



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday 13th February
2025 at the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors: Cllr D Galloway (Chair), Cllr J Hall, Cllr H Williams, Cllr S Marsh, Cllr R Binns

Parish Clerk: R Coombes

County Councillors: Cllr J Bailey

Parishioners: 6 members of the public attended

Apologies: Cllr A Schofield, Cllr J Stapleton, Cllr M Grice, Cllr E Pearlestone

Absent: Cllr S Bomers

212/2024 Apologies

Apologies had been received, it was resolved to accept these apologies.

213/2024 Declaration of Interests

None received.

214/2024 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2025

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

215/2024 Members of the Public

A parishioner spoke regarding a football match held at the sports field which impacted access to The Mead as vehicles were parked on both sides of the road and on the footpath. There were concerns that emergency vehicles would have been prevented from accessing The Mead if they were required. Cllr Galloway noted that The Town Trust wish to extend the car park which will hopefully ease the problem, in the meantime, Cllr Hall agreed to add the issue to the agenda for the next Highways Strategy meeting to investigate what could be done or how parking restrictions could be enforced.

A parishioner had met with the EA field team who had come to look for holes in the flood bank at The Mead. The EA said these would be fixed, along with the culvert and penstock. No timeline was provided, Cllr Bailey suggested details of the conversation were confirmed over email and a timeline agreed. The parishioner also reported that the river gauge had a fault in the recent storms, this was reported, and the error occurred due to a lightning strike. This has now been fixed. The next SRA meeting will be held in Yeovil on 7th March.

A parishioner informed the council that the damage to the corner of the house on Almshouse Lane that had been hit by a lorry had been repaired. The parishioner also reported that the small public garden at Northover church had a yew tree growing in it that needs to be removed. A parishioner offered to carry out this work, the council agreed that the tree needs to be removed.

A parishioner informed the council there had been a note added to a tree on the grass at the bottom of West Street asking for it not to be parked on. The note resulted in negative comments on Facebook and was subsequently removed. The council agreed to speak to owners of the vehicles and establish who owns the parcel of land.

216/2024 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN

Cllr Bailey reported on the work carried out by Somerset Council following the flooding. Somerset Council are trying to collect data from each parish council. A parishioner suggested each village should have a rain gauge which would help notify residents of an imminent problem.

Cllr Bailey reported he is still waiting for feedback from Somerset Council regarding the LCWIPS program.

Cllr Bailey and Cllr Hall had attended Ilchester Community School to present the Truck Watch Scheme to the children. It was reported that this had been received well by the children who are keen to help, and the school will support through the curriculum.

217/2024 Action list

The council's action list was reviewed and updated.

Cllr Galloway reported he had received an update from Vistry regarding the incomplete works at Hainbury Meadow. Work between the contractors, Somerset Council and Vistry to establish the standards is continuing, work will then be completed.

The council decided to create a list of streets and divide the village into sections in order to document assets and record them on Parish Online to create the councils Asset Register.

218/2024 Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.

Police – The latest crime figures were presented to the council (December 2024). There were 16 reported crimes, this was lower than the previous month.

Town Trust – Cllr Williams reported that a financial meeting had been held in January, and The Town Trust had decided hire prices will be increasing slightly.

IDCA – Cllr Binns reported that IDCA would like to install a defibrillator near the Town Hall. Further discussions on where this can be placed are required. It was noted the telephone box at Great Orchard will be repaired.

IRINEC – No further update.

Surgery – Cllr Marsh confirmed that the building will not be sold, and there is a lease in place. Cllr Bailey reported that Martock surgery have new services to cut down the waiting time at A&E.

Church – Rev Faulkner informed the council that the old school rooms will be going to auction on 24th April at Ilminster GTH. A sign will be displayed on the building to inform parishioners.

School – No further update.

Community links – No further update.

Youth Parish Council – No further update.

219/2024 Planning matters

The council noted the following planning decision:

*Application to delete the record of public bridleway L 21/56 over Kingsmoor Drove, Long Sutton, and downgrade part of the record of public bridleway Y 12/5 over Pill Bridge Lane, Ilchester, to a footpath – 821M – **application refused.***

The council attended the planning review regarding Hainbury Meadow and objected to further development. This planning application was approved by Somerset Council. Cllr Galloway raised that this has not been updated on the planning portal, nor has the link to the recording been made available.

220/2024 Highways Strategy

Cllr Hall reported that the 20mph zone is in the process of being installed, Cllr Binns agreed to share relevant information regarding this on social media and the council's website. The next meeting will be held in March

221/2024 Financial matters

Payments to be made: £20 - T. Mepham
£ R Coombes – Clerk Salary
£645.00 – Three Counties Landscaping Ltd
£102.00 – Chalmers & Co – Payroll
£25.00 – Expenses for PH

The Council approved these payments.

The Council agreed in principle to approve associated costs to carry out a valuation of the car park.

Cllr Hall reported that he had confirmed with Three Counties Landscaping to remove the elder that is growing in the church yard.

Cllr Marsh requested further information regarding the S106 monies and allocations from the Hainbury Meadow development. The Clerk and Cllr Bailey agreed to investigate further.

222/2024 Scribe Accounting Software

The council agreed to proceed with the use of Scribe Accounting Software.

223/2024 Ilchester Town Trust

It was reported that Cllr Galloway and the Clerk had met with representatives of the Town Trust to discuss the lease at the skatepark and ownership of the carpark. Items require further investigation and discussion.

224/2024 Flooding Update

This item had been covered previously in the meeting.

225/2024 Allotments

It was proposed and agreed that the allotment rates were raised to £25 for a full plot and £20 for half plot.

226/2024 Cemetery Update

It was noted that the Clerk will be meeting builders to obtain quotes for the repairs required to the cemetery wall. Cllr Marsh has spoken with Three Counties who are willing to undertake the required work on the trees.

227/2024 Skate Park & Mead Play Area

It was decided to review the received reports and establish if there is any necessary action.

228/2024 Annual Parish meeting

It was decided to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on the 8th May in the Town Hall, to start at 7pm. The Clerk will book the hall and contact representatives of community groups. Councillors will also present brief reports on their areas of responsibility.

228/2024 Other correspondence

The council noted correspondence had been received from Bel Deering on behalf of the SRA who would like to help develop an emergency plan/flood plan. The council have decided to explore this initiative.

229/2024 Items for report or for the next month's agenda

CLlr Galloway requested an agenda item for a further update regarding ongoing discussions with the Town Trust.

CLlr Marsh requested an agenda item regarding land at the Hainbury Meadow Development and S106 obligations.

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

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 20:58 pm.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT