



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday 10th April 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 S Marsh, Cllr A Schofield, Cllr S Bomers
Parish Clerk: R Coombes
County Councillors: Cllr J Bailey
Parishioners: 4 members of the public attended
Apologies: Cllr R Binns, Cllr E Pearlestone

251/2024 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr R Binns and Cllr E Pearlestone; it was resolved to accept these apologies.

252/2024 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

253/2024 The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2025

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

254/2024 Co-option

The council noted that they were now eligible to co-opt a new councillor, though no applications have come forward yet.

255/2024 Members of the Public

A parishioner raised that the public bins had been removed by The Mead, Cllr Bailey agreed to follow this up with Somerset Council. It was noted that it had left a sharp piece of metal on the floor next to the post box. The parishioner also raised concerns that vehicles wishing to access the carboot had been held up and blocked the roundabout due to being charged at the gate. Cllr Williams agreed to report this to Ilchester Town Trust to see how this could be prevented or reduced in future.

A parishioner reported that they had sent an email to the EA regarding some obstructions in the river, the one at Pill Bridge has now been removed. There's a tree located on the bank next to New Spittles farm which needs to be removed before it is washed down stream and causes damage to Pill bridge. The EA have confirmed work will start at The Mead in July and will last around 3 weeks.

255/2024 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN

Cllr Bailey had previously circulated a report.

The council noted that the trial of the 54 bus link to the museum and the base is going to be terminated. This will be finishing on the 20th April.

Cllr Bailey reported that the highways strategy group had met. The active travel plan is still being worked on, the SID application will be submitted, truck watch is being implemented with the help of the primary school children and there is continuing work on creating a green lane at the Fosseway. The next meeting will be held in June.

Cllr Bailey also reported that he had attended a meeting with the school and Patrick Young to try to establish some forest school facilities.

It was reported that Somerset Council had attended the drains at the Northover roundabout, but no feedback had been provided currently.

256/2024 Action list

The council's action list was reviewed and updated.

Cllr Hall reported that parking restrictions to The Mead had been investigated, but unfortunately there would be no enforcement available.

Cllr Galloway agreed to follow up with Vistry regarding outstanding work at Hainbury Meadow. It was decided to establish who owns the bus shelters and ask those responsible to have them cleaned.

National Highways were found to be the owners of the land at the bottom of West Street. Further information has been requested from them.

257/2024 Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.

Police – The latest crime figures were presented to the council (February 2025). There were 15 reported crimes, this was higher than the previous month.

Town Trust – Cllr Williams reported that the financial reports had been circulated. The Town Hall has recently had its 5 year inspection, the report and relevant quote will be available in due course. The chair provided a tour of the roman cemetery for volunteers, the access ramp is expensive, the steps are deemed to be sufficient. It was noted that ITT don't own the access to the door or the steps, Cllr Williams will report this back to The Town Trust.

IDCA – Cllr Stapleton reported there are issues with the new printer so the newsletters are delayed, there has also been an increase in demand for hard copies. It was reported the bunny hunt has been successful.

IRINEC – Cllr Marsh reported that IRINEC are planning the annual farm walk for June/July.

Surgery – Cllr Marsh reported the surgery are trialling a hub for telephone calls which has so far shown that it speeds up response by telephone. It was also noted that the next round of Covid boosters are available.

Church – Reverend Faulkner reported that Somerset Council are determining responsibility for the trees in the churchyard that need inspections and work, it was reported that the elder trees at the Northover Church yard had been removed. The sale of the Old School Rooms will be taking place in the June auction. Reverend Faulkner is also raising money to renovate the war memorial in time for November's Remembrance ceremony, Stones of Martock will provide a quote

School – No further update.

Community links – Cllr Stapleton reported that they were struggling to engage, there will be a meeting with Tall Trees held.

258/2024 Planning matters

25/00686/LBC – 1 Northover House - Internal Alterations, Replacement of External Door and Windows to a Listed Property.

The council had no comment.

25/00697/HOU – 40 Esmonde Drive - Erection of two-storey rear extension, a combined two-storey and single-storey side extension and a lean-to porch to the front elevation.

The council had no comment.

25/00679/HOU – 7 West Street - Demolition of existing conservatory. Proposed Conversion of outbuilding with a small extension and construction of a single storey link extension.

The council had no comment.

25/00582/FUL – The Elms - Formation of new vehicular access and a parking/turning area to the rear of The Elms

The council had no comment.

No further updates to other applications

259/2024 Highways Strategy

Cllr Hall reported that the use of ANPR for truck watch is possible. A proposal needs to be presented to the police to take over automatic recording of the lorries travelling through the village. It was noted that the 20mph seems to be working and slowing the traffic through the village.

260/2024 Financial matters

Payments to be made:

- £20 - T. Mepham
- £ R Coombes – Clerk Salary
- £645 – Three Counties Landscaping
- £746.12 – SALC and NALC affiliation fees
- £44.00 – Scribe
- £358.80 – Scribe set up fee

The Council approved these payments.

261/2024 Spend to Budget

The council reviewed and noted the spend to budget for the 2024/2025 financial year.

262/2024 Earmarked Reserves

The council agreed to the proposed levels of earmarked reserves.

263/2024 Letter of engagement

The council signed the letter of engagement with the internal auditor.

264/2024 Car Park

The council discussed quotes relating to the resurfacing of the car park and decided to proceed with option A. Some points need to be clarified.

265/2024 Flooding Update

This item had been covered previously in the meeting.

266/2024 Allotments

Cllr Williams reported that there had been a swap of allotments which has resulted in a free half plot. The annual agreements will be sent to tenants.

267/2024 Cemetery Update

The council discussed quotes relating to the repair work required to the cemetery wall and decided to proceed with option B, provided drainage work could be included.

IDCA have asked if there needs to be a written agreement for use of the storeroom. It was decided the Clerk would write a Memorandum of Understanding between the council and IDCA.

268/2024 Skate Park & Mead Play Area

The inspections have highlighted some repairs are necessary, this should be completed before the end of the lease. A quote had been provided and the council agreed to proceed with the required repair work as per the quote. A summary will be provided to The Town Trust on completion of the work.

The Mead play area is in good condition, the vegetation growth needs to be monitored.

Cllr Stapleton agreed to contact T Mepham regarding the litter picking agreement.

269/2024 Other correspondence

None received.

270/2024 Items for report or for the next month's agenda

Annual parish meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 8th May. The councillors decided who would report on the areas of responsibility.

CLlr Williams reported that the fire service are doing safety checks in homes.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 20:52pm.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT