



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
at the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.30 pm.**

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

**001/2024 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Bailey, Rev B Faulkner, Cllr R Binns

**002/2024 The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

These minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed and agreed that they be signed as correct with the exception of correcting "town" to "village". It was agreed by Councillors to contact the highways department and ask them to correct this on the road sign at Taranto Hill.

**003/2024 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. These vacancies are published on the website and in the newsletter. Councillors were invited to try to find volunteers to co-opt on to the council.

**004/2024 Members of the Public**

A member of the public raised issues about the area around the Scout hut as it is very untidy, the fence is broken and building supplies have been left behind. Cllr Williams has reported it to the Town Trust previously as they are the owners; but agreed to raise the issue with the chairman of the Town Trust again and ask him to take some action due to the frustration being caused.

Another member of the public raised concerns about the grass cutting contractors at The Mead. There have been issues with the contractors parking in a private parking space. Cllr Schofield agreed to liaise with the contractors and ask them to park appropriately. It will be confirmed that they have an access key.

A parishioner reported they had attended the recent Flood café in Glastonbury, another meeting is scheduled for May. Mark Doyle from the EA attended the parish and visited the Mill House, to find the owner has had the expansion joint fixed privately as he had been waiting for a response from the Environment Agency for so long. Mr Doyle also visited The Mead where parishioners showed him the ditch and the leaks coming in to the ditch. Mr Doyle reported that he will put a project together to investigate further but due to other problems, it is not a priority and it's unlikely to be actioned. It was stated the flooding at The Mead was not deemed to be critical because it can be solved with a pump, however, Mr Doyle also said the EA are going to stop the pumps being used. It was decided that Ilchester Parish Council would write to the Environment Agency and ask what the circumstances are about being on the critical list.

Another member of the public spoke regarding the 20mph speed limit and the plans to enforce the 20mph. Councillors suggested use of the Speed Indicator Device to collect data and present this to the police, this would enable further measures such as a mobile speed camera to be present. Other measures are being investigated by the Council, such as raising the zebra crossing. Councillors are concerned about an increase in volume and speeding traffic due to the proposed development. It was suggested the Council could set up a speedwatch group.

A member of the public raised concerns about dogs on the green and people parking on the yellow hatched area in the carpark obstructing the exit. Questions about whether or not the contractors cut the grass at Priory Road were also raised. It was noted this land belongs to the Town Trust but Cllr Schofield agreed to confirm whether this land was maintained when he was in contact with the contractors.

#### **005/2024 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN**

Ilchester Parish Councillors had previously received the circulated report from Somerset Councillors. It was agreed these should be attached to the minutes from now on. Please see Appendix 1 for the received report from Councillor Pearlstone and Councillor Bailey. Councillor Pearlstone informed the Council that the 2 pieces of land that Somerset Council own within the Parish of Ilchester had the potential to become Ilchester Parish Councils responsibility; this includes the play parks at Pillbridge and Great Orchard. Councillors decided to find out further information from Somerset Council about what this would entail and the associated costs.

*LCN* – Cllr Marsh had attended a meeting for the Traffic & Highways group from the LCN. The main aim of the meeting was to meet the people behind the Highways team. The Highways team reported they would like to provide officers that would be available to communicate with local communities. The general view of the meeting was that Highways will continue to be maintained, but if there is something that could be enhanced in the Parish, the local council will need to pay for it. It was decided to establish who owns and is responsible for strips of land in the parish.

#### **006/2024 Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.**

*Police* – the latest figures from police.uk were presented to Councillors. 11 crimes in Ilchester during February 2024; 8 violence and sexual offences, 1 anti-social behaviour, 1 criminal damage & arson, 1 public order offence.

*Surgery* – There will be a new system in place to request an appointment online, this will allow the Drs to have more background information before providing further assistance. Open sessions will be held at the surgery to help people log on. The next Covid booster also now available for over 75s.

*Town Trust* – The business rates for pavilion and town hall are set for zero for this year. A table top sale was held which raised £151.00. The museum was open Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and is open for the rest of the summer season. Car boot will be running when the ground has dried out. The grass parking has been closed off temporarily to protect the grass as the ground is so wet. A new fence has been erected at the pavilion to aid childrens safety and prevent them running in to the carpark.

*IDCA* – The latest newsletter has been produced, it was felt more hard copies could be required. It was reported the bunny hunt event was very successful and events for the year are listed.

*Community links* – No further update. A meeting will be held shortly.

*Church* – The Reverend had provided an update prior to the meeting:

“1. As vice chair of governors at Ilchester School I can formally announce that following a full appointments process and interviews with 2 candidates the board of governors have appointed

Mrs Michelle Mordue to take on the role of Substantive Head Teacher for September 2024. At present time Michelle is on a year's contract as interim head.

2. Following a lengthy conversation with Bath and Wells Board of Finance the PCC at St Mary Major have been given the go ahead to sell, via auction, the Old School Rooms. Our next step is to get 'outline' change of use in place (presently for ecclesiastical purposes only) and then progress to sell. The sale funds will be held by the DBF and released to the PCC for works that are for 'ecclesiastical' purposes - we have been directed by the architects to replace the falling to pieces boiler house and the PCC would like to install proper toilets to the building."

*Community links* – No further update.

*Noticeboard* – Gigaclear had been in contact to ask if there was anything within the Parish they could support. It was felt the offer of sponsorship could be investigated in relation to the noticeboard.

*Youth Parish Council* – No further update.

### **007/2024 Website**

No update to report

### **008/2024 Planning matters**

Councillors received an update on the following planning applications:

*24/00808/TPO* – The application to carry out tree surgery work to a Tree within a Conservation Area was noted by the Council.

Location: Ilchester Town Trust, High Street, Ilchester, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 8NQ

*23/01618/HYBRID* – Hainbury Farm – Additional plans/information.

The Council agreed to submit an agreed response to the planning department against the application while highlighting issues and concerns with the proposed plans.

It was noted the Council wrote to Wessex Water and asked them to confirm there was enough capacity in the sewerage system for all the new and proposed developments.

### **009/2024. Financial matters**

<b>Balances at 28/03/24:</b>	£100.00 – Current Account
	£31,649.42 – Business Reserve Account
<b>Receipts:</b>	£36.25 - Interest
<b>Payments to be made:</b>	£563.32 - Three Counties Landscaping
	£20 - T. Mephram
	£426.00 – R Coombes

The Council approved & signed the above cheques for payment.

Banking update: The application for the bank account with Unity Trust Bank has been progressing. Councillors were asked to complete their signatures on the paperwork so that this can be posted. Councillors agreed to write a cheque for £500 to deposit in to the account so that it can be opened.

### **010/2024 Cemetery Update**

Those carrying out painting work at the cemetery need to access the locked doors in the little chapel. The Clerk will investigate this further to find a key/access.

### **011/2024 Highway and Footpath matters**

#### *20mph limit*

The implementation of the new 20mph limit is progressing. It was noted by the Council that only one complaint had been received from the formal consultation and that more of the public were in favour of the 20mph limit being imposed.

It was reported that lorry watch is still taking place, letters are being sent to the companies responsible and drivers are being deterred. Another meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Truck checking is still taken place.

The Clerk reported an e-mail had been received from resident at Dragonfly Chase who is concerned about the speed of vehicles entering the estate. The Highways Department had suggested a speed test to see whether a 20mph speed limit can be implemented, this would be at cost to Ilchester Parish Council. Councillors decided the SID could be placed at the estate to gather data in the first instance.

It was noted that OpenReach closed Pillbridge lane temporarily and then re-opened it again. Councillors asked the Clerk to establish when they would be returning to complete the work and what impact it would have on the road being closed.

### **012/2024 Flooding Update**

There were no further flooding issues other than those that had been raised already to report on. It was agreed to establish further information regarding to the flood warden role.

### **013/2024 Allotments**

Cllr Williams reported that due to the cost-of-living crisis the rent rates will stay the same this year. The next allotment meeting is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 2pm, this will be circulated to allotment holders along with their agreement for the next financial year.

### **014/2024 Skate Park & Mead Play Area**

Cllr Schofield hasn't yet met with Kenton Bourne.

### **015/2024 Somerset Day Big Picnic Event**

Councillors decided to pass the information regarding the Somerset Day Big Picnic on to IDCA to let them organise the event if they wished.

### **016/2024 Date of the Annual Parish Meeting**

It was decided to hold the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm in the hall upstairs. Representatives from the school, Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church, and Yeovilton will be invited to attend and provide a report for the annual parish meeting. The chairman of the Council will also provide a report.

### **017/2024 Meeting dates of the Parish Council for 24/25**

It was approved to continue holding meetings on the second Thursday of the month and publish the meeting dates for the rest of the financial year on noticeboards and the website.

### **018/2024 Other correspondence**

None received.

### **019/2024 Items for report or for the next month's agenda**

It was decided to have a monthly action list set for the clerk and councillors from the minutes of the meeting.

It was decided to review the Asset Register at the next meeting.

Repairs to the style at Browns Lane are required. It was decided the Clerk would raise this with Somerset Council Footpaths team.

With regards to the re-surfacing of the car park, the Council will need to work with the Town Trust in order to get the lines painted back on to the new surface. It was decided the Clerk would contact Gary Warren from the highways department regarding the lines required.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 9:12pm.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT