

ILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 25th September, 2013.

Present: Mr. A.G. Wilkins (Chairman), Mr. F.J. Edmunds, Dr. I.H. Jones, Mr. M.T. Robinson and Mrs. A.D. Wright. Also present were Mrs. Rachel Edmunds, Mr. M. Tremellen, Mr. R. Hawkins, Mr. Joshua Hawkins, Miss Lauren Lewis, Miss I. Sabin, Mr. Sam Russell, Mr. & Mrs. M Lodge, Mr. M. Carr, Mr. G. Woodall, Mr. T. Allen and for part of the meeting District Cllr. C.J. Saint.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Cllr. Wilkins declared an interest in the Village Hall and grass mowing, Cllr. Edmunds declared an interest in the co-option of a new Parish Councillor, and Cllr. Wright declared an interest in the War Memorial.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1.. Mr. Joshua Hawkins, supported by Mr. Sam Russell, his architect, spoke in support of a pre-planning application for the construction of a small three bed dwelling set back from the road on land owned by his family on the edge of the village. The house would be an affordable home for Mr Joshua Hawkins and Miss Lauren Lewis, his fiancée, and enable them to live in their village. They had applied to the District Council for a Pre Application Report. This had advised that they seek the support of the Parish Council. Cllr. Wright asked if they could have a clause in the deeds to ensure that in the future the property could not be sold outside the village. It was stated that it was their intention to include a S106 legal document that would tie the house ownership to local people.
2. Mr. M. Lane said that he was pleased to see a proper agenda for the Parish Council meeting, but that it should include more details about each agenda item.
3. Mr. M. Lodge said that he would like to be able to see details of the annual accounts of the Parish Council; he agreed with the plans of Mr. J. Hawkins; and that many roads were overhung with trees, including Back Street, Washbrook Place and the junction with the Darlingscott road. Mr. Sid Betteridge had already trimmed the hedge along Back Street, and Mr. Rob Hawkins said that he would be dealing with the Darlingscott road junction in the near future.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

1. The Chairman said that he had not yet been able to check on whether the non-functioning gullies had been cleared.
2. The Chairman reported that the gap in the Playing Field hedge by the skateboard ramp had been fenced, but someone had pulled it up. He agreed to speak to Mr. Adrian Meredith about replacing the fence.
3. Cllr. Edmunds reported that the playing field hedge had been cut by Mr. Tony Burton of 2 Washbrook Place, who works for the Foxcote estate. He had done this at no cost to the Parish Council, and letters of thanks should be sent to him and to Mr. Nigel Elcomb, the Foxcote estate manager, who had arranged this. The Chairman said that there was still some clearing up to be done, although he had done most of it.
4. Cllr. Robinson reported that he and the Chairman were still working on the grass mowing specification.
5. Mr. Greg Woodall had agreed to be the BT broadband champion in the village.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that she had written to Mrs. Rachel Edmunds to ask if she was willing to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor, and Mrs. Edmunds had agreed. Cllr. Wright proposed, seconded by Cllr. Robinson and agreed that Mrs. Edmunds should be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter from Mrs. Sheila Ribbans about the position of the Village Hall Trustees in connection with the proposed Community Shop. Also a report from the Plunkett Foundation on the same subject. These were noted.
2. A letter from the Village Shop Committee setting out the progress with a community shop. This was noted.
3. A letter from Internal Audit & Compliance offering their services as Internal Auditors. This was noted.
4. A copy of a letter from the Rev. Brian Doolan about the future of the Catholic Church building and the Presbytery. The Trustees wished to obtain planning consent for change of use of the church for residential purposes, but the Planning Department had said that the buildings had to be marketed for community use before a change of use could be approved. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consult on this.

PLANNING

1. 13/02112/LDE. Application for use of buildings for purposes ancillary to the use of the dwelling known as Wood Meadow. The Parish Council supported this application as it provided a valuable use of old buildings.
2. 13/01966/FUL. Application for a new porch, kitchen extension and new rooflight at Ilmington Grange, Back Street. The Parish Council had no representations to make.
3. 13/02330/TREE. Application for tree work at The Hill Farm, Hurdlers Lane. The Parish Council strongly supported this application, as the trees were deemed to be unsafe in their present condition by tree specialists from Charlton Abbots Forestry Ltd. They recommended that these trees required urgent Arboricultural management and specifically the removal of identified trees as a high priority. They recommended the removal of one tree within one month and another within six months. It was noted that it was now six weeks since a large Ash tree limb had fallen from one of these trees plunging through a trampoline and seat in the garden of Ashley Cottage, destroying both. The three young children from Ashley Cottage had been playing on the equipment shortly before the branch fell and could have been seriously hurt or killed. The specialists' report stated that the branch that had fallen was approximately 15cm in diameter at mid point and 8 meters long.
4. 13/02401/TREE. Application for crown reduction of an ash tree at Quaint End, Front Street. The Parish Council had no representations to make.
5. 13/01985/AGNOT. A copy of a letter from the District Council Planning Department to Mr. Stