

**Minutes of Ilchester Parish Council held on Thursday August 13th 2020
at the Town Hall, Ilchester at 7.30pm.**

Present: Chairman, Mrs. H. Panter, Mr. S. Marsh, Mr. G. Bushell, Mr. L. Midwinter, Miss J. Stapleton, Mr. G. Pope, Mr. C. Williams, Mr. H. Williams Mr. A. Capozzoli, District Councillor & Mr. P. Horsington, Clerk. Two members of the public were present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from, Mr. N. Bloomfield, County Councillor, Mr. C. Hull, District Councillor, Mr. P. Rowsell, District Councillor, Mr. R. Graydon, CRO, RNAS, PC. Stefan Edwards, PCSO Thelma Mead & Rev. B. Faulkner.

The meeting was held with strict social distancing due to the Covid 19 epidemic. Thanks were expressed to the Town Trust for these arrangements.

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on July 9th having been circulated, were signed as correct.

3. Vacancy

As there were no nominations put forward, it was agreed to leave this as an agenda item.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Open Session – with RNAS, County & District Councillors’ reports

It was noted that the RNAS Air Day to have been held on July 11th had been cancelled due to the Corona virus epidemic. Miss Stapleton reported that a new Commodore, Cdre Niall Griffin, has been appointed and has commenced duties from Wednesday last.

It was noted that there is a Corvid 19 testing facility at the Fleet Air Arm Museum site.

Mr. Capozzoli, District Councillor highlighted two issues, the Electric Charging facility at the Limington Road car park has been officially opened and SSDC planning is in some chaos, with three Officers due to leave shortly.

Mr. Capozzoli asked that the Parish Council form a view on the SCC Leader proposals to create a Unitary Authority by combining Mendip, South Somerset, Sedgemoor & Taunton Deane as one Authority. It was noted that Mr. Bloomfield, County Councillor, had also asked for the Council’s opinion.

Rev. Faulkner reported that the Closure of St. Andrew’s Church yard, Northover has to be advertised locally, this being quite expensive, and once this is done, with no objections received, the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice will create an Order to be approved by Her Majesty’s Privy Council, in session.

Rev. Faulkner informed the Council that St. Mary Major was opened on Sunday last, for prayer.

The Clerk read an Email received from Mr. G. Hill, which informed the meeting that the Travellers parked at the end of the Mead had now moved on. Mr. Hill stated there was nothing to report from the E.A. on flood issues. The Email also stated that Mr. B. Masters was contacting County Highways trying to get some potholes at the Mead repaired.

An Email from Tina Rowe was read, asking for the Email addresses of all Councillors, to be added onto the Website, and also offering to have the road sign post in Church Street, pointing to Limington repainted at an approximate cost of £850 plus VAT, with an offer to pay half of that sum.

After discussion, it was agreed that all initial contact should be via the Clerk, who would then inform members, and agreed that the members’ Email addresses remain private, and not listed on the Website.

The Council thanked Tina Rowe for her offer reference the road sign post, but it was stated that two members have already agreed to carry out this work. The Clerk was instructed to reply to Tina Rowe.

The Council considered the Unitary proposals and unanimously agreed to oppose these proposals, with this being sent to the three District Councillors, County Councillor and the Leader of SSDC.

5. Police & Community issues – St. Andrew’s Northover, Ilchester Town Trust, IDCA, IRINEC & Church matters

Mrs. Panter reported that there had been a request to access the river Yeo via a gap on the Town bridge, for canoeing. After discussion, it was agreed that this could result in a safety hazard, due to the terrain and the request was not supported. Miss Stapleton agreed to inform the person involved.

An issue reference grass cuttings & garden waste was discussed, which was being put onto the river bank from one of the adjacent properties. It was agreed to mention this to the owner of the property.

The Council noted that the Travellers, who had parked at the end of the Mead, have now left. The Police had been involved.

St. Andrew's closure of the Churchyard progress was noted. The Council have agreed to keep the area cut by Greenacres for this year.

The Council noted that there are two vacancies to be filled on the Town Trust. There were no nominations put forward. These are Parish Council nominees.

Mr. H. Williams stated that there nothing to report at present on the Monument rebuild.

The Council discussed, and on the proposition of Miss Stapleton, seconded by Mr. H. Williams agreed to re-nominate Mrs. R. Frampton for a further four year appointment, as an IRINEC Trustee.

6. Youth Parish Councils

Miss Stapleton reported that due to Corvid 19 no meetings had been held.

7. Planning matters

The Council noted that a letter had been sent to the SSDC Principal Planner, copied to the three District Councillors & Leader of the Council, expressing concerns, raised by Mr. C. Williams, that it now has to be the applicant that has to canvas opinion from the adjacent properties on any application. This raises issues of Data protection, neighbourly relationships and knowledge of who they may actually be. No response had been received to date.

The Council were updated reference the proposed Digester at New Spittles Farm, by E4environment Ltd, who stated that they have submitted an application to discharge the pre-construction conditions, including the jointly agreed Traffic Management Plan, so the sign off details, discharge letter, submitted last year, have not been received from SSDC. The intention is still to develop the plant.

The Council noted the following -

Application 19/01359/FUL for Beaufort Court Management Co. Ltd Eagle Close, for the creation of 5 No car parking spaces, cycle store & bin provision – no decision

Application 19/02668/FUL for Mr. Mark Knight at New Spittles Farm for an agricultural building to be used as a calving yard & associated works – no decision

Application 19/02670/FUL at New Spittles Farm for an agricultural building to be used as a collecting and dispersal yard facility & associated works – no decision

Application 19/02669/FUL at New Spittles Farm for an agricultural building to be used as a milking parlour complex & associated works – no decision

20/01445/FUL at Hainbury Farm for construction of 3 homes on former yard area together with amenity area and parking / carport – granted

20/01866/OUT at New Spittles Farm, for construction of a new access to the anaerobic digestion facility by upgrading some existing farm tracks and constructing a new road off the current access to New Spittles

Farm from the Ilchester mead interchange

20/01842/HOU at 26, Kingsham for the erection of a two storey side extension to dwelling house

20/02024/FUL at New Spittles Farm for the erection of an agricultural building

20/02018/HOU at 23, Limington Road for the erection of a single storey to the rear of dwelling

Application 20/01227/FUL at Sock Dennis Farm for the construction of an outdoor riding arena for personal use – supported – no decision

Application 20/01445/FUL at Hainbury Farm for construction of 3 homes on former yard area together with amenity area and parking / carport – supported – no decision

8. Annual Statement of Governance

Mrs. Panter, Chairman read & signed the Annual Statement of Governance.

9. Financial matters

On the proposition of Miss Stapleton, seconded by Mr. Bushell, the Council formally adopted the Annual accounts. These had been circulated to all members. Mrs. Panter signed a copy of the Accounts.

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Mrs. Panter read 3& signed the Annual return documents to be sent to the External auditors PKF Littlejohn, Canary Wharf, London. It was noted that the Notice for Public Inspection has been displayed on the Notice board & is on the Website.

The account balances were reported as at 30/06/20 being in C/A/c £88.70 & B/R A/c £52, 352.78p.

Receipts - Precept £25,500, £0.46p Bank interest, £170 St. Mary PCC, £95 Mrs. D. Turner, £30 Country Memorials & £605 allotment rents

Payments made -

09/04/20	2463	£6	ITT Rent for Mead & Skate park areas
09/04/20	2464	£384	Vision ICT Ltd website hosting
09/04/20	2465	£28.20	HMRC paye tax
09/04/20	2466	£25	Miss S. Pack-Stone skate park
09/04/20	2467	£558.44	P. Horsington salary & expenses
14/05/20	2468	£1,400.93	Came & Co insurances
14/05/20	2469	£568.45	P. Horsington – salary & expenses
11/06/20	2470	£216	Chalmers & Co overseeing tax payments
11/06/20	2471	£11.30	Mrs. H. Panter First Aid kit for allotments
11/06/20	2472	£588	P. Horsington salary & expenses
09/07/20	2473	£56.20	HMRC paye tax
09/07/20	2474	£198	Cumbria Clock Co Ltd Church clock
09/07/20	2475	£192.95	Wessex Water allotments
09/07/20	2476	£552.40	P. Horsington salary & expenses
09/07/20	2477	£25.98	S. Marsh repair of Notice boards
09/07/20	2478	£13	G. Pope wood for First Aid box
09/07/20	2479	£10	Mole Valley Framers Ltd membership

The above payments were authorised and the cheques signed.

The Council discussed a request for a Dog litter to replace one on the Old Fosse way, which had been demolished. After discussion the Council agreed to purchase one, subject to confirmation that SSDC will empty it. The cost being in the region of £160 plus VAT.

The Council discussed a request by Mr. H. Williams that the Council could benefit by becoming a Countryside member of Mole Valley Farmers Ltd. After some discussion, on the proposition of Mr. C. Williams, seconded by Miss Stapleton, it was agreed to pay the £10 membership fee for one year, with two Councillors having authority to use this facility, Mr. Bushell agreed to complete the necessary paperwork.

The Council were informed that this will be the last Season that Greenacres will be cutting & maintaining the grass areas, as their Contractor is retiring. The Council members were asked to make enquiries of potential contractors to get quotations for the year 2020/21 from April 1st.

10. Website

The Council were informed that the Website has to conform Accessibility Regulations 2018 by September 23rd. It was agreed that these details are sent to Mr. C. Williams for consideration.

11. Cemetery

Mr. C. Williams stated that the Cemetery area looked very tidy.

12. Highway matters

The Council noted that the VAS 300SD Speed Sign at the cost of £2,700 plus VAT has been ordered from Roadside Technologies Ltd, and SSDC have approved a grant of £1K towards this sign.

The Council noted that due to works on the A.303 the weight restrictions over the Town Bridge are being temporarily lifted.

The Council were informed by Mr. C. Williams that there had been issues with cars parking by Hainbury Mill and over 60 persons going onto the river bank & using the river during the recent very hot weather. There seemed to little regard for Social distancing.

13. Flooding issues

The Council noted the earlier report from Mr. G. Hill.

14. Allotments

Mr. H. Williams reported that there have been three new tenants taking on allotments since March, and there are now two names remaining on the waiting list.

Members were informed that there had been a problem with bees attacking a tenant. It appeared that the Bee Keeper had opened her hive on that day. Since then some net fencing has been put up to help resolve the situation and the hive will not be opened if other holders are working nearby. Mr. Williams stated that he had canvassed the other allotment holders and majority wished to have Bees kept on site.

The Council have now installed a First Aid kit and Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Pope for making the First Aid box and Mrs. Panter for supplying the First Aid equipment.

15. Mead Play area

Mr. Bushell reported that he, with Mrs. Panter, Mr. Pope, Mr. Midwinter and the Clerk had met with Mr. Robert Parr at the Mead play area, to discuss the way forward with the refurbishment.

Mr. Parr stated that he felt that one piece of equipment could be tidied up, and confirmed that he would not approve the estimate from Creation Play Ltd, as the Company is not on the SSDC recommended list. However, the Council could proceed & purchase from Creation Play Ltd, but without any SSDC grant.

It was agreed that the members will meet together to agree & recommend how to proceed.

Due to Covid 19, there have been no weekly SSDC inspections since March, although these are about to re-commence.

16. Skate Park

The Council noted that Gravity Ltd have been contacted reference the agreed remedial works.

Due to Covid 19, there have been no weekly SSDC inspections, although these are about to re-commence. The Council agreed that the Annual Inspection costing £110 plus VAT for both play areas should be authorised.

Mrs. Panter agreed to contact Miss S. Pack – Stone to ask if she wishes to continue clearing the Skate park, now the facility is open, and agree how much is due to be paid to her.

17. Rights of Way

There were no issues reported.

18. Tree Matters

Miss Stapleton stated at the last meeting that there is a tree down in the former allotment area at Great Orchard. The Clerk reported that there had been no response to date from Yarlinton Homes, as to whether this area is in their ownership.

19. Correspondence

The Council noted the Somerset Waste Partnership newsletter & Clerks Direct.

20. Items for Report, or for the agenda of the next meeting

Mrs. Panter highlighted an issue of different times being given to patients for the Surgery's lunch hour. This has been passed to Mr. Marsh for his attention.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed for Thursday August 13th 2020 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all present, and declared the meeting closed at 9.06 pm.

Signed:

Date: