

**Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on
Tuesday 27th September at 6.30 p.m.**

2022/131 Attendance and Apologies

Present

Cllr Sherwood
Cllr R Burt
Cllr G MacKenzie-Green
Cllr E Simpson
Cllr A Pidgeon
Cllr Bullock
Cllr N Matravers
County Cllr A Dance
Mrs K Larsson (Clerk)

Apologies

Mr A Gordon
County Cllr J Roundell-
Greene

In Attendance

9 members of the public

2022/132 Declaration of Interest – there were no declarations of interest.

2022/133 Visitors and Public Voice

A member of the public asked for clarification that negotiations with Ilton Cricket Club regarding the use of the land at Copse Lane for parking are on the same basis as arrangements with other parties that use the land. It was explained that the figures used were applicable to all and that charges were to be applied to non-resident use. For clarity, Cllr Pidgeon provided a breakdown of the figures which have been communicated to those parties asked to contribute, as follows:

Total annual costs for maintenance, which including grass and hedge cutting - £880.

Total number of days use during 2021 - 38, of which 36 were by Ilton Cricket Club (noting that use for junior cricket was not included within these numbers).

The total cost was divided by number of days used - £23.15 per day.

A request was made to Ilton Cricket Club (ICC) for an annual contribution of £300 towards maintaining the area, slightly under £10 per day based on their usage (less than half the actual cost amount). At the last meeting potential for Ilton Cricket Club to assist with maintenance was discussed. At the time of this meeting a proposal had not been received from ICC in response to the Parish Council's latest email dated 28th August 2022.

Ilton Memorial Hall have agreed to a similar per-use rate of £10 per day.

As minuted from the last meeting, should any resident wish to use the area, they should contact the Parish Council for access.

Costs of maintenance were queried by a member of the public as the Parish Council has its own grass cutting equipment. It was explained that the equipment is not suitable for the ground surface at Copse Lane, and that the grass cutting is carried out by unpaid volunteers who have attended training for the specific equipment they use.

All equipment and training costs for the volunteers was paid for from funds from a Section 106 Agreement between the developer of the new housing and SSDC. These funds were transferred to the Parish Council and are ring-fenced to be spent only on the recreation field development. Cllr Simpson highlighted that expenditure to develop the recreation field facilities is from the funds of the section 106 agreement and not from the precept.

A request was received to plant a memorial tree for a resident at Brook Green. Cllr Sherwood advised he will investigate possible areas that this may be feasible.

Comments were received via email in relation to 3rd party services to the village. These have been sent to County Cllr Dance.

2022/134 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 19/08/2022

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

2022/135 County Councillor Report

County Cllr Dance recommended that a response be submitted to the Local Community Network Consultation. He advised that they want to include planning at the LCN level but this would not be in place for April when the Unitary authority takes effect. There is no budget allocated to LCN's. He commented that he believed less LCN's may make services more deliverable.

County Cllr Dance advised that County finances are not in a good position, and the new single Unitary authority will have a budget shortfall. Somerset County Council have withdrawn from the Dillington House lease which was losing money each year. Had the break option not been exercised, they would have been tied to the lease for a further 20 years. He advised that there are plenty of other spaces that can be utilised as an alternative, and it will save other services from being cut.

County Cllr Dance advised that the phosphates issue is still no progressing, which is having an effect on social housing as new properties are not being built.

In her absence, County Cllr Dance reported that County Cllr Roundell-Greene is working on a cost of living group and some areas being looked at are provision of warm spaces and food sharing for communities.

2022/136 Accounts and Financial Information

Financial Report & Payments for Authorisation

The financial report covering August and September was circulated to all councillors.

Regular Payments

A list of known regular payments for the remainder of the financial year was presented by the Clerk for authorisation. These payments were approved by councillors.

Payments for Authorisation

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

2022/137 Land at Copse Lane

Use of Land

The Parish Council had requested a response from Ilton Cricket Club (ICC) in advance of the September meeting. At the time of the meeting the Parish Council had not received agreement to the proposal of a contribution of £300 toward the maintenance of the land at Copse Lane or any counter proposal. Cllr Pidgeon proposed withdrawing permission for ICC to continue using the land under the existing agreement. Cllr Simpson recommended that in order to move forward, and ensure fairness for everyone, set terms should apply equally to all who wish to use the land.

Councillors voted in majority to withdraw permission for Ilton Cricket Club to use the land for parking. If any resident would like to use the area (i.e. for a private party parking), they should contact the Parish Council for access. All other independent bodies wishing to use the facility for visiting events/non-residents (i.e. Village Hall, Cricket Club etc.) a standard rate of £10 per u usage will be applied.

Signage

Cllr MacKenzie-Green requested new signage be attached to the entrance gate of the land. Councillors voted in majority to purchase 2 new signs at a cost of £79.00.

2022/138 Merryfield Messenger

The Merryfield Messenger is a Village Hall publication, which the Parish Council has supported by way of covering the printing costs. A resident who has been heavily involved in its production and distribution is stepping back and individuals are needed to take over these functions for it to continue. Cllr Simpson spoke with the VH Chairman who advised that 'subject to approval' the VH Committee will continue to run the publication and may be looking for assistance from the Parish Council which may be financial or logistical. It was suggested that local sponsorship could be sought to assist with the costs of printing. Cllr Simpson will liaise with the Village Hall Chairman and provide an update at the next parish council meeting.

2022/139 August Bank Holiday Fete

A recommendation has been received to hold a fete on the recreation field for the August bank holiday in 2023 to raise money for the Skatepark. The proposal is for the parish council to give permission for a fete to be held on the recreation field, but it would be organised and run by third parties.

Councillors voted in majority to allow 3rd party organisation of a fete, subject to parish council approval of activities and sufficient insurance indemnities.

2022/140 Road Closed Sign

Cllr MacKenzie-Green requested purchase of letters for two signs for the road closure during the village remembrance service. Councillors agreed to the purchase of the required letters.

2022/141 Remembrance Sunday

The remembrance soldier silhouettes will be available for sponsorship again this year, with all proceeds going to the Royal British Legion. In recognition of the financial climate, a reduced amount of £20 is being requested for this year's sponsorship and any amount over this would be gratefully received. Cllr Bullock agreed to collect sponsorship.

2022/142 Hawthorn Road Recreation Field Entrance

Cllr MacKenzie-Green proposed installation of folding bollards at the entrance to the recreation field to prevent unauthorised vehicle access. Retractable options had been investigated; however, the ground is not suitable and costs are very high. Costs to be advised to councillors.

It was noted that part of the latch from the pedestrian gate has been removed. Costs to be sought for replacement. **ACTION – Cllr MacKenzie-Green**

2022/143 Football pitch line marking

Cllr MacKenzie-Green requested purchase of line marking paint for the football pitch. The cost will be approximately £180 for the required amount. Councillors agreed to the purchase of the paint.

2022/144 Mobile Food Van

The parish council were contacted with regards to a visiting fish and chip van. This was subsequently arranged with the Village Hall and they will be in the hall car park on Tuesday evenings.

2022/145 Young Person of the Month

No nominations were received for consideration.

2022/146 Councillor Updates

Skate Park There were no updates on funding as Cllr Gordon was not at the meeting.

Community Engagement

Engagement with Facebook posts has been particularly high due to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. 1284 people saw the posts and there were 4265 comments/likes.

The social walking group had their first meeting 3 weeks ago, they meet each Tuesday at 2pm at the Village Hall. It is an inclusive group welcoming all ages, genders, dogs and any other furry friends that would like to join in.

Neighbourhood Watch

There is a new PCSO who has advised they will attend meetings when possible. They have advised we are not priority for patrol attendance as there have been no reported incidents and so not high priority. Cllr Bullock and Cllr Simpson highlighted the importance of reporting any issues including anti-social behaviour as the police will not act on a Facebook post. Non emergencies can be reported anonymously by calling 101.

Recreation Ground - Play Park

Cllr Pidgeon mentioned the hedge will need trimming as brambles are coming through.

Recreation Ground – Playing Field

As in the play park, hedge trimming is to be organised plus a fallen tree requires removing from hedges.

Cllr Simpson requested an update on the ongoing monitoring of dog mess and dogs being exercised off their leads. It was reported that this has improved immensely from the same time last year and that the grass cutting team have not recently found they have needed to clear mess from the area.

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.

Brook Green

The damaged bridge is useable, but still requires some work to the left-hand rail. Additional quotes to be sought.

4 x 4's continue to be an issue and the barrier along the banks is not in place yet. Cllr Gordon to be contacted for an update. **ACTION – The Clerk / Cllr Gordon**

Footpaths

Work has taken place to clear the footpath from Penny's Mead, however the Rights of Way Team need to advise regarding further access and diversion of the path at Merryfield Airfield.

Sam Jackson to be contacted. **ACTION – Cllr Matravers to pursue with Rights of Way Team.**

Highways

Nothing to report. Reported potholes will be filled based on severity.

A358 upgrade

There will be another meeting of parishes soon. They will be looking for further suggestions from Parish Councils. Cllr Simpson advised the issue of lorries travelling along Rapps is still a major concern; Cllr Sherwood suggested there needs to be a slip road to join the Ilminster bypass from the A358.

Cemetery

An interment took place on 29th September and there are two monuments being updated with additional inscriptions.

Churchyard

Hedges require cutting. Nothing else to report.

2022/147 Outstanding Actions

Footpath to Merryfield Moated site: No progress. Cllr Matravers to pursue and update at next meeting.

Notice board: The new notice board being arranged by Cllr Gordon has not yet been installed.
ACTION – The Clerk to follow up with Cllr Gordon.

Councillors voted in majority to purchase a replacement noticeboard at cost of approximately £1200 if there was no update in the next 7 days.

2022/148 Matters for Report

Local Community Networks

Details of the LCN consultation have been circulated to councillors to review the proposed areas for the new Local Community Networks which will be formed as part of the Unitary re-organisation. The deadline for comments is 17th October.

Green Flag Award

SSDC Environmental Team are offering an introductory webinar for parishes who may be interested in the Green Flag Award Scheme. Cllr Pidgeon will liaise with the Field Working Group to see if there is an interest in taking this initiative up.

2022/149 Items for the next meeting

- a. Green Flag Award.
- b. Future of the Merryfield Messenger.
- c. Bonfire night details.
- d. LCN Consultation

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11th October 2022, at 6.30pm at Merryfield Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Ian Sherwood, Chairman