

1.

**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 held  
in the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Mr. S. Marsh, Chairman, Mr. D. Galloway, Mr. J. Hall, Miss J. Stapleton, Mr. A. Schofield, Mr. H. Williams, Mrs. Emily Pearlstone, Somerset Councillor, Rev. B. Faulkner & Mr. P. Horsington, Clerk. Four members of the public attended.

**187. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs. H. Panter, Mrs. P. Andrews, Mr. A. Litwinek, Mr. J. Bailey, Somerset Councillor, Mr. A. Capozzoli, District Councillor, Mr. C. Hull, District Councillor, Mr. P. Rowsell, District Councillor & PCSO B. Marcelino.

(Mrs. Andrews had sent an Email earlier in the evening to Mrs. Panter, resigning from the Council due to work commitments.)

In the absence of Mrs. Panter, Mr. Marsh, vice - Chairman took the Chair.

It was agreed to send a 'Get well' card to Mr. Litwinek.

**188. The Minutes** of the previous meeting held on January 12<sup>th</sup>, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

**189. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Interests declared.

**190. Open Session – with RNAS, County & District Councillors' reports**

There were no RNAS issues reported.

Mr. G. Hill reported that a resident from the Mead had fallen over, due to the state of the footpath from the Mead to the A.37. The Clerk stated that the resident herself, had contacted him over this, and the incident had been reported to County Highways.

Mr. Hill stated that there are potholes in the road within the Mead which need repair, and also the surface of the ramp leading to the bridge over the A.37 from needs inspection. Mr. Hill reported that Mr. B. Masters had fallen down on the bridge due to build up of rubbish material, which Mr. Hill had subsequently cleared up. Mr. Marsh thanked Mr. Hill for doing this.

Mr. Hill reported that he had attended a meeting of the Somerset Rivers Authority, with the main item discussed by the SRA, being the lack of capacity of the river Sowey, which impacts on the flooding on the Levels, Curry Moor.

Ms. T. Rowe showed photos of the flowers growing last year, at the Somerton roundabout, which she hoped would not be destroyed by the works proposed by SCC and approved by SSDC to accommodate advertising. It was noted that this information had already been sent to SSDC & SCC.

Ms. Rowe highlighted an obscured sign on the A.37 entering into Ilchester. Mrs. Pearlstone agreed to raise these issues with the relevant Officers. It was noted that there are other signs that need attention.

Mr. Pope raised the issue of a parked vehicle, which creates problems with safety & visibility. This was discussed at length, with the difficulties being, that the vehicle is taxed, and the owner sees that this, in his opinion, is not creating any problem.

Mrs. Pearlstone, Somerset Councillor, highlighted some issues from their written report, which had been circulated to members. Mr. Marsh asked whether there was any update on the Bus stop at Great Orchard, reference accurate timetables and route numbers, to which Mrs. Pearlstone stated that these were still ongoing. It was agreed in future, to copy in both Somerset Councillors with any Highway issues.

Mr. Marsh asked if the new Somerset Council had agreed what services would continue to be carried out by the new Authority, now that the District Councils will no longer exist, and what might the Parish Councils have to take over. Mrs. Pearlstone stated that these issues have yet to be determined.

In the absence of Mr. Capozzoli, District Councillor, the Clerk reported that this would have been his last meeting to attend, as District Councillor, and Mr. Capozzoli had thanked the Council for their support over the years that he had served as District Councillor.

It was agreed to send him a letter of thanks, expressing best wishes for him in the future.

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

The Council noted the crime figures for, Ilchester Parish, which had been received and circulated.

Mr. Schofield reported on the meeting held in Ilchester, with the Police Crime Commissioner, Mark Shelford and other Officers on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Schofield stated relevant issues, crime, parking, antisocial were discussed, and he was pleased to learn that the PCSO who had attended was going into Schools. It had been agreed that these meeting could be held quarterly, and the Clerk was instructed to remind the Police Crime Commissioner of this promise. The Crime Commissioner had been thanked for coming to Ilchester.

Mr. Hall reported that he had attended on the same day, a meeting held in Yeovil, attended by the Police Crime Commissioner and the heads of the Police in Yeovil. He stated that this had been urban based and he had found it seriously depressing.

Mr. Marsh highlighted that the Surgery is now open on Mondays and Wednesdays for Nursing appointments. There are transport provision issues, for persons to be able to attend the Surgery in Somerton.

Mr. H. Williams reported on behalf of the Town Trust that the old CCTV system had proved no longer fit for purpose, and has now been replaced. It was noted that there had been major problems with the New Years Eve booking event, resulting in bad behaviour, and vandalism within the Hall.

Rev. B. Faulkner reported from IDCA stating that IDCA is proposing to hold an event to celebrate H.M. the King's Coronation being held on May 6<sup>th</sup> which may include a road closure. A working group is being proposed to arrange this event.

Rev. Faulkner stated that the proposed replacement of a Storage container is still ongoing.

Mr. Marsh reported from IRINEC that a new Trustee, Mrs. Claire Parker has been appointed to replace Mrs. M. Burke, who had retired as Trustee, having left Ilchester.

Rev. Faulkner informed the Council, that he has not heard from the Cumbria Clock Co. reference the new part for the Church clock. Rev. Faulkner stated that the marked area in St. Mary's Churchyard is for the proposed 'wilding' area.

Rev. Faulkner reported that consultations are taking place within the Diocese, with a view to reduce the overall number of Clergy within the Diocese.

### **192. Youth Parish Councils**

Miss Stapleton stated that it is intended to restart the Youth Parish Council meetings in March and she & Rachel are going to visit to Martock Youth Club, to see how their Youth Club operates.

### **193. Hainbury development & Housing survey**

The Council noted that the Survey had been sent out by the Community Council for Somerset to residents, and it had been agreed that there should be two public meetings, one at the Junior School on Friday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm and a second meeting on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall at 6.00pm. These have been advertised both on Facebook, Notice board and Website.

### **194. Planning matters**

The Council noted that there was still no decision on 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).

### **195. Financial matters**

The account balances were reported as at 31/01/23 C/A/c £100 & B/R A/c £35,045.40p

**Receipts** - £25.92p Bank interest.

**Payments made** -

09/02/23	2647	£20	T. Mephram skate park
09/02/23	2648	£578.45	P. Horsington salary & expenses
09/02/23	2649	£750.28	SSDC play inspections – six months

The Council approved the above cheques for payment.

The Council discussed the allotments rents for the year 2023/24 and on the proposition of Miss Stapleton, seconded by Mr. Schofield, it was unanimously agreed that these should remain at £20 & £15 as last year.

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**196. Cemetery**

In the absence of Mrs. Panter and Mr. Litwinek, no issues were raised, except to note that the request for quotations for the wall repairs will be sent out in early Spring.

**197. Highway matters**

The Council noted that the footpath to the Mead still needs to be cleared.

Mr. Galloway reported that the VAS device has been repaired and has been put up in the Northover area. The data collected has been circulated to members and put on the Parish Council's Website. It was agreed to put the VAS up again in Northover, as the data showed one incident of a vehicle doing 70MPH. Mr. Galloway was thanked for sorting out the issues with the VAS.

The Council had received the Emailed reports from the meeting with the Transport Officer, and his two replies. These had been sent to members. After discussion, the question was asked, what more can the Parish Council do. It was agreed to ask the Transport Officer again for comment.

The Clerk reported that a resident had contacted him reference a Street light not working by No. 1, The Paddocks, West Street. This had been reported to Highways Lighting.

The visibility of the Zebra lighting had been highlighted and it was noted that the Zebra lighting at the Schools' crossing need to be inspected.

Mr. Hall updated the meeting of the various contacts he has made to the owners of HGVs using Ilchester as a short cut rather than using the A.303 bypass.

**198. Flooding issues**

There were no issues reported.

**199. Allotments**

Mr. Williams asked that the date for a meeting with tenants is added to next month's agenda.

**200. Skate Park**

Mr. Schofield reported that the weekly SSDC inspections have been received, with no major issues being highlighted.

Mr. Schofield stated that he was getting a quotation from Gravity Ltd for some short term repairs. There was nothing to report on the major refurbishment project to replace the existing skate ramps.

**201. Mead Play area**

Mr. Schofield reported that the fortnightly SSDC inspections have been received, with no issues highlighted.

**202. Rights of Way**

In the absence of Mr. Litwinek, members had no issues to report.

**203. Tree Matters**

Mr. Williams reported that he had trimmed some trees, that needed attention within the Sports field.

**204. Correspondence**

The letter received from Mr. G. Masters had been circulated and was noted.

The Somerset Waste Partnership newsletter, also circulated, was also noted.

**205. Items for Report, or for the agenda of the next meeting**

Mr. H. Williams highlighted the issue of dog fouling being left around and not being picked by dog owners. It was agreed that this issue be put on the next agenda, and highlighted in the next edition of the Newsletter.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.13pm.

Signed:

Date:

