



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday January 11th 2024
at the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors: Mr. S. Marsh (Chairman), Mr. J. Hall, Miss J. Stapleton, Mr. H. Williams, Miss. R. Binns,
Mr. A. Litwinek

Parish Clerk: Mrs. R. Coombes & Mr. P. Horsington

County Councillors: Cllr E. Pearlstone

Parishioners: Rev. B. Faulkner, and 5 members of the public attended.

It was noted at the start of the meeting that it was Mr P Hoisington's last meeting. Councillors thanked him for the work he had carried out for them over the years as Clerk.

156. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr D. Galloway, Mr. A.Schofield, Mr. J. Bailey, Somerset Councillor, police, Phil Jones RNAS.

157. The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2023.

These minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed and agreed that they be signed as correct.

It was noted by the Council that there no applications for the vacancy, and co-option is now available.

158. Members of the Public

It was brought to the attention of the Council by a member of the public that a van had been broken in to on Saturday night, along with 5 other vans in the area. It was felt there was a lack of police presence in Ilchester. Councillors maintain a relationship with the local PCSO and there is a meeting at the end of the month. Cllr Marsh encouraged parishioners to ensure that everything is reported as this affects where resources are deployed.

A member of the public had attended the online session on flooding concerning the Somerset River Authority's strategic plan. Parishes within the Cam valley are holding a separate meeting relating to the flooding with SRA and the Environment Agency. There is another meeting to be held on Friday 19th in Bridgwater regarding flooding and details can be found on the SRA website. There appears to be a leak in the flood defence, which is leaking from the brook into the ditch, this has been reported to the Environment Agency.

Parishioners raised concerns regarding potholes which need to be repaired. There are 3 at The Mead and more on Limington Road. It was decided that the Clerk would contact Highways for a response.

A member of the public raised concern over the deterioration of the fingerpost on the corner of Limington Road. Somerset Forge Ltd had provided a quote for £600 ex. VAT to fully restore the fingerpost with all components being removed, shotblasted and primed, each component then being painted with top coat and highlighting and the post reassembled on to a new galvanised

spigot. A member of the public has offered his help with repairs. It was decided to get further quotes and discuss proceeding at a future meeting.

A member of the public had been issued a car parking ticket in the Limington Road car park, after they parked in a space that was not designated as a parking space. The Council were made aware that the Enforcement team have been visiting the car park to check the disabled bays and issuing tickets to those parked incorrectly. The Council asked Cllr Pearlstone to investigate whether the unmarked space in the car park can be marked as a parking space or hatched to clarify where people can park.

159. Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS

Cllr E. Pearlstone reported that there was no update on the Abbotts Road play area. It is not currently being inspected by Somerset Council. Questions were raised as to who was insuring the play area. Cllr Pearlstone agreed to follow this up to establish ownership.

It was reported that recycling plants can no longer charge for DIY waste/ rubble. There will be some closures to recycling plants due to budget cuts within Somerset Council, so far there are 5 proposed sites in contention. There is no guarantee all 5 proposed sites will close, and Somerset only needs to provide 2 recycling plants by law.

LCN – the next LCN meeting is to be held on 25th January, at Ilchester Town Hall.

In the absence of Mr. P. Jones, RNAS, there were no issues raised.

160. Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.

Cllr Stapleton has a PCSO meeting at the end of the month, the latest police statistics were read out.

A Coffee morning was held in order to help save the 54 bus. There is an online petition, with paper copies located around the town. £2 fare seems to have made a difference, though an extra 100 return journeys are required to make it sustainable.

Surgery – It was noted that if there is a medical problem over the weekend and you call 111, 111 will make the local surgery aware of your need.

Town Trust – No meeting was held last month

IDCA - Dates for the year set, it was noted there is a need for further volunteers to help with events. An editor is required for the newsletter, a survey is required to gather peoples responses on the newsletter.

IRINEC – no update

Church – no update to report.

Community links – no update

Noticeboard – no update

Library service – intending to come to a coffee morning and investigate whether this could be a fundraising source.

161. Website

The Council noted that the website is being regularly updated. Cllrs have asked Cllr Binns to provide a usage report to see how many people are using the website. The SID data is being added to the website.

162. Youth Parish Council

Cllr Stapleton reported that there is difficulty engaging with the young people, instead they are going to visit the Year 6 children on a Wednesday at school.

163. Hainbury development & Housing survey

No further update. It was agreed the clerk would follow up with County Council about the S106 payment.

164. Planning matters

The Council noted that there was no decision to report on application 23/01667/LBC at the Mill House, Northover to dismantle 1 No. existing chimney to existing lead tray level and rebuilding of the chimney like for like. No further update.

The Council noted there was no other information received on the application 23/01618/HYBRID at Hainbury Farm, Fosse Way for 1) Full application for the demolition of Farm buildings, creation of a Nature Reserve, vehicular access, engineering and associated works & 2) OUTLINE application with all matters reserved except for access for up to 200 dwellings, one hectare employment land, 0.5 hectare local facility land, public open space, landscaping, pedestrian / cycle access and associated works, with no decision.

The Council noted that there was no decision on applications 23/02377/LBC & 23/02836/HOU at 27, High Street for formation of a new opening in a garden wall within the curtilage of a Listed Building and the installation of a new timber garden gate (implemented).

It was noted there will be meetings from April onwards with the Nature trust & Mr P Young, Cllr Binns will be attending.

165. Financial matters

The account balances were reported as at 30/11/23 C/A/c £100 & B/R A/c £36,231.06

Receipts: £42.67 - Bank interest

Payments made:

Donations: £50 - Macmillan
£100 - St. John Ambulance
£150 - D & S Air Ambulance
£50 - CAB
£200 - IDCA
£300 - St. Mary Major PCC

Payments: £563.32 - Three Counties Landscaping
£20 - T. Mephram,
£157.80 - HMRC
£105 - Fine Memorials
£50 - S. Marsh,
£624.81 - PTH
£310.71 - Water2 Business

The Council approved & signed the above cheques for payment.

166. Budget & Precept Request

The council decided further information was required due to the devolution of services from Somerset Council to approve the budget and precept request and would hold a separate meeting to cover this matter. The meeting date will be: 18th January 7:00pm, at the Town Hall.

167. Cemetery

The Council have been approached by a parishioner looking to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award, they have asked to carry out some repair works within the cemetery to help them achieve this award. The Council agreed this could go ahead with Cllr Marsh as the point of contact.

168. Highway matters

Cllr Hall and Cllr Binns attended a meeting on Friday 5th January with the Highways department and Police to continue discussions regarding slowing down the traffic through Ilchester. Progress was made regarding the subject of the lorry watch and the police would like to use Ilchester as a sample until 50 lorries are found to be breaking the 7.5 tonne limit. This may require further volunteers at a later stage.

It was suggested there was a requirement of a Memorandum of Understanding relating to the hire of the SID device to other locations. The council will look in to grants to cover the cost of another SID post and a replacement Speed Indicator Device.

A query had been raised over lighting for the car park at Great Orchard. Councillor Pearlstone will investigate further with Somerset Council.

169. Flooding issues

It was noted the parish is in need of a Flood Warden, councillors agreed to find a suitable candidate for the position.

170. Allotments

Cllr. Williams reported that the allotments are extremely wet. The locks were lubricated last weekend. It was suggested the council review the rent for the next year.

171. Skate Park

In the absence of Mr. Schofield, it was reported that the weekly Somerset inspections have not highlighted any major issues.

172. Mead Play area

In the absence of Mr. Schofield, it was reported that the fortnightly Somerset inspections have not highlighted any major issues.

173. Rights of Way

There were no issues reported.

174. Tree Matters

There were no issues reported.

175. Correspondence

None received.

176. Items for report or for the next month's agenda

It was noted that there is a lot of ivy growing on the wall next to the bridge which is causing damage. This is to be reported to the owner of the wall.

The Council were reminded that the Budget and Precept proposals need to be considered and approved at the meeting on 18th January. The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday 8th February 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 9.06 pm.

Signed:

Date: