

**Minutes of the Additional Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on
Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 6.30p.m.**

Present: Cllrs Gordon, Calvert, Pike, Vance, Sherwood, Bennett, Matravers and Ripley;
Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

Apologies: Somerset Council Cllr Roundell Greene

2024/14 Election of Chair of the Parish Council

Cllrs Pike and Bennett were both proposed as Chair, with voting split equally 3/3. After discussion on the merits of both Councillors, Cllr Gordon used his casting vote as chair of the meeting in favour of Cllr Bennett.

Cllr Bennett duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her position as Chair to continue the meeting.

2024/15 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

2024/16 Grounds Maintenance Tender

Prior to the meeting, Councillors had been given the names of the three contractors who had tendered for the contract. Their completed tenders were provided at the meeting, giving all Councillors equal opportunity to review information and ask questions collectively.

References had been sought for all contractors, with responses received from 1 referee for all contractors. Councillors discussed and agree to consider the following when reviewing each tender to ensure a fair assessment of each: Cost; capability; equipment suitability; required insurance; available staff and references.

After lengthy discussion, Councillors voted 5 in favour, with 3 choosing to abstain, to offer the contract to Montague Countryside Services, subject to clarification/confirmation of the following:

- Removal of verge and hedge cutting from the tender quotation (which had already been indicated as acceptable by the contractor)
- Reduction of cuts to Brook Green and Copse Lane to seven per growing season, following re-assessment of requirements.
- Confirmation of suitable equipment for use on the recreation field and football pitch.

Subject to acceptable response to the above, a contract will need to be drawn up for approval by both parties and it was suggested to engage service of a lawyer to check the contract prior to execution.

Date of next ordinary meeting: Tuesday 13th February, at 6.30pm at Merryfield Hall

The Chair closed the meeting.

Signed

Date