

1.

**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday October 13th 2022 held
in the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Mrs. H. Panter, Chairman, Mr. S. Marsh, Mr. J. Hall (part), Mr. A. Litwinek, Miss J. Stapleton, Mr. A. Schofield, Mr. H. Williams, Mr. D. Galloway, Mr. J. Bailey, Somerset Councillor, Mrs. Emily Pearlstone, Somerset Councillor, Rev. B. Faulkner & Mr. P. Horsington, Clerk.
Seven members of the public attended.

105. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs. P. Andrews, Mr. A. Capozzoli, District Councillor, Mr. C. Hull, District Councillor, Mr. P. Rowsell, District Councillor, PCSO B. Marcelino & PCSO M. Day.

106. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 8th 2022, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

107. To fill Vacancy

Mr. D. Galloway, who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council, was invited to introduce himself. On the proposition of Mrs. Panter, seconded by Mr. Williams, Mr. Galloway was unanimously co-opted to the Council. Mr. Galloway signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was given a copy of the Register of Interests to be completed, and returned to SSDC within 28 days. The Council welcomed him as the new member.

108. Declarations of Interest

There were no Interests declared.

109. Open Session – with RNAS, County & District Councillors’ reports

Mr. G. Hill reported that he and Mr. B. Masters had held a meeting on October 5th at the Mead with Mark Doyle, Environment Agency and two members of his team and Mr. R. Vaux from the Somerset Drainage Board. Issues discussed included that Mr. Vaux would arrange to clearing of the ditch in front of properties 1 – 12 the Mead with Mr. Doyle to arrange the cutting of the vegetation away from the Penstock. Mr. Doyle stated that the flap in the brook next to the A.303 was the responsibility of the E.A. and would be looking at the broken rubber seal, also noted that the foam in the expansion joints of the wall need replacing.

Mr. Vaux stated that the clearing of the brooks downstream of the A.303 is due to commence shortly.

Both Mr. Doyle and Mr. Vaux stated that all culverts and pipes under the A.303, plus the ditch adjacent to the A.303 at the back of the Mead properties were the responsibility of National Highways formerly Highways England. Mr. Hill informed the Council that he is to write to Highways England requesting that they attend to the former especially due to the importance of preventing floodwater on the A.303. This letter will be copied to the E.A. and the Somerset Drainage Board.

Mr. Hill highlighted that there is a concrete block by the Penstock, which holds up the flow of water. He felt that this issue needs to be looked at to allow water to flow.

Mr. B. Masters stated that to date the footpath from the A.37 still needs to be trimmed. This is to be reported again for action.

Ms. T. Rowe asked for permission to plant some daffodil bulbs in the verge of the B.3151 entering Ilchester from the Somerton direction. Subject to County Highways’ approval, the Parish Council fully endorsed this action.

Mr. Hall put forward that the Council should consider that Street Lighting is turned off from midnight, as statistics show that there very few vehicles from that time of night. The issues of pedestrians’ safety was raised and it was agreed to ask for further information from County Highways and ask if the County Council have any Policies on this issue. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. There were no RNAS matters raised.

Mrs. Pearlstone, Somerset County Councillor, went through her report received & circulated to members, highlighting the series of Local Council Network meetings, being held. At present these are pilot meeting to determine what basic areas these should cover.

Rev. Faulkner asked if there had been any consideration on looking at Deanery areas as a basis for LCNs. It appeared that this option had not been considered.

2.

Other issues covered were the Somerset Children & Young People's Services which were rated by OFSTED as Good, the Council's Budget finances are under considerable pressure, an Innovation Zone proposal near Bridgwater could put Somerset well up in the Green energy revolution, and residents and businesses are being asked for their views on what the future of Somerset's economic future is likely to be, plus help to influence Somerset's future landscape.

Mr. Bailey's referred to the complaint reference the bush growth by the Bus shelter opposite the entrance to Great Orchard. Mr. Marsh informed Mr. Bailey that he had trimmed back the foliage, and the Bus route sign and times need to be replaced and updated. Mr. Bailey & Mrs. Pearlstone stated that they will endeavour to sort this out.

Mr. Bailey stated that the new Chief Executive of the new Somerset Council would be prepared to attend a Parish Council meeting. It was agreed to accept this offer via Mr. Bailey.

Mrs. Pearlstone provided leaflets on 'The Cost of Living' these will be available from the Town Hall. Rev. Faulkner stated that there are various discussions taking place within the Benefice on the this issue.

In the absence of Mr. Capozzoli, District Councillor, there were no SSDC issues raised.

The Council noted that the SSDC Chief Planning Officer has been asked to provide dates for a meeting with the Parish Council To date no response has been received.

110. Police & Community issues, with Surgery updates & reports from Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC & Church matters

The Council noted the Crime stats, which had been circulated.

Mrs. Panter reported that with Miss Stapleton and Mr. Hall there had been a meeting with the PCSOs. From this meeting, it had been highlighted that there is a need for residents to report and there had been exchanges on various issues. It was noted that there is to be 'Operation Scorpion' held shortly.

Mr. Marsh stated that he had circulated the Buttercross Surgery newsletter, which was available, it was noted that Patient access to their own records will be available from November 1st.

Mr. H. Williams reported on behalf of the Town Trust, stating that there is to be an Open meeting on November 2nd to present an overview of the history of the Town Trust, responsibilities and the challenges it faces. Mr. Williams reported that It has been agreed that the heating can be turned on and the 1991 Time capsule needs to be buried.

The Council discussed the Email received from IDCA reference further information regards the ownership of the Telephone box at the entrance to Great Orchard, and had been informed that this kiosk has been taken over by the British Heart Foundation.

Miss Stapleton stated that the Flower & Produce show had been well supported and there is to be a Lantern Parade & Tree Lighting on December 2nd.

It was reported from IRINEC, that one co-opted Trustee has retired, due to leaving the area.

Rev. Faulkner informed the meeting that there will be the Parade from West Street to St. Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday, with the Service in Church, before the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial. Details were discussed and agreed.

111. Area owned by Ilchester & District Angling Club

Following last month's meeting with members of the Angling Club meeting, it was noted that there had been no update since. After discussion, the Clerk was instructed to ask if there had been any progress, and to indicated if there is no progress by December 1st, then the Parish Council will determine whether or not to proceed with taking over this area.

112. Youth Parish Councils

Miss Stapleton stated that she & Rachel will be meeting with Mr. Bailey, County Councillor.

113. Hainbury development & Housing survey

The Council have received a draft questionnaire & queries from the meeting held with Jane Birch, Somerset Community Council held on October 3rd and it was agreed that there will have to be a separate meeting to discuss the points raised. It was noted that there is a need to engage with residents prior to any public questionnaire being put out for consultation. It was agreed that Mrs. Panter will make contact with the Head of the Schools.

3.

114. Planning matters

The Council noted that application 22/02054/FUL at 13-25 & 24-46 Eagle Close for the installation of external wall insulation to external walls and re-roofing work carried out as part of a thermal upgrade programme to Service family accommodation had been granted. Mr. Hall stated that there is an issue with vehicles accessing this site via the centre of Ilchester, disregarding the 7.5 tonne weight limit.

The Council noted that application 22/02158/FUL at The Coach House, West Street, for erection of PV system with non invasive ballasted foundations to generate carbon free electricity on non intrusive foundations had been granted.

The Council noted that application 22/02201/FUL at New Spittles Farm, for the construction of an extension to an existing agricultural building had been granted

The Council noted that there was no decision on application 22/02202/FUL at Spittles Farm, Old A.303 road for the construction of an agricultural building to be used to store straw & general agricultural commodities

The Council noted that there was no decision on application 22/02200/FUL at New Spittles Farm for the construction of an agricultural building to house a proportion of the milking cows within the herd at this farm in a loose yard based system.

The Council noted that there was no decision on application 22/02199/FUL at New Spittles Farm for the construction of an agricultural building to be used to house dairy cows.

