

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on Tuesday  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 6.30 p.m.**

**2022/150 Attendance and Apologies**

**Present**

Cllr Sherwood  
Cllr R Burt  
Cllr G MacKenzie-Green  
Cllr E Simpson  
Cllr A Pidgeon  
Cllr N Matravers  
Cllr A Gordon  
County Cllr J Roundell-Greene  
Mrs K Larsson (Clerk)

**Apologies**

Cllr Bullock  
County Cllr A Dance

**In Attendance**

6 members of the public

**2022/151 Declaration of Interest** – there were no declarations of interest.

**2022/152 Parish Council Vacancy**

Ms Sally Ripley had contacted the Clerk and expressed an interest in joining the parish council. With one vacancy remaining Cllr Simpson proposed co-opting Ms Ripley onto the council, seconded by Cllr Sherwood. All councillors voted in favour. Ms Ripley duly signed her declaration of acceptance of office and was invited to join the meeting.

**2022/153 County Councillor Report**

County Cllr Roundell-Green shared news that SCC Children's Services had been rated Good by OFSTED.

She advised that a questionnaire regarding 'warm spaces' for those struggling with the costs of living has been circulated. Councils are being asked if they are able to identify any spaces that could be used as warm hubs during winter months and advised there will be some funding available to support related costs.

**2022/154 Visitors and Public Voice**

It had been noted by a resident that there appeared to have been a bonfire lit by the pond on the recreation ground. Cllr MacKenzie-Green advised he would see what measures could be taken to deter, such as strimming the area back further to make it less obscured from view.

It was noted that Church Road was due to be closed again for 1 day for works by Wessex Water, but that notification had not been sent to residents as it was previously.

**2022/155 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 19/08/2022**

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

**2022/156 Accounts and Financial Information**

Financial Report & Payments for Authorisation

The financial report for October was circulated to all councillors.

Payments for Authorisation

The schedule of payments was approved by councillors. A list of payments is annexed at the end of the minutes.

## Budget 2023/2024

The Clerk gave an overview of predicted spend against the current year's budget, which will result in an overspend against some items. Notably, costs for the Ranger due to the increased requirement for grass cutting during the summer months as well as additional administrative and personnel related costs in the transition period of the previous clerk retiring and current clerk taking up the position and increased working hours.

The Clerk requested councillors submit proposals for extraordinary spend by 20<sup>th</sup> October to be included in the initial budget draft which will be discussed at the November meeting.

### **2022/157 Local Community Networks**

Members of all town and parish councils have been invited to submit their comments on the proposals for the new LCN's. Councillors will provide feedback to the Clerk to submit a single response on behalf of the council.

### **2022/158 Merryfield Messenger**

Since the last meeting further informal conversations with VH Committee members have taken place; however, as yet no formal information/request regarding future publications has been received

There are currently a number of items and events which have been included on social media but had not reached those who do not have access to these platforms.

While the future of the Merryfield Messenger remained uncertain, Cllr Simpson proposed producing a one-off flyer for distribution to all household in the village at a cost of £70 through MACs Printing. Mr Sherwood seconded the proposal, and councillors voted in majority in favour of the proposal.

### **2022/159 Green Flag Award**

A member of the Field Working Group had expressed an interest in the award scheme. Cllr Pidgeon would follow this up with them.

**ACTION – Cllr Pidgeon**

### **2022/160 Remembrance Sunday Arrangements**

Cllr Pidgeon is in the process of making arrangements with a number of organisations for attendance at the service.

12 silhouettes have been sponsored already. Cllr Bullock will continue to coordinate collection of sponsorships.

Full details of the arrangements including timings will be published by Cllr Simpson.

### **2022/161 Bonfire Night**

Bonfire Night celebration will be held on the recreation field from 6pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November, with the fire being lit at 6.30pm.

Safety equipment will be supplied by Hatch Fireworks (as with the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee beacon). The event will be child and dog friendly; no fireworks, but an area for children to have sparklers. Sawlty Towers (mobile fish & chip van) will be contacted to see if they are able to attend the event.

### **2022/162 Clerk contact telephone**

The Clerk requested purchase of a dedicated mobile phone and separate number as they have been using their personal phone and number as the only contact telephone for the Parish Council. The clerk suggested a suitable phone could be purchased for around £70 and a SIM for between £6-£10 per month, depending on supplier.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of a separate phone and number.

## **2022/163 Play Park Gate**

Cllr Sherwood advised he has received some feedback with regards to difficulty of people with buggies and on mobility vehicles using the gates at the park, and that they have requested a gate is not installed at the final entrance without.

Before making any decision, councillors requested advise be sought from the inspection companies used by the Parish Council.

**ACTION – The Clerk**

## **2022/164 Young Person of the Month**

No nominations were received for consideration.

## **2022/165 Councillor Updates**

### **a) Skate Park**

Cllrs Gordon, MacKenzie-Green, Pidgeon and Matravers met with Wiveliscombe Parish Council who successfully raised funds for their skatepark. They noted that Wiveliscombe advised they had received only one noise complaint and vandalism to the recreation area had reduced. They felt behaviour was generally good as the area is busy with lots of people.

### **b) Community Engagement**

Cllr Simpson advised engagement with Facebook is still very good.

The land at Copse Lane will be opened during the upcoming road closure on 27<sup>th</sup> October, this will be published on Facebook.

Initial communication has been received from SCC regarding Somerset Day 2023. As the parish council have a flag pole, it was proposed by Cllr MacKenzie-Green that a Wyvern Flag should be purchased, as well patron saint flags. Councillors voted in majority in favour of the flag purchases.

### **c) Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Bullock reported that the new PCSO has not yet been appointed. The importance of reporting any issues including anti-social behaviour was highlighted, so there is a record as the police will not attend where there are no reported incidents. Non emergencies can be reported anonymously by calling 101.

There was previously a neighbourhood watch scheme, but it is no longer active. **ACTION – Cllr Bullock to contact PCSO to arrange attendance at next meeting and advise on running neighbourhood watch in the area.**

### **d) Recreation Ground - Play Park & Playing Field**

Grass cutting is up to date. Nothing of note to report.

### **e) General Maintenance - Ranger Scheme**

The ranger has been working at Brook Green. Grass has grown quickly on verges so these will be attended to again soon.

### **f) Brook Green**

Additional quotes still required for work to bridges. ACTION – Cllr Sherwood / The Clerk  
4 x 4's are still an issue. Barrier along banks to be put in place as soon as possible.

**ACTION –Cllr Gordon**

### **g) Footpaths**

No updates or items of note to report. **ACTION – Cllr Matravers to continue to pursue with Rights of Way Team.**

h) Highways

Nothing to report.

i) A358 upgrade

A briefing regarding new plans has been circulated. A number of objections have been received to the new plans in relation to Ashill & West Hatch Junctions, Southfield Roundabout and reductions of access for parishes along the A358.

j) Cemetery

The Ranger will attend to cut the hedge soon.

k) Churchyard

Nothing to report.

**2022/166 Outstanding Actions**

a) Footpath to Merryfield Moated site:

No progress. Cllr Matravers to pursue and update at next meeting.

b) Notice board:

The new notice board being arranged by Cllr Gordon is due to be installed very soon.

c) Request for memorial tree at Brook Green:

It was noted that Brook Green had previously needed to have trees removed due to overcrowding. It was proposed that a tree could be donated in memory of an individual to be planted on the recreation field. The Parish Council would need to agree the species (must be native) and location in advance, and would not allow memorial plaques to be left on the trees or ground. Councillors voted in majority to the proposal.

d) Signage for gate at Copse Lane land

Wording agreed for the replacement signs as follows: "For access please contact the Parish Council" (new Clerk telephone number to be included)

**2022/167 Matters for Report**

None.

**2022/168 Items for the next meeting**

- a. 2023/2024 Budget
- b. Merryfield Messenger update.
- c. Play park gate.
- d. Neighbourhood Watch

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, at 6.30pm at Merryfield Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Ian Sherwood, Chairman

