



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday 8th February 2024
at the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors: Cllr S Marsh (Chairman), Cllr D Galloway, Cllr J Hall, Cllr J Stapleton, Cllr H Williams, Cllr R Binns, Cllr A Schofield
Parish Clerk: R Coombes
County Councillors: Cllr E Pearlstone, Cllr J Bailey
Parishioners: 5 members of the public attended

181. Apologies

Apologies were received from Phil Jones RNAS.

The Council noted that Cllr Litwinek has resigned from the Council. Ilchester Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Litwinek for his time on the Council.

182. The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2024 and 18th January 2024.

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

183. Casual Vacancy

It was noted by the Council that there are now 2 vacancies on the council. No applications have been received so far, and co-option is now available. Cllr Binns agreed to post a notice of vacancy on the Facebook page.

184. Members of the Public

A member of the public spoke about the recent flooding and progress since. A meeting was to be arranged with Mark Doyle from the Environment Agency, but there has been no response from Mr Doyle. The member of the public reported that they had attended the meeting held by Somerset Rivers Authority and that there is another one to be held on the 8th March in Shepton Mallet. It was noted the Parish Council need to appoint a flood warden.

Concerns were raised regarding the parking along Mead Road during busy sports events at the weekend. It was stated there is often no space left in order to allow cars to pass. Cllr Williams reported the Town Trust are aware and are trying to find measures which could alleviate the issue.

A member of the public expressed a wish for more noticeboards to be present in the Parish to ensure everyone had chance to view the parish information. It was suggested one could be installed at the shop at Taranto Hill. The Council agreed to look at costs for a new noticeboard. Cllr R Binns will take this to the working group.

It was reported that the parking on the grass at the end of West Street is increasing in frequency. The grass area belongs to Somerset Council and the highways department are responsible for its upkeep. It was agreed Cllr Hall would provide photos for the County Councillors and to be sent to John Nicholson. There are currently problems with enforcement within the parish relating to people parking on yellow lines, it was agreed photos were to be taken and provided to the County

Councillors.

There were also concerns regarding dogs fouling on the grass outside the Town Hall, as well as people parking at the exit of the car park. It is hoped that when the council resurface and paint the carpark, this will reduce this problem.

185. Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN

Cllr Pearlstone will be providing an updated report to be circulated to the council. Further information regarding the financial situation of Somerset Council will be provided in due course.

Cllr Pearlstone reported that Somerset Council are going to review all car parks and charges. This may affect Limington Road car park in due course, updates will be provided accordingly.

Cllr Bailey reported that the highways and transport meeting will now be held on 21st February. John Nicholson has requested a copy of the parish survey the Council conducted. Ilchester Parish Councillors stated the survey and results are on the website and readily available to everyone.

IPC confirmed they had decided to increase the precept by 10% this year in order to provide a sum which can be used to carry out the work in the parish which Somerset Council will no longer be completing. Further concerns were raised by councillors over training and liability for some of these tasks.

Cllr Bailey confirmed the 20mph zone implementation would be going ahead. Councillors would like an approximate timescale relating to when this work will be completed and how long it will take.

A petition regarding the 54 bus now has 1,000 signatures, this will be presented to the full council meeting of Somerset Council on 20th March in Bridgwater. The bus provides essential travel to the surgery and there are discussions about adding a bus stop to the route at Yeovilton and the museum to boost people using the service. There is a further meeting scheduled next week.

No report was provided by RNAS. Cllr Hall requested the council contact Yeovilton regarding fire engines travelling through the village after training.

LCN – Cllr Stapleton attended on behalf of Ilchester Parish Council. The meeting focussed mainly on the finances of Somerset Council and the services that are likely to be impacted by this. More information is continuing to be circulated but Highway stewards and Parish rangers are going to be available for Parishes to buy in to.

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

Police – Cllr Stapleton reported that she had received the latest information from the PCSO, this information should be sent to the Clerk in future.

Surgery – No further information.

Town Trust – The phone line has been upgraded from analogue to digital. A new front door has been installed at the pavilion in preparation of a coded door system, locking mechanisms and security alarm which will be installed soon. This will allow the doors to be opened with a fob/key pad instead of a key.

IDCA – A new editor for the newsletter has been appointed. There are future fundraising events organised.

Church – No update provided.

Community links – The date for the next meeting is to be scheduled.

Library service – No update provided. Cllr Pearlstone agreed to investigate this service.

187. IRINEC Representative

A brief description of IRINEC and the work they conduct within the parish was provided by Cllr Marsh. Cllr Marsh agreed to continue to be the representative of Ilchester Parish Council for IRINEC

188. Website

The Council noted that the website is being regularly updated. The use of Google Analytics had been investigated; this will allow the Council to see how many people are using the website and what information they are looking at. Cllr Binns reported this came at a £40.00 cost. It was proposed and agreed to proceed with the implementation of Google Analytics on the website.

189. Youth Parish Council

Cllr Stapleton reported that a meeting will be scheduled with the school. Cllr Hall raised concerns that the bus shelter needs re-painting and it was agreed this would be looked at with the Youth Parish Council.

190. Planning matters

Councillors received an update on the following planning applications:

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. **Permitted with conditions**

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). **Permitted with conditions**

The Council noted there was no update 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.

191. Financial matters

The account balances were reported as at 31/01/24 C/A/c £100 & B/R A/c £36,775.71

Receipts: £36.29 - Bank interest

Payments to be made: £563.32 - Three Counties Landscaping

£20 - T. Mepham,

£585.31 - PTH

£426.00 – R Coombes

£750.28 – Somerset Council Play Inspections

The Council approved & signed the above cheques for payment.

192. To review banking options

After conversations between the Clerk and Natwest bank, it was discovered that the banking of the Council cannot be moved online at present. The clerk provided a brief report on how internet banking would operate with dual authorisation and the need for multiple signatories to be created on the account. The Clerk had investigated which bank most councils used and found that most used Unity. The Clerk will provide more information regarding Unity bank at the next meeting.

193. Cemetery

With the resignation of Cllr Litwinek, the Council need to find someone to oversee maintenance of the cemetery and report any issues with the upkeep. Councillors will seek to find someone to carry on this role.

194. Highway and Footpath matters

Footpaths

The stile at the end of the lane is becoming dangerous, a photo will be provided by Cllr Hall. There is also a damaged bridge on Leyland drove which will be reported.

Highways

The latest SID data had been circulated prior to the meeting. There seems to be an issue with the SID getting stuck which can make it appear very bright. Cllr Galloway agreed to investigate other options for Speed Indicator Devices. Cllr Binns will send details of a grant that is available via Avon and Somerset Police.

Lorry watch needs to be organised with volunteers and the police.

195. Flooding issues

There were no further flooding issues other than those that had been raised already to report on.

196. Allotments

Cllr Williams reported that there was a parishioner interested in a plot. There are issues with the locks filling with water. 2 water troughs are leaking and are under repair.

197. Skate Park & Mead Play Area

Cllr Schofield agreed to meet Kenton Bourne to receive more information on the comments provided on the playground inspections. The bracket on the picnic table at The Mead play area will also be replaced.

198. Any other correspondence received

None received.

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

It was reported that the dog bin at the end of West Street wasn't emptied, the council hope this was a one off occurrence but will monitor the situation and report it if necessary.

It was noted that 2 Christmas trees have been planted opposite the Northover layby.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 21:04pm.

Signed:

Date: