

ILTON PARISH COUNCIL

11 Sep

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MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON

Friday 11th September 2026

PRESENT:

Cllr. J Bennett (Chair), Cllr. A Pidgeon, Cllr. J Easterbrook, Cllr. I Sherwood, Cllr. N Matravers, Cllr. K Simpson, Cllr. K King
Mrs D Spree (Clerk)
7 members of the public

Prior to the start of the meeting

Questions and comments from members of the public

3 members of the public raised the following queries:

1. Thanks given to the Chair for her article in the Merryfield Messenger
2. The recent hedge cutting has been done well but where is the authorisation for the spend recorded in the previous minutes
 - a. Clerk stated that was going to be addressed in the first Agenda item
3. Why was the Monitoring Officers report being discussed in closed session, was the Clerk aware Somerset Council were addressing her as Mr Spree, and how is the Unitary Councillor
 - a. Monitoring Officer: Clerk explained that whilst the result would be minuted the initial discussions needed to be private as it was about a request to individual councillors.
 - b. Mr not Mrs Spree: Clerk stated this had already been addressed but thanked the member of the public
 - c. Unitary Councillor: Chair stated Jo was getting better

Reports from Unitary Councillors

No Unitary Councillors present

E9.1 To receive and agree any apologies for non attendance.

Sally Ripley had sent her apologies. All other Councillors present

E9.2 To receive any declarations of interest.

None declared

E9.3 Authorise the payment of £516.00 for hedge trimming to Zac Bussell

A discussion took place regarding the correct procedure for committing the Council to monetary spend. Financial regulations are clear that this can only be done with prior approval from the Council as a whole not by one individual Councillor.

Councillor Simpson felt no direct instruction to get quotations had been given hence he had asked the contractor to go ahead with the hedge cutting without quotations or Council approval.

It was pointed out that the 2 new Councillors had yet to have full training. A member of the public asked if the contractor had supplied risk assessments and insurance details.

All Councillors felt the hedge trimming had been done really well and the payment was APPROVED 6-1-0 (Prop: JB 2nd: KK)

ACTIONS:

1. Payment of the invoice
2. CLERK to check the Risk Assessment and Public Liability of all contractors.. Without these they will not be

appointed to do any work.

E9.4 Exclusion of Press and Public – as outlined in the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972

APPROVED 7-0-0. (Prop: JB 2nd : IS)

Members of the public left.

E9.5 Grounds Maintenance,

A discussion took place about concerns with how far behind the contract with the Grounds Contactor is and how areas that form part of the contract have not been worked on.

It was appreciated that the very hot summer would have resulted in the grass cutting not having been done and it was unlikely that all cuts would be done in this financial year. However it was agreed that much of the other work within the contract had not been done.

It was resolved that the clerk would write on behalf of the whole Council to the contractor with a list of tasks that require doing. If the contractor confirms in writing that he will carry out these jobs his August payment will be made immediately.

Tasks were:

The 3 pathways to the play park require strimming and the hedges running alongside the paths need cutting

The MUGA area needs spraying

Clear the weeds from the pathway in the Rec - the path itself NOT the path edges.

Strim under and around the Table Tennis table

Cut the Cemetery hedge - all of it.

APPROVED 7-0-0 (Prop: JB, 2nd: NM)

ACTION: CLERK to circulate draft letter to contractor for Councillor approval

E9.6 Monitoring Officers Report

Clerk presented the Monitoring Officer's recommendations for Councillors to attend mediation. It was unanimously felt relationships could be handled within the Council. DISMISSED 7-0-0 (Prop: JB, 2nd: NM)

J. Bennett.

22.10.2026