



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 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, Cllr R Binns  
**Parish Clerk:** R Coombes  
**County Councillors:** Cllr J Bailey  
**Parishioners:** 6 members of the public attended

**028/2024 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr E Pearlstone (Somerset Council) & Rev Faulkner

**029/2024 Election of Chairman and officers**

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr D Galloway was elected as chair of Ilchester Parish Council.

Approved: 5, Against: 0, Abstained: 1

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr S Marsh was elected as vice chair of Ilchester Parish Council.

Approved: 5, Against: 0, Abstained: 1

*Finance* – Cllr D Galloway agreed to be the representative for financial matters.

*Cemetery* – Cllr S Marsh and Cllr J Stapleton agreed to share the cemetery representation.

*Highways* – Cllr J Hall agreed to continue to be the representative for Highway matters.

*Allotments* – Cllr H Williams agreed to continue to be the representative for the allotments.

*Town Trust* – Cllr H Williams agreed to continue to be the representative from the Council for the Town Trust.

*YPC* – Cllr R Binns and Cllr J Stapleton agreed to share the Youth Parish Council representation.

*Play areas* – Cllr A Schofield agreed to continue to be the representative for the Play Areas.

*Website* – Cllr R Binns agreed to continue to be responsible for the website.

*IDCA* – Cllr R Binns agreed to continue to be the representative from the Council for IDCA.

*IRINEC* - Cllr S Marsh agreed to continue to be the representative from the Council for IRINEC.

**030/2024 Declaration of Interests**

None

**031/2024 The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

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

**032/2024 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.

### **033/2024 Members of the Public**

Residents of The Mead are concerned regarding the Scout hut and surrounding area. It is noted this area of land belongs to Ilchester Town Trust. IPC had previously contacted members of the Ilchester Town Trust and asked them to attend the area to establish what could be done. A resident shared their concern that ITT had not been in contact; councillors offered to contact ITT again to follow up this issue.

A parishioner raised concerns regarding the fingerpost on Limington Road. The parishioner had found an available grant for £250.00 towards the repair work. Another parishioner had previously offered to help repair the finger post, but on further inspection it was found it is in need of sandblasting; this would be around £100 and to re-spray it white would be a further £200.00. Councillors asked to consider the item and discuss again further in to the meeting.

A parishioner had attended the second flood café and met prospective MP, Sarah Dyke. He informed her of the Environment Agency proposal to withdraw the use of the pumps at the Mead. It was agreed to investigate funding opportunities for a pump for The Mead and that a 3 inch pump would be too small to cope with the water. The parishioner had carried out investigations at the flood defence but was unable to find a land drain and noted that the bottom of the ditch is full of gravel. There will be a further update from Mark Doyle of the Environment Agency regarding when the pump will be withdrawn.

A resident raised concerns regarding potential development on Mudford Road of 250 houses which it was felt had the potential to flood A37 further. Councillors agreed to look through the housing application and establish how the water would be dealt with and any impact there may be on the parish.

Residents also raised concern regarding the ransom strip at Priory Road. It is untidy and could cause an accident with drivers not being able to have a clear viewpoint when exiting their property. Councillors decided a letter from the Parish Council should be sent asking ITT to improve visibility.

### **034/2024 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN**

Reports from Somerset Councillor J Bailey and Phil Jones (RNAS) had already been received earlier in the evening at the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was noted that the pilot work for Truck watch had now been completed. Cllr J Hall will provide further information and the full specification for reports at the next meeting. It was felt the need for a photo each time was time consuming and made reporting more difficult.

### **035/2024 Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.**

*Police* – the latest figures from police.uk were presented to Councillors.

Reports regarding the surgery, Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Youth Parish Council and church had already been received earlier in the evening at the Annual Parish Meeting.

*Noticeboard* – Cllr J Stapleton and Cllr R Binns will provide a price for the noticeboard which will enable Gigaclear to confirm their level of support.

### **036/2024 Planning matters**

Councillors received an update on the following planning applications:

*24/00557/FUL* – Councillors were not in favour of the application. It was agreed that Cllr D Galloway would complete the response on behalf of the Council.

### **037/2024 Financial matters**

<b>Balances at 28/04/24:</b>	£100.00 – Current Account
	£64,345.67– Business Reserve Account
<b>Receipts:</b>	£41.17- Interest
	£35,090 – precept
<b>Payments to be made:</b>	£645.00 - Three Counties Landscaping
	£20 - T. Mephram
	£457.80 – R Coombes
	£1968.76 – Insurance
	£48.00 – Vision ICT
	£6.00 – Ilchester Town Trust – Annual rent

The Council approved & signed the above cheques for payment.

### **038/2024 Annual Governance Statement**

Councillors had been circulated the figures for the financial year 2023/2024 before the meeting. Councillors agreed to the Annual Governance Statement.

### **039/2024 Notice of Public Rights**

The period for the Notice of Public Rights was agreed by all Council members.

### **040/2024 Cemetery Update**

It was noted that members of the public carrying out painting work at the cemetery had found some old items. Cllr S Marsh & Cllr J Stapleton decided to review these.

### **041/2024 Highway and Footpath matters**

Councillors noted the grass areas had been cut, this was seen to be an indication of what was owned and maintained by Somerset Council.

Fingerpost – Councillors discussed how to proceed with the fingerpost restoration. It was felt that if it was done by a volunteer the liability would be on Ilchester Parish Council.

It was proposed and agreed that the fingerpost restoration was carried out by a professional company; Approved: 6, Against: 1, Abstained: 0.

Cllr R Binns will contact CPRE for further information regarding the grant.

Cllr Schofield had liaised with Three Counties Landscaping regarding alleged behaviour towards a resident and has asked them to park considerately. They have agreed to have a discussion with their staff members. Cllr Schofield also asked them to not cut Priory Road on behalf of IPC.

### **042/2024 Flooding Update**

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

### **043/2024 Allotments**

Cllr Williams reported that all plots were now full. The recent change in weather had seen more people visiting the allotments and carrying out work to their plots. The Town Trust had delivered a lorry load of unneeded woodchip which allowed people to maintain their paths.

### **044/2024 Skate Park & Mead Play Area**

It was reported that Cllr Schofield met with Kenton Bourne, who has extended the life of the skate park to 7 years. There is some patching to be done which we will get quotes for. Cllr A Schofield also met with the clerk of the Town Trust regarding the removal of the shelter and the tennis table, and discussed whether they could be removed or relocated. Councillors decided that the table tennis table can be removed. It was felt that if the shelter is to be relocated it will cost a lot of money, and Councillors were unsure of who would be responsible for payment. It was suggested that if it was removed, the shelter would have a scrap value which could be invested in to new

picnic benches. Councillors agreed they would like a map of the proposed car park and that this item should be on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

Cllr Schofield had also contacted Kenton Bourne regarding installing a car park next to the play area, and was informed there are no rules on distances. Maverick as a company would insist 5m.

**045/2024 Other correspondence**

None received.

**046/2024 Items for report or for the next month's agenda**

Cllr R Binns will be attending an event called "Action for Somersets future" and will provide a report at the next meeting.

Cllr Marsh raised concerns as to whether Three Counties Landscaping are cutting enough grass on the side of the road as you come off the A37 and in to the village.

Cllr Hall raised concerns regarding vehicles parking on the pavement outside the Northover Church and blocking pavement access for pedestrians.

Cllr Stapleton reported that she will be meeting with the PCSO 26th June at 11:30.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 9:27pm.

Signed:

Date: