

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ilton Parish Council held in Merryfield Hall on  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

**2023/55 Attendance and Apologies**

**Present:** Cllrs Simpson, Sherwood, Ripley, Pike, Kelaart, Tarrant, Gordon and Matravers  
County Cllr Roundell Greene and Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllr Burt.

**In attendance:** 13 members of the public.

**2023/56 Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest.

**2023/57 Visitors and Public Voice**

A resident enquired as to when the Copse Lane land would have the grass cut and was advised this would be arranged with the Ranger soon.

A representative from Ilminster over 50's Walking Football attended to express thanks and compliment the MUGA facility which is used by the group every Thursday evening. The group is open to all abilities of any gender and they be very pleased to welcome new people to the group.

A representative from SW Solar attended the meeting to give residents and councillors opportunity to ask questions and listen to any feedback on planning application 23/00606/FUL.

**2023/58 County Councillor Report**

A full written report from Cllr Dance and Roundell Greene can be found in the "News" section of the parish council website.

Cllr Roundell Green reported that the transition to the new unitary authority has started well. Residents now have a single method of contact for all enquiries at the new Somerset Council, details of which were included on the council tax bills.

**2023/59 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Minutes were approved unanimously by councillors.

**2023/60 Planning Applications**

a) 23/00581/HOU: Lilac Cottage, Cad Road, Ilton – Erection of a timber framed building for ancillary garage and annex accommodation use to main dwelling house.

After discussion, the council voted in majority in support of the application on the basis that recommendations from Highways are followed by the applicant (these were not visible on the planning portal).

b) 23/00606/FUL: Land at Merryfield Lane, Ilton – Installation of ground-mounted photovoltaic modules together with sub stations to create a small solar farm generating carbon free energy.

After discussion, councillors voted unanimously to object to the application on the grounds of loss of ecological habitats, highway safety, impact on a public right of way (CH15/21).

Full comments on both applications were submitted to Somerset Council Planning Services and can be seen in the respective applications on the planning portal.

**2023/61 Accounts and Financial Information**

Financial Report

The financial report for March was circulated to all councillors. There were no queries raised.

Payments for Authorisation

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

### **2023/62 MUGA Tennis Nets**

It was agreed to trial setting the MUGA up for tennis once a week for a month. This will be from mid-day to 8pm each Tuesday from 6<sup>th</sup> June to 27<sup>th</sup> June. Nets can continue to be booked for use outside of these times.

### **2023/63 Football Pitch Hire Costs**

After consideration of the costs of maintaining and marking the lines of the football pitch, it was agreed to set a fee of £25 per match for use of the pitch.

### **2023/64 Village Grass Cutting**

Advice was obtained from insurers to confirm that volunteers could operate hand held powered equipment without additional training, providing equipment was supplied by the parish council and a relevant risk assessment was undertaken. As these criteria have been met, the Field Working Group grass cutting team have advised they will be able to manage the grass cutting with the current available volunteers.

### **2023/65 Youth Club Financial Support**

The council considered a request to fund a further year of youth club hall hire fees, removing the financial barrier for some children to attend. The council agreed unanimously to fund the hall hire fees on an ongoing basis.

### **2023/66 Playground Inspections**

The current inspection arrangement is due to be renewed and the monthly cost will increase to £82.50 + vat (previously £75 + vat). It was agreed to continue with the service for a period of 3 months while the inspection requirements are reviewed and comparative quotations sought. The Clerk will present a proposal once information has been gathered.

### **2023/67 Recreation Field Consultation**

The schedule for consultation sessions is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	09.30 to 12.30	Ilton Cricket Club, Club House
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	17.00 to 19.30	Ilton Village Hall (Merryfield Hall)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	13.30 to 15.30	The Grumpy Foxx Public House
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	10.00 to 16.00	Ilton Village Hall (Merryfield Hall)

Parish Councillors will also visit some groups that meet in the Village Hall including: Ilton Youth Club, The Coffee Pot and Seanz Zumba.

### **2023/68 Coronation of King Charles III**

Councillors discussed suggestions for a way to commemorate the Coronation, however, no agreement was reached. The matter will be deferred to the next meeting.

### **2023/69 Merryfield Messenger**

The Village Hall Committee have found a co-ordinator to manage the production of the publication moving forward. A request was made to the council to fund the printing costs of the messenger, which is expected to be £65 per edition. The request was agreed unanimously by the council.

Cllr Tarrant will liaise with the Messenger Co-ordinator regarding potential for sponsorship/advertising by local businesses.

### **2023/70 Young Person of the Month 2023** No nominations received.

## **2023/71 Councillor Updates**

Brief updates were provided by councillors on areas of responsibility, key items of note are as follows:

### Village Safety

- Cllr Kelaart has been in contact with the PCSO regarding arranging speed monitoring equipment and this will be sited in the parish one available.
- Cllr Pike advised that the PCSO suggested waiting to launch a neighbourhood watch scheme until after Speedwatch has been investigated to attract volunteers to that scheme first.

### Recreation Field

- Sowing of wildflower seeds at Brook Green was not well supported by the Field Working Group, so will be put on hold until after the public consultation.
- The LLFA are awaiting response from the Land Registry to be able to contact landowners surrounding the Recreation Field with possible riparian responsibilities which could be affecting the drainage of the field.

### Play Park

- There has been some vandalism of the fence at the play park again. This has been reported to the police.

### Brook Green

- Highways have confirmed that the bridges at Brook Green do not fall under their repairing responsibilities. Cllr Gordon to obtain quotes for repairs.

### Footpaths / Rights of Way

- Cllr Ripley met the Somerset Council Rights of Way contact for our area who will be providing support for the issues identified.
- The post supporting the wooden gate exiting the churchyard has rotted and broken off. Cllr Ripley will obtain a quote for replacement to be considered at a future meeting.

## **2023/72 Matters for Report**

- a) Cope Lane land use: Following an enquiry during Public Voice at the March Parish Council meeting, the matter of use of the land at Cope Lane has been reviewed, to include the financial calculations and agreed terms for use which were minuted. Councillors have been advised of the legal position, allowing for the matter to be re-visited if requested. At the time of this meeting, no such request has been made and therefore the vote that was taken on the terms for use stands.
- b) Village Trough: A resident has kindly agreed to take over looking after the trough. Thanks go to Barbara for offering her assistance with this.

**2023/73 Outstanding Actions not covered in agenda items:** Outstanding actions were reviewed and an updated list will be circulated to councillors following the meeting.

## **2023/74 Summary of Actions from the meeting**

- a) Grant funding policy to be drafted – KL
- b) Merryfield Messenger sponsorship opportunities – JT
- c) Repairs to recreation field car park surface – AG/NM
- d) Review, update and clean recreation field noticeboard – SR
- e) Brook Green bridge repairs – AG
- f) Quote for churchyard gate – SR
- g) Full review of website content – KL/TBC

## **2023/75 Items for the next meeting**

- h) Commemorative Coronation Ideas

### **2023/76 Staffing management**

It was agreed to form a staffing committee with delegated responsibility for all staff matters, which will consist of three councillors. Cllr Simpson, Tarrant and Kelaart agreed to be the committee members.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, at 6.30pm at Merryfield Hall – Annual Parish Meeting, followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Elaine Simpson, Chairman

## **Annex 1. Payments Authorised**

<b>Apr-23</b>				
<b>PAYMENTS AUTHORISED</b>				
	INVOICE DATE	AMOUNT	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION
	31/03/2023	£ 152.00	Cad Green Garage	Diesel for grass cutting
	02/04/2023	£ 18.00	Ilton Cricket Club	Clubhouse hire for consultation
	11/04/2023		K Larsson	Monthly salary
	31/03/2023	£ 37.02	I Sherwood	Expenses: Mileage & Petrol for grass cutting
	06/04/2023	£ 52.04	K Larsson	Admin expenses