



**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday 10th July 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 E Pearlstone
Parishioners: 10 members of the public attended
Apologies: Cllr J Bailey
Absent: Cllr S Bomers

045/2025 Members of the Public

A parishioner spoke regarding the access to The Mead. It was felt the grass cutting by Somerset Council did wasn't satisfactory. It was noted that there had been a lot of rubbish left over, and grass now in the gullies. Cllr Pearlstone agreed to report this issue. Another parishioner requested that the clearance of the pathways to The Mead was an annual occurrence. This will be followed up with Somerset Council.

A parishioner spoke regarding parking at the Market Square car park. There are currently 2 vans belonging to contractors working at The Bull parked sideways taking up 4 spaces, including the disabled bay. The Bull hadn't informed the council about the use of the car park. Cllr Galloway agreed to speak to the manager at The Bull and investigate signage which could be put up in the car park.

A parishioner updated the council that they had met EVAG at a flood meeting. EVAG offer various flooding equipment than can protect home, they will attend your property free of charge and assess if any products would be useful. It was also noted that the flood pod is attending Mudford in October.

The chair of Yeovilton parish council attended the meeting to enquire as to whether Ilchester had flood wardens. It was noted that a group of parishes working together would be beneficial to any flood mitigation plans. Formation of a group was proposed and this is ongoing.

A parishioner attended the meeting to discuss the parking outside the hair dressing salon and provided a map from the deeds of the property. It was noted that the cars parked outside are still overhanging the double yellow lines and obstructing the pavement which is illegal.

There are bollards in the big lay-by to save the space for the fish and chip van, they have not applied for permission. Previously attended the meeting and asked if we had an objection, we said no, but it is Highways' land.

The meeting started at 19:48pm.

046/2025 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bailey. Cllr Williams had informed the council he would be late. It was resolved to accept these apologies. It was noted that Cllr Bomers was absent.

047/2025 Declaration of Interests and dispensations

No declarations of interests were declared. Councillor dispensations had been received from Cllr Marsh (IRINEC), Cllr Binns (IDCA) and Cllr Williams (Allotments & Town Trust). It was resolved to allow these dispensations until the next election.

048/2025 The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2025

These minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved that they be signed as correct. Proposed by Cllr Binns, seconded by Cllr Hall.

049/2025 Co-option

No application for co-option was received.

Cllr Williams arrived at 19:51

050/2025 Somerset Councillors' reports & Report from RNAS and LCN

The Somerset Councillors had previously circulated a report. It was noted that Cllr Bailey and Cllr Hall were still working on highways related issues.

The clerk updated Cllr Pearlstone that bins that had gone missing from the Hainbury development were removed by the developer, investigations as to why are continuing.

Cllr Hall noted that Somerset Council had released documentation regarding planning policy which stated that they were considering jobs and transport as the prime objective to development. This was raised in the council's objections to further development in Ilchester, but it wasn't considered by Somerset Council.

051/2025 Action list

The council's action list was reviewed and updated.

Cllr Galloway had received a response earlier today from Vistry who had stated there was still conflict with them and the highways department about the specification of the finished roads. Cllr Pearlstone agreed to follow this up with Somerset Council to ensure there is an agreement in place.

It was noted that the white lines on the Pill Bridge estate will be re-instated, but it was not clear whether further lines will be painted.

The council noted the bench at cemetery has been re-conditioned and would like to thank Graham Pope for his work.

052/2025 Police & Community issues, Community Links, Surgery updates, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC, Church.

Police – No crime figures were available and no update from the police had been provided.

Town Trust – Cllr Williams reported that artefacts and books had been bequeathed to the Town Trust and will be held in the museum and library. A donation of £2000 was also received. A new alarm has been installed in the museum; it was reported that the numbers of visitors are good. The car boot continues to raise large sums of money on a weekly basis, and the Town Trust are thankful for the volunteers.

IDCA – Cllr Binns reported that they were planning the July fete and have cleaned out the storage at the cemetery, and will be installing shelving.

IRINEC – Cllr Marsh reported that IRINEC had completed the farm walk and tenants are happy.

Surgery – Cllr Marsh reported that Ilchester is part of 4 surgeries known as primary care network. The network are trying to create better links in order to increase speed of everyday processes. They are encouraging the use of the NHS app.

Church – Rev Faulkner spoke regarding the war memorial due to renovations being required. A contractor came to quote and it was discovered the letters aren't leaded. The quote to steam clean the memorial, anti-algae agent and paint in the letters using a suitable colour was felt to be too

expensive. Cllr Marsh agreed to get another quote. It was also noted that the sale of the school rooms is slow due to the playground being the old churchyard.

School – No update received.

053/2025 Planning matters

There were no further updates.

056/2025 Highways Strategy

Cllr Hall reported that they had been working on 4 items.

Regarding closure of the road after The Mead, it is suspected this will not be a quick and easy process though it was met with a positive response from Somerset Council.

Access regarding the Fosse Way is ongoing. Conversations between Somerset Council and the farmer are progressing.

Parking issue by the hairdressers – as mentioned before.

The white lines on the Pill Bridge estate had already been discussed.

The use of Almshouse Lane by HGVs was also discussed. There would be no way of enforcing a restriction.

Cllr Marsh requested Cllr Hall enquire how many people had been prosecuted for speeding since the implementation of the 20mph zone.

It was reported there was limited access on the footpath at Stocklands farm and 2 broken bridges. These are not within the parish of Ilchester and should be reported to Somerset Council online.

057/2025 Highways Maintenance volunteer scheme

Information has been received from Somerset Council offering training to enable a Highways maintenance volunteer scheme. Cllr Marsh proposed forming a working group of parishioners who would like to help with these matters. It was decided to publicise the creation of a working group and see how many volunteers came forward. Volunteers should contact the clerk and training will be arranged.

058/2025 Financial matters

The Council approved these payments and noted the bank reconciliation report.

059/2025 Review of the Clerks pay

The council resolved to increase the clerks pay to pay scale 17 with immediate effect. The clerk thanked the council for the increase.

060/2025 Standing Orders

The council reviewed and approved the Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr Binns, seconded by Cllr Marsh.

061/2025 Flooding Update

An email from a parishioner had been previously received and circulated. The EA and contractors have attended The Mead and replaced the penstock. They have added concrete to the culvert to block the waters access in to The Mead.

Cllr Binns reported the SRA will attend and do a free workshop to create an emergency plan.

062/2025 Allotments

Cllr Williams reported on the activity at the allotments. It was noted there is a new tenant, and 2 full plots still available. The fir tree in a vacant plot had been removed with thanks to Cllr Williams.

063/2025 Cemetery Update

Cllr Marsh is working through the list of suggested items relating to the cemetery. The council felt nothing could be done to prevent deer entering the cemetery.

064/2025 Review of cemetery fees

It was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

042/2025 Skate park & Mead Play Area

It was noted that the youth shelter has been removed from the skatepark.

021/2025 Other correspondence

An email had been received from a resident of The Mead. The issues were discussed, and the clerk will return a response.

022/2025 Items for report or for the next month's agenda

The council noted the resignation of Cllr Stapleton and Cllr Schofield and would like to thank them for their continued support and contribution to the community over their time on the council.

The next council meeting will be held on Thursday 14th August at 7:30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 20:55pm.

Signed:

Date: