



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

Councillors: Cllr D Galloway (Chair), Cllr S Marsh (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Hall, Cllr H Williams, Cllr R Binns, Cllr A Schofield, Cllr J Stapleton
Parish Clerk: R Coombes
County Councillors: Cllr J Bailey, Cllr E Pearlstone
Parishioners: 4 members of the public attended

069/2024 Apologies

None received.

070/2024 Declaration of Interests

None received.

071/2024 The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2024

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

072/2024 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.

073/2024 Members of the Public

A parishioner spoke regarding flooding at The Mead. It was noted there had been no response from the most recent correspondence, the parishioner requested that this been sent to Ian Withers of Wessex Enquiries, and to copy in the Unitary Councillors. The parishioner had spoken with Mark Doyle from the Environment Agency and confirmed a pump hadn't been purchased. Mark Doyle suggested having to rely on the pumps again, with action to repair the flood defence hopefully in the next year. The parishioner confirmed they had requested a contingency plan and asked EA to guarantee the best they can that The Mead will get a pump. It was noted they are able to hire more pumps in with a couple of hours' notice, and the parishioner assured them he can give 8 hours notice.

The parishioner also attended the Flood Warden session in Queen Camel where details of the role were shared. It was noted that various people/parishes had complained the hotline for the pump isn't being answered. It had been suggested at the meeting to contact Sarah Dyke and make her aware of the problems at The Mead and the necessity of getting the ditch/flood defence repaired. Information had also been shared regarding a grant available from the SRA for a small mobile 3" pump.

Cllr Binns raised whether the Parish Council would allow the Town Trust to buy the carpark at The Bull. Councillors felt they wouldn't be opposed to this and the Town Trust could approach them with a proposal. Re-surfacing quotes are still being obtained.

Cllr Binns also reported that there are weeds growing through the fence which is making access on the pavements difficult in the Northover roundabout area. Cllr Hall agreed to contact the landowner.

It was noted that the grass verges seem to be cut back, but none of the hedges. The hedge outside the school is particularly bad, it was agreed to ask the school to cut back the hedge at the end of nesting season.

074/2024 Hainbury Meadow

Concerns have been raised from Parishioners and Councillors regarding the finishing of the estate at Hainbury Meadow. Cllr Marsh reported that there are holes in the road and holes next to lampposts which are dangerous. There are also known flooding issues, and damage has been caused to people's property due to the state of the road.

Patrick Young was in attendance and assured the council that he has also issued complaints and is shocked by the state the roads have been left in. Councillors questioned how Somerset Council can potentially approve the second application for development when the first one hasn't been finished to a satisfactory level.

Cllr Pearlstone stated that the developer is required to sign a s38 agreement relating to roadside infrastructure and lighting, however this isn't a legal requirement and unfortunately in relation to this development, it hasn't been signed. This in turn means that Somerset Council cannot enforce any works to be completed. Cllr Pearlstone suggested that residents of the estate come together and complain to the developer, also to contact the MP and press.

074/2024 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Pearlstone reported that there have been savings made within Somerset Council, mostly due to redundancy.

Cllr Pearlstone wished to remind residents that they can sign-up for a fortnightly home garden waste collection.

Cllr Pearlstone also stated that, last year Somerset Council successfully prosecuted a Taunton landlord for breaching Housing laws by failing to licence their various properties.

Local matters

Buses - The 54 bus is still running a £2 offer, and now includes a stop at Yeovilton. Cllr Marsh raised concerns the bus timetable had been replaced for the 54 at Great Orchard but the 77 timetable had been removed in the process. Cllr Pearlstone agreed to investigate this, along with the bus timetable on the other side of the road being titled "Ilchester Mead".

It was reported that the 77 bus is one of the buses up for consideration to be cut.

Jetting and gulleys – Somerset Council will be carrying out work clearing the gulleys. Councillors were asked that if the areas are parked on regularly, to please update Somerset Council so that work can be done to keep the area clear beforehand. A parishioner added that this had occurred at the Mead and it would be helpful if a notification could be received.

LCN – continuing with areas of interest and will move into further discussions regarding youth, police, flooding and housing.

075/2024 Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.

Police – the latest figures from police.uk were presented to Councillors. Cllr Stapleton was due to meet with the PCSOs on the 26th June but it has been rescheduled due to Glastonbury Festival.

Noticeboard – 2 quotes have received which includes multiple noticeboards. It was decided to receive further quotes for installation. It was decided the Clerk should email Gigaclear with the prices and establish the level of donation and what they would like in return, e.g. advertising.

Town Trust – It was noted the portrait of the King had been hung on the wall, as well as the jubilee plaque, in the Town Hall.

Sports field – a new board is needed at the gate entrance with information, a contractor will be sourced to produce the boards and a grant will be acquired.

IDCA – Preparations are underway for the Ilchester community fete to be held on 27th July 2024.

Surgery – No further update

Church – Next week there will be a meeting with a company offering a free geophysical survey of St Andrews and the church yard, it is hoped this will aid historical research to see what could be underneath. A planning application has been submitted relating to the future of the old school rooms. It was reported the clock was also serviced this week.

School – It was reported that the application to become part of an Academy Trust had been approved. It was felt this will allow the school to remain fairly independent whilst providing huge benefits for the children.

Community links – no further update.

Youth Parish Council – It was reported that there might be a new parent interested in helping

076/2024 Planning matters

24/01311/HOU – Single storey rear and two storey hall and landing front extension to dwelling
Councillors had no objections to this planning application.

24/01130/COU – Change of use from agricultural land to extension of domestic garden.
Councillors had no objections/comments relating to this planning application.

077/2024 Financial matters

Balances at 31/05/24: £100.00 – Current Account
£63,592.13 – Business Reserve Account

Receipts: £70.65 – Interest

Payments to be made: £20 – T. Mephram
£399.20 – R Coombes
£90.74 – Water2Business
£645.00 – Three Counties Landscaping Ltd
£87.50 – Ilchester Town Trust
£50.00 – Macmillan
£100.00 – St Johns Ambulance
£150.00 – Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
£50.00 – Citizens Advice Bureau
£300.00 – IDCA Newsletter contribution
£300.00 – St Mary Major PCC

The Council approved & signed the above cheques for payment.

078/2024 Review and adopt Financial Regulations

Councillors all agreed to adopt the latest version of Financial Regulations, these will be added to the website.

079/2024 Review and adopt Asset Register

It was felt more work and investigation was required to complete the asset register. The Clerk will send the register with comments/questions to Councillors on a regular basis.

080/2024 Fingerpost

Councillors proposed to accept the quote for £600 and apply to CPRE for the grant. All voted in agreement.

081/2024 Flooding Update

It was noted there are trees growing out of the wall by the bridge. Cllr Hall confirmed he had spoken to Mark Doyle from the Environment Agency in the week regarding the problem, and that the EA will be following this up with the landowner to have them cleared.

082/2024 Allotments

It was noted that plot 1c will become available at the end of July.

An allotment holder has helped to fix the potholes on the road up to the allotments. To thank him for his work, it was decided to give him free rent for the next year for his allotment.

065/2024 Cemetery Update

It was reported that a walk round will be scheduled. It was noted that the corner wall appears to be being pushed out, this will be checked and follow up actions reported to the parish council.

066/2024 Skate Park & Mead Play Area

It has been proposed by the Town Trust that the shelter at the skate park needs to be moved to accommodate the extra car park. Cllr Schofield raised concerns that the shelter was originally positioned as it is the only point that any supervising parent has a view of the whole skate park. It was decided further investigation and information was required. It was noted the distance between the ramps and the carpark is only 1.4m. A smaller shelter could be considered, similar to the ones that are currently installed on the football pitch. Cllr Schofield agreed to take more measurements and consider the line of vision from the shelter, as well as appropriate safety measures. A meeting will be arranged between the Council and The Town Trust regarding the matter.

Cllr Schofield also reported that he had been in touch with Tim Hart Welding to provide a quote for the repair work to a skate ramp, an estimate will be circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Schofield had done an initial inspection of the play areas that Somerset Council have suggested could be adopted by Ilchester Parish Council. It was found that Pill bridge Lane play area is in bad condition and will need money spending on it to bring it up to standard. It was decided to request the latest play area inspection for Pill bridge lane play area.

The Play area at Great Orchard is in good condition, but the low fence and the gate opening outwards may need addressing. Cllr Schofield requested the clerk and council look in to whether the play areas and grass areas nearby had been registered as village greens, as they cannot have their use changed.

067/2024 To note the internal audit report and agree an auditor for the next financial year

Councillors noted the internal audit report and agreed review the auditor for the next financial year.

068/2024 CiLCA

Councillors agreed to contribute £250 towards the cost of the Clerk completing CiLCA training.

067/2024 Other correspondence

None.

068/2024 Items for report or for the next month's agenda

It was agreed that "Highways strategy" to be added to the agenda as a standing item, as well as the Action list.

The grass at Lyster Close needs cutting. It was proposed that this be added to the contractor's

route. All councillors voted in favour.

Cllr Stapleton raised concerns that the bus shelters need cleaning. Cllr Stapleton agreed to enquire regarding who used to clean them and request a quote for the work.

It was noted that pedestrian access to The Mead via the bridge is becoming difficult due to overgrown brambles. It was agreed that Cllr Marsh would clear some of the brambles.

Cllr Binns raised issues regarding bin locations and asked if there could be a review. Due to the devolution of services, Somerset Council are reviewing bins, locations and emptying schedules and responsibilities. It was agreed to wait until further information had been received from Somerset Council.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday 8th August 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 21:08pm.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT