



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday 9th January 2025
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 Marsh, Cllr R Binns
Parish Clerk: R Coombes
County Councillors: Cllr E Pearlstone, Cllr J Bailey
Parishioners: 5 members of the public attended

192/2024 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr A Schofield, Cllr S Bomers. It was resolved to accept these apologies.

193/2024 Declaration of Interests

None received.

194/2024 The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2024

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

195/2024 Members of the Public

A parishioner raised concerns about the dog fouling on the footpath by the gas works. Cllr Williams stated that signage has been put up before but removed by parishioners. Cllr Galloway confirmed that there were reminders issued in the newsletter for owners to be responsible and pick up after their dogs.

A parishioner reported they will be following up contact with the EA and attending an SRA meeting on the 24th January regarding flooding issues at The Mead.

A parishioner updated regarding Almshouse Lane, a photo had been sent to the clerk of a van that had used the lane but couldn't turn. The Highways Department have been contacted regarding the signage at the entrance of the lane, this will be followed up by the Clerk. Somerset Highways had also been in contact regarding the damage caused by their contractors, the parishioners' details had been passed on to the contractors but no communication had been received. Cllr Bailey confirmed that the contractors had been spoken to.

196/2024 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN

Cllr Bailey had previously circulated a report. Cllr Bailey highlighted the devolution of responsibilities to councils from Somerset Council.

Cllr Bailey also noted that more people who are willing to foster are required. It is recognised this can be a difficult role but is the best way for young people to stay within the community.

Local issues – Hopeful there will be progress regarding the Highways Strategy.

Meetings regarding the 54 bus service are still continuing. Cllr Stapleton reported there have been problems with the reliability of the 54 service recently. Cllr Bailey agreed to report this at the next meeting and reinforced the message that the 54 bus service is currently being funded, and consistent user numbers need to increase before funding stops.

197/2024 Action list

The council's action list was reviewed and updated.

198/2024 Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.

Police – Cllr Stapleton reported she had attended “operation limit” on the sports field.

Town Trust – No further update.

IDCA – Cllr Stapleton and Cllr Binns reported that the lantern parade was successful, the Christmas Fair had 800 in attendance, and the Christmas Sing Along on the green was well attended. IDCA met and are finalising a list of events for the year.

IRINEC – No further update.

Surgery – No further update. Cllr Marsh is unsure if it is being sold, there is a meeting being held next week.

Church – No further update.

School – Rev Faulkner reported that the school paperwork has been completed to become an academy, as of 1st April. It is hoped Ilchester Community Primary will remain the same, with a headteacher and governors. The academy will allow the school to continue to provide the level of education required. It was also noted by the council that a planning application had been submitted for the demolition of temporary classrooms that were severely damaged in the storm.

Community links – No further update.

Youth Parish Council – No further update.

RNAS Volunteers – No response to communication received.

199/2024 Planning matters

There were no planning matters discussed.

200/2024 Highways Strategy

There was no further update.

201/2024 Financial matters

Payments to be made:

- £20 - T. Mepham
- £ R Coombes – Clerk Salary
- £645.00 – Three Counties Landscaping Ltd
- £102.00 – N & S Glover – Cemetery Hedge
- £162.00 – Community Heartbeat – Defibrillators
- £203.34 – Water2Business – Allotment water

The Council approved these payments.

202/2024 Internal Auditor

It was resolved to recruit a new Internal auditor. It was recognised to thank the old auditor for their service.

203/2024 Precept & Budget

The council approved the proposed budget. The precept request of £38,600 was also approved by the council.

204/2024 Parish Online

Items that Parish Online could be used for were discussed. It was resolved to start with the asset register and divide the parish into zones to complete the work required.

205/2024 Flooding Update

This item had been covered previously in the meeting.

206/2024 Allotments

Cllr Williams reported that activity is low due to continuous wet weather.

207/2024 Cemetery Update

It was decided the Clerk should request a quote for the work required to be completed on the wall from Masters. Cllr Marsh and Stapleton reported they had topple tested the stones and there is a notice to be displayed.

Cllr Marsh met with Three Counties and thanked them for their work at the cemetery. Work that is needed to be completed to trees that is outside of their contract was discussed. It was decided to ask Three Counties for a quote for the additional work that is required.

208/2024 Skate Park & Mead Play Area

No further update.

209/2024 Other correspondence

Correspondence had been received from Queen Camel Community Land Trust regarding a survey they would like some parishioners of Ilchester to complete. It was decided to partake in the activity requested of the council by the trust.

211/2024 Items for report or for the next month's agenda

Cllr Stapleton reported that the Wednesday Community Coffee Mornings raised over £10,000 for charities in 2024.

Cllr Binns reported IDCA are proposing another defibrillator be added to the centre of the village, either outside the Town Hall or at the church. This will be an agenda item for next months meeting.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday 13th February 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 20:21 pm.

Signed:

Date: