



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

Councillors: Cllr D Galloway (Chair), Cllr J Hall, Cllr H Williams, Cllr R Binns, Cllr A Schofield
Parish Clerk: R Coombes
County Councillors: Cllr E Pearlestone
Parishioners: 5 members of the public attended
Apologies: Cllr M Grice, Cllr J Stapleton, Cllr S Marsh, Cllr J Bailey
Absent: Cllr S Bomers

230/2024 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr J Stapleton and Cllr S Marsh; it was resolved to accept these apologies. The council noted that Cllr Grice has decided to resign from the council and would like to thank her for her contribution.

231/2024 Declaration of Interests

The Clerk declared an interest in item 237/2024 in relation to rights of way.

232/2024 The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2025

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

233/2024 Members of the Public

A parishioner updated the council that they had attended the SRA meeting in Yeovil.

A parishioner noted that the flooding within the parish has changed recently, and it now appears there is more flash flooding. Cllr Binns confirmed the gullies had been jetted since the flooding at the Northover roundabout. The parishioner stated that they had seen an old flood plan from Somerset Council from 1999. Cllr Galloway confirmed there will be an emergency plan-writing workshop with Bel Deering and Paul Elliston to create a new flood plan for the village. It was suggested there should be resources available and that there is funding available from Somerset Prepared. EVAG will attend, free of charge, to vulnerable properties where they will provide an assessment and recommend products that could help.

A parishioner informed the council that there are an increasing amount of people using the green in the square for their dogs. The signs were removed when the posts were replaced, Cllr Williams agreed to raise this with the Town Trust. The parishioner also raised concerns about the vehicles parking on the grass at the bottom of West Street. The council agreed to write them a letter, Cllr Pearlestone suggested more planting could reduce the issue and will investigate further.

A parishioner spoke regarding the 20mph zone that had recently been implemented and stated that it seemed to be having a positive impact already.

234/2024 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN

Cllr Pearlestone had previously circulated a report to councillors. It was noted that the recent installation of the 20mph zone had been achieved.

Cllr Pearlestone provided information relating to the progress of the visitor centre at Ham Hill.

The Council Tax increase from Somerset Council was noted by the council, there are concerns countrywide regarding finances.

235/2024 Action list

The council's action list was reviewed and updated.

Cllr Galloway updated the council that Vistry had stated they would install interim measures at Hainbury Meadow, but there had been no further updates despite requests from Ilchester Parish Council.

236/2024 Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.

Police – The latest crime figures were presented to the council (January 2025). There were 7 reported crimes, this was lower than the previous month.

Town Trust – Cllr Williams reported that 2 new classes have started in the town hall: Yoga and Zumba. Both classes are being run on a trial basis with hope that they will become a permanent offering to the community. The Town Hall is going to have its 5-year inspection. Cllr Williams reported that the open cabinet in the Heritage Centre needs new doors, a wall mounted heater and new light has been installed in the vestibule. The car boot starts in April and the prices have increased.

IDCA – No further update.

IRINEC – No further update.

Surgery – No further update

Church – Rev Faulkner reported that the church will be hosting a school art exhibition over the Easter holidays.

School – No further update.

Community links – No further update.

Youth Parish Council – No further update.

237/2024 Planning matters

The council noted the following planning decisions:

Rights of Way, 554M, 555M and 556M - Decided to make an Order or Orders in accordance with Schedule 15 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The effect of that order/s will be to modify the Definitive Map and Statement so as to record the application routes as public bridleways.

24/02992/DEM - Prior notification of proposed demolition of a double classroom modular building reference Block TZ – *application permitted*.

24/02660/LBC - Replace two ground floor windows at the front of property with softwood windows – *application approved*.

238/2024 Highways Strategy

Cllr Hall reported there is a meeting on 19th March. The 20mph limit has been installed and a further bollard to be installed outside Northover house. A parishioner has been in contact to ask if it is possible to put a speed limit on the Old Fosseway.

239/2024 Financial matters

Balances at 28/02/2025:

£100 – NatWest Current Account
£14,820.36 – NatWest Business Reserve Account
£1,787.18 – Unity Current Account
£30,092.60 – Unity Savings Account

Payments to be made:

£20 - T. Mephram
£ R Coombes – Clerk Salary

£194.22 – HMRC PAYE
£140.40 – Parish Online
£645 – Three Counties Landscaping

The Council approved these payments. It was noted the NatWest account is now closed.

240/2024 Grant Policy

The council reviewed and voted in approval to adopt the proposed grant policy.

241/2024 Internal Auditor

The council agreed to proceed with the use of Paul Russel as an internal auditor.

242/2024 Scribe Accounting Software

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

243/2024 Defibrillator

The council agreed to pay the running costs of a new defibrillator from the 26/27 financial year. This will be included in next year's budget.

244/2024 Asset Register

Councillors had been provided with a list of streets within the parish. The streets were allocated to councillors so that assets can be recorded and documented.

245/2024 Car Park

Cllr Galloway provided an update regarding the car park. Legally the carpark cannot be given away and it needs to have a valuation. Any sale of the carpark would need to be an open market transaction. Cllr Galloway proposed that the car park is valued and added to the asset register, then resurfaced and relined with money from reserves, this would then be replenished over the next 5 years. Councillors voted in agreement with this proposal.

246/2024 Flooding Update

This item had been covered previously in the meeting.

247/2024 Allotments

Cllr Williams reported that the locks have been lubricated; and this week has been busy with lots of plot holders digging and planting. There will be a half plot available soon.

248/2024 Cemetery Update

The clerk has received 2 quotes for the repair work required to the wall. One further quote is required, and this will be an item on next months agenda.

248/2024 Skate Park & Mead Play Area

The council noted that the lease at the skate park ends at the end of April after 20 years, the council are supportive of ending the lease. Cllr Schofield will report to the council regarding any required repair work that may be necessary.

249/2024 Other correspondence

None received.

250/2024 Items for report or for the next month's agenda

Agenda items for the next meeting were; S106 update, and the cemetery wall repair quotes.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 20:10pm.

Signed:

Date: