



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
at the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.30 pm.**

**Councillors:** Cllr D Galloway (Chair), Cllr J Hall, Cllr H Williams, Cllr J Stapleton, Cllr M Grice, Cllr S Bomers  
**Parish Clerk:** R Coombes  
**County Councillors:** Cllr E Pearlstone  
**Parishioners:** 8 members of the public attended

**110/2024 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Marsh, Cllr Binns, Cllr Schofield and Cllr Bailey

**111/2024 Declaration of Interests**

None received.

**112/2024 The Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

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

**113/2024 Members of the Public**

A parishioner spoke regarding Dragonfly Chase requiring traffic calming measures. The parishioner raised concerns that the traffic has increased, the housing developers have doubled the amount of houses but not provided any measures to slow the traffic. Cllr Galloway informed the public that the council have objected with regards to speed and access. Parishioners were asked to add comments to the planning application and highlight the concerns about the safety of children on the estate.

A parishioner spoke about the hedge on the road opposite the school, the hedge is so overgrown it is affecting the space on the road. The parishioner was reminded this needs to be logged with Somerset Council, and the clerk will do the same.

A parishioner spoke about Hainbury Meadow and the incomplete work. Vistry had turned up for 2 days and completed some work. The parishioner agreed there were no speed limit signs or warning signs, and that perhaps 30 is too fast. Cllr Galloway updated that there were ongoing conversations regarding the state of the road/drains etc.

A parishioner thanked the council for undertaking the restoration of the fingerpost. Concerns were raised regarding access for the tankers using the sewer works. This was discussed further in the meeting.

A parishioner reported that the Drainage Board had attended The Mead, dredged the ditch and cleared the culvert at the A303 .

Parishioners have cleared the vegetation and established that there is a leak coming across the fosseway floodbank, a marker has been added and they have also cleared round the flaps on the other floodbank. Somerset Councillors were thanked for a wider cut being completed.

**114/2024 Action list**

The council's action list was reviewed and updated.

### **115/2024 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN**

Cllr Pearlstone reported that there are considerable changes in several departments within Somerset Council. Cllr Pearlstone also alerted the council to a consultation on council tax that was being carried out by Somerset Council regarding the reductions in council tax for those eligible. The proposed Enhanced Highway Maintenance scheme was discussed. This scheme allows parishes to buy in services if they require a higher level than what is provided by Somerset Council under their statutory obligations. There will be an online meeting of the LCN transport group to provide further information and explain the difference between a statutory or enhanced service. Parishes are reminded to consider this when setting their budget for the upcoming year. Cllr Hall stated the council should be aware if the road drainage does not go to main drainage, Somerset Council do not consider themselves responsible. Cllr Pearlstone also reported there have been issues where the contractor doesn't give enough notice, meaning access to gullies in order to clear them becomes difficult.

Councillors raised concerns regarding weed spraying and whether this would still be happening; Cllr Pearlstone agreed to follow this up.

It was requested the Somerset Councillors arrange a meeting with the flooding representatives to discuss issues at The Mead.

RNAS – speculation about what caused the Merlin to crash, all of the others are grounded. Several reports of speeding.

### **116/2024 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 had met with the PCSO and reported that the monthly meetings have now been increased to 3 monthly. It was reported there were issues relating to residential parking creating access issues for emergency services. The council and the public were reminded to report any concerns online. Residential parking issues and problems with emergency services. Get concerns reported online.

*Town Trust* – Cllr Williams reported that there is a regular booking for the committee room 2 a week as a hot desk on a Tuesday and Thursday, as well as a play booked on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Cllr Williams also provided an update regarding the Heritage centre; Saturdays are quiet and will finish at the end of the season. It was reported the last day the car boot will be held is Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

*IDCA* – Cllr Stapleton reported the next event is craft and baking show on 5<sup>th</sup> October and entry forms can be found in the newsletter. There is a Halloween party, and Christmas events coming up in the village.

*IRINEC* – No further update.

*Surgery* – There will be an open day on Saturday between 10-12 at the Town Hall.

*Church* – Rev Faulkner provided an update regarding the plans for Remembrance Sunday, the council decided to book the hall to hold teas and coffees after the service. The sale of the old school rooms was also discussed, and a pre-planning application report which includes input from heritage and planning officers had been received. The church hope to move forward with some form of sale and would like it to go to an organisation within the village if possible. At Northover St Andrews, a geophysical survey was completed. 2 anomalies were found, there may be further archaeological investigations.

*School* – No further update.

*Community links* – No further update.

*Youth Parish Council* – No further update.

### **117/2024 Planning matters**

An update was provided on the following planning matters:

24/02054/TCA - Notification of intent to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 1 Tree within a Conservation Area at The Coach House, West Street, Ilchester.

The council noted this application.

### **118/2024 Highways Strategy**

Cllr Hall reported there has not been a meeting between meetings as usual. The only matter which has cropped up was a request logged with Somerset Council to delete WC from the signs on 303 as there is no public toilet available within the village. This has been referred to national Highways.

Cllr Hall confirmed he had reported 7/8 trucks.

The bollards at the Northover roundabout have been installed and the first one has been knocked over. There was an incident with a delivery driver knocking over a bollard at Sheridan House, this was reported by the driver to Somerset Council and they will be replacing the one opposite Ilchester cars at the same time.

The council decided to investigate the installation of ramps in the area of Dragonfly Chase to help to slow traffic. Cllr Galloway and the clerk agreed to ask Highways about sign installation at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Cllr Pearlstone agreed to establish which parts of the estate have been adopted by Somerset Council.

A parishioner had raised concerns about the lorries accessing the sewer works. It was decided to write to Wessex Water to ask if they could use the access off of the A303 at all to save disruption to the village.

### **119/2024 Hainbury Meadow update**

Cllr Galloway had requested an update from Vistry but this was not received due to annual leave of the representative.

### **120/2024 Financial matters**

<b>Balances at 31/05/24:</b>	£100.00 – Current Account
	£58,415.04 – Business Reserve Account
<b>Receipts:</b>	£64.62 - Interest
<b>Payments to be made:</b>	£20 - T. Mephram
	£420.20 – R Coombes
	£645.00 – Three Counties Landscaping Ltd
	£180.00 – Play Inspection Company
	£102.00 – Chalmers & Co
	£600.00 – Somerset Forge
	£10,000.00 – transfer of funds

The Council approved & signed the above cheques for payment.

### **121/2024 Review and note the spend to budget**

Council noted the spend to budget for the quarter.

### **122/2024 To appoint roles for new councillors**

Cllr Grice was appointed as the finance representative for the council.

Cllr Bomers was appointed as the planning representative for the council.

### **123/2024 Review and adopt the Privacy Policy**

Councillors all agreed to adopt the Privacy Policy, this will be added to the website.

#### **124/2024 Review and adopt Reserves Policy**

Councillors all approved to adopt the Reserves Policy; this will be added to the website.

#### **125/2024 Review and adopt records retention policy**

The proposed records retention policy was approved by all councillors. It was decided to provide the museum with information of what was available at County archives relating to the council.

#### **126/2024 Adopt a HR committee**

It was agreed Cllr Grice would chair the HR Committee and be supported by Cllr Marsh and Cllr Stapleton. The main purpose of the committee is to manage the clerk and provide annual reviews.

#### **127/2024 Fingerpost**

The council noted that the restoration work had been completed and they were pleased with the results.

#### **128/2024 Councillor email addresses**

The Clerk had investigated councillors having a .gov email address each for council business, these were found to be £20 (+VAT) per year each. You can have as many or as few as you wish and you are only charged for what you have active on our servers. Some councillors opted for a council email address.

#### **129/2024 Flooding Update**

The Clerk will request a response from the EA regarding the flood bank at The Mead.

#### **130/2024 Allotments**

Cllr Williams reported that the padlock kept jamming in the rain so a new one has been purchased. A plot has been vacated and re-allocated.

#### **131/2024 Cemetery Update**

Cllr Stapleton reported that the wall needs surveying to see whether the crack can be fixed or whether the wall will need further works.

#### **107/2024 Skate Park & Mead Play Area**

The play inspection reports received were noted by the council.

#### **108/2024 Other correspondence**

Somerset Council had sent posters to display, it was decided to put one in the Town Hall.

#### **109/2024 Items for report or for the next month's agenda**

It was decided to discuss the Remembrance Sunday tea and coffees at the next meeting. Cllr Williams offered to lay the wreath and councillors agreed. A donation of £50.00 to RBL will be made by the council for the wreath.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 20:37pm.

Signed:

Date: