the Ilton Parish News page should be kept as an information page for items relevant to the Parish Council. Cllr Calvert will take over managing the page.

### **2023/191      Young Person of the Month**

Nomination was received for Joseph Baker who performed the Last Post at the remembrance service. Councillors unanimously agreed for Joseph to receive the award for this month.

### **2023/192      Councillor Updates**

Key items of note are as follows:

#### Local Community Networks

Cllrs Pike and Vance have volunteered to attend the LCN meetings as they felt a consistent attendance would be beneficial. The Clerk will also attend whenever possible.

#### Footpaths

Cllr Ripley reported that Somerset Council have replaced the damaged stile on footpath CH15/10, located in the second field from Frost Lane to Ilford, with a kissing gate. The stile had been in a poor state of repair for over a year so she is glad to see it has now been replaced.

Somerset Council Rights of Way are still working on the footpath from Pennys Meade which leads to Merryfield Airfield and are in contact with relevant land owners.

#### Remembrance Service

Cllr Bennett advised that there are a number of residents who expressed an interest in managing the remembrance service in future. Councillors agreed that while the Council will continue to support and be involved in the service, it doesn't need to be managed by the Parish Council. This will be discussed further at the March meeting.

### **2023/193      Outstanding Actions not covered in agenda items: None.**

**2023/194 Matters for Report**

Cllr Kelaart wanted to take an opportunity to offer condolences to the family of Mrs Patricia Matravers, who served on the Parish Council for a number of years previously and express thanks for her contributions to the community.

**2023/195 Summary of actions from the meeting**

- a) Arrange bench repair – WV/SR
- b) Set up PO Box - Clerk

**2023/196 Items for the next meeting**

- a) 2024/24 Budgets
- b) Youth Club grant request

*Councillors should notify the clerk of motions for inclusion at the next meeting at least 7 clear days before the date of the meeting.*

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, at 6.30pm at Merryfield Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Sean Kelaart, Chairman

## **Annex 1. Payments Authorised**

Voucher No	Date	Total	Description	Supplier
93	13.12.2023	£30.00	FLOWERS	Cottage Flowers
94	13.12.2023	£25.56	Grass Cutting - Fuel	Tesco Petrol
95	13.12.2023	£3.69	GENERAL MAINTENANCE ITEMS	SCREWFIX
96	13.12.2023	£25.00	Remembrance Donation	Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal)
83	13.12.2023	£285.09	Annual Membership Fee	Somerset Association of Local Councils
84	13.12.2023	£437.44	Tractor Insurance	PIB Insurance Brokers
85	13.12.2023	£129.60	Christmas Tree	Yarcombe Woodland Products Ltd
86	13.12.2023	£99.00	Playground Inspection	Elite Playground Inspections
91	13.12.2023	£79.00	Merryfield Messenger Printing	MACS Design & Print
92	13.12.2023	£65.00	Remembrance Donation	Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal)
88	12.12.2023	£19.63	Administration Expenses (Clerk)	Kim Larsson