The Council considered application 22/02591/ADV for SCC at Somerton Road roundabout for 4 No. roundabout advertisement / sponsorship signs – chevrons with directional signs and downlighters. Raised grass centre inner, block paving outer. After some discussion, the Council agreed to oppose this application as it was felt that adding advertising on this roundabout could be a distraction for drivers, as it is a very busy roundabout. The Council are in principle, opposed to any form of advertising on roundabouts.

The Council considered application 22/02594/ADV for SCC at Church Street roundabout for 3 No. roundabout advertisement signs/chevrons with directional signs and downlighters, grassed and landscaped. After some considerable discussion, the Council, opposed this application, being opposed in principle to advertising on roundabouts, as it is an added distraction for drivers, this being a very busy junction, as it accesses both to the A.303 and to the B.3151. There was also a lack of detail as to the landscaping being proposed.

The Council discussed at length application 22/02251/FUL at Three Acres, Limington Road for change of use of land & buildings to provide canine daycare facility, erection of fencing and enlargement of hardstanding – retrospective (adjacent Parish).

The Council had concerns over potential flooding impact on the Parish, as there is a brook, which flows towards the Mead area. Concerns over the access and if the business grows, parking within the site. The fencing erected, is over the brook, which needs to be fully maintained. The Council therefore have objections to this retrospective application.

115. Financial matters

The account balances were reported as at 30/09/22 C/A/c £100 & B/R A/c £40,939.89p

Receipts - £7.82p Bank interest & £15 allotment rent.

Payments made -

13/10/22	2622	£96.60	HMRC paye tax
13/10/22	2623	£20	T. Mepham skate park
13/10/22	2624	£610.61p	P. Horsington salary & expenses

The Council approved the above cheques for payment.

The Council considered the request from IDCA for a contribution to the Defibrillator rental and it was agreed to donate £162 to IDCA towards the annual rental when due.

116. Cemetery

The Council agreed to be circulated again with Mr. Hall's comments reference defining details concerning eligible conditions for persons with Ilchester connections, this issue is to be considered at the next meeting.

4.

The Clerk reported that Somerset Waste Partnership will not pick up refuse from Cemeteries, so the green Wheelie bin will have to be returned. A quotation of £31.48p plus per month for a fortnightly pickup received from Biffa was considered. After some discussion, it was agreed to try the use of signs to encourage the public, who visit the Cemetery, to take away refuse or put it where it should be put.

117. Highway matters

The Council noted the earlier comment reference turning off Street lighting after midnight. It was agreed that further information is needed from the County council, especially if they have a Policy on this

The Council noted that the levels of the Salt / Grit bins within the Parish had been checked by Mr. Schofield and this information has been sent to County Highways.

It was noted that the footpath to the Mead has still not been trimmed, this will be reported again to County Highways.

118. Flooding issues

The Council noted that the issues reported earlier.

119. Allotments

Mr. Williams reported that the best kept allotment award went to Mr. A. Broughton and all the allotments are now taken.

120. Skate Park

Mr. Schofield reported that the weekly SSDC inspections have been received, with no major issues being highlighted. It was noted that these reports are being sent via new format as a password is now needed to access them

121. Mead Play area

Mr. Schofield reported that the fortnightly SSDC inspections have been received, with no issues highlighted, although there are potentially some items that will need attention in the future.

122. Rights of Way

Mr. Galloway highlighted problems with some stiles creating problems for dog owners, who have lift their pets. It was agreed that Mr. Galloway reports these specific stiles to County Rights of Way using their digital portal.

123. Tree Matters

There were no tree issues reported.

124. Correspondence

The Council noted the that the Somerset Waste Partnership newsletter had been circulated.

125. Items for Report, or for the agenda of the next meeting

Mrs. Panter stated that Mr. Hall wished to include 'Horse signs' on the next agenda for discussion. It was agreed to include Newsletter on the next agenda.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday November 10th 2022 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed:

Date: