

**Minutes of the Ilchester Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday April 13th 2023
at the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Mrs. H. Panter, Chairman, Mr. S. Marsh, Mr. D. Galloway, Mr. J. Hall, Mr. A. Litwinek, Mr. A. Schofield, Miss J. Stapleton, Mr. H. Williams, Mrs. Emily Pearlstone, Somerset Councillor, Mrs. P. Andrews, Ms. T. Rowe, Mr. & Mrs. T. Harding, Mrs. D. Galloway, Mr. G. Mottram, Chair of the Ilchester Town Trust, Miss R. Binns, Mr. C. Brook and the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr. P. Horsington.

Apologies were received from Rev. Faulkner and Mr. J. Bailey, Somerset Councillor,
The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The Minutes of the previous year's meeting held on April 14th 2022, having been circulated and with copies being available for the members of the public, were signed as a correct record.

Mrs. Panter, Chairman's report

Mrs. Panter gave her report which included -

Thanks to fellow Councillors for all their work and support over the last year and also to the Clerk.

There have been some changes to the Council, Mr. G. Bushell, leaving the Council, not standing for re-election. Mr. J. Hall with Mrs. P. Andrews being co-opted. Mr. Hughes, left the Council and Mr. D. Galloway was co-opted during the year.

The setting up of the new Somerset Unitary Authority with SSDC continuing alongside has been challenging.

The Council commissioned a full Village survey, which went to each household asking for views on many topics, ranging from housing, surgery issues traffic and social needs.

Traffic volume, speeding and parking continues to be major issues. The Council have met with Somerset Highways to try to improve these issues, but with little success.

A meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner was held in January, with other Police Officers in attendance. Mark Shelford outlined his principles on Policing, and listened to issues raised by the Councillors present.

As to Flooding issues, there was no update on any new Modelling, affecting the Ilchester area.

Planning is always a challenge. The next planning issue we will have to deal with is the Country Park with 200 or 300 houses at the top end of the village at Fosse Way. The building of the 150 houses at the top end of the village is nearly completed.

The Council decided after some debate, to inform the Angling Club that the Council did not wish to pursue with buying their area of land adjacent to Ivel Gardens, beside the river Yeo. The reasons being cost of maintenance and issues with the potential parking area involved.

Dog Fouling continues to be an ongoing problem and what is really annoying is leaving the poo bags around the village and not taking them home. It is littering the village and quite disgusting. If you have a dog please be responsible and take the bag with you.

Finally the Remembrance service on November 13th was back to normal and very well supported, thanks were expressed to Rev. Faulkner for his part, and to all involved. The traffic management worked well, with the only issue being the small number returning to the Town Hall afterwards for teas and coffee.

Mr. Marsh's report -

Finance:

Monitoring and producing the financial accounts in conjunction with the Clerk.

Preparing the yearly budgets / Precept.

The Precept for the year 2023-24 is £31,000 a £2,000 increase on last year.

This increase is to contribute towards the Council having to provide more resources for work in the Parish.

Mr. Galloway's report

Speed Indicator Device (SID):VAS,

Mr. Galloway reported that the VAS has been put regularly in various locations in and around Ilchester.

The data shows that there is in the region of 2 million vehicles passing through Ilchester per annum. There is 75% speeding vehicles from the Somerton direction, and the device has a positive impact in slowing vehicles. It appears that 98% of vehicles are using Ilchester as a short cut, rather than using the A.303 bypass. The top speed recorded in the 30 MPH speed limit was 76 MPH. The data is being put on website and passed onto the Police to help them target hotspots.

Mr. Hall's report**Highway matters**

The issues of speeding, volume of traffic and parking continue to be the main concerns. The use of the SID provides evidence of both volume & speed data, which according to County Highways do not consider sufficient to warrant major funding.

The Council are highlighting areas where improvements could be made, one idea being put forward is to raise the levels of the three Zebra crossings to make them safer.

Parking continues to be a major concern, as there are examples of cars blocking pavements, putting pedestrians at risk.

Mr. Scofield's report**The Skate Park & Mead Play Areas**

The Skate Park is a well-used facility, not only by the residents of Ilchester, but from outlying villages also from Yeovil and Wincanton.

As the Skate Park equipment was installed in 2005 (17 years old); though safe the equipment is becoming dated. In the next five years the facility will need to be replaced. The cost replacing the ramps will be in excess of £250,000.

The Mead Play area continues to be well used & inspected regularly every two weeks.

Mr. A. Litwinek report**Cemetery**

Mr. Litwinek reported that part of the west wall had collapsed and a meeting will be held to agree a works' schedule, prior to the works being sent out for quotations.

Mr. H. William's report**Allotments**

Mr. H. Williams reported that all the allotments are taken, and there is a waiting list of ten. A meeting with the Tenants will be held on April 23rd.

Mr. A. Litwinek's report**Rights of Way**

Mr. Litwinek informed the meeting that the Rights of Way were well used, with no issues to report.

Miss J. Stapleton's report**Youth Parish Council**

Miss Stapleton reported that she and Miss R. Binns are looking to re-start the Youth Parish Council, engaging with the Parish Youth members.

Police matters

The Council noted that regular Crime stats are being received, as well as their Newsletters. It was noted that the Council would appreciate their attendance at meetings on the odd occasion.

RNAS report

The meeting noted that Mr. Graydon, CRO RNAS had retired during the year and a new Officer was in post, but no report had been received.

Somerset Councillor's report – Mrs. E. Pearlstone

Mrs. Pearlstone reported that the new Authority is now in place, with herself and Mr. J. Bailey being the Councillors for the area including Ilchester. Local Council Network groups are being formed.

Mrs. Panter thanked both the new Councillors for their support.

Reports from Village Organisations.**Ilchester Town Trust**

Mr. G. Mottram, Chairman of the Ilchester Town Trust reported the Charity was still recovering from the impact of Covid. The income for last year was £5K less than previously. Investment has been made within the Town Hall, with a new cooker and dishwasher being installed. A new website is being developed. More play equipment is to be put on the Sports field, having been removed from the Tall Trees Centre area at Taranto Hill. The Museum has just opened and will at present be opened on Wednesdays. Mr. Mottram was thanked for his report.

IDCA report

Miss R. Binns reported that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on June 5th had been a very successful event, well attended, despite the weather being a bit damp later in the day. The Easter Egg hunt had been well supported and there are plans to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles on May 6th.

Discussion took place on the distribution of the Newsletter, which is being published bi-monthly.

IRINEC**Ilchester Relief in Need and Education report**

The object of the Charity is twofold, firstly to provide Relief in Need either generally or individually to persons resident in the Parish of Ilchester, and secondly in the Promotion of Education of persons resident in the Parish of Ilchester. A financial need must be established for Relief in Need applications.

The Charity's income is derived from the rents on farmland owned mainly in the Parish of Stocklinch gifted to the charity by Robert Veal in the 13th century. Further income is derived from the interest on charity investments.

During 2022 Trustees have been approached by students attending university, further education college and other training providers. These students have been supported to help them with their studies. Trustees are also approached by educational establishments in the parish of Ilchester to support local organisations. During 2022 IRINEC has supported more than 17 students. Trustees have also provided grants for individuals and organisations where a need is established.

The Charity is in a stable financial position and aims to support the Community during 2023. Any enquiries can be made through the clerk; Kaye Elston and her email address is kayeelston@aol.co.uk

Surgery news**Mr. S. Marsh**

Mr. Marsh reported that he is a member of the PPG and stated that two extra Nurses have been recruited and there is a vacancy for one new Doctor. He reported that the Practice could accommodate an extra 1,700 patients.

Ilchester Community Primary School

As the Schools were on the Easter break, there was no report received from Mr. N. Heath, Head Teacher from the Ilchester Community Schools. It was noted that Mr. Heath is retiring at the end of the Summer term.

St Mary Major PCC report

In the absence of Rev. Faulkner, the report to the APCM was available. It was noted that the two years of shut down due to Covid had ended but still had its impact. For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the 'Coronation' in St. Mary's Church at the end of May, involving the Schools had been very successful.

There are 20 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, and the Remembrance Service, Christmas & Easter Services were well supported. It was noted that Mrs. P. Morley, Churchwarden had died during the year.

A book of Condolence for H.M. Queen Elizabeth 2nd had been opened for all parishes in the area.

Other issues.

There being no other matters raised, Mrs. Panter thanked all those present and closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

Signed.

Date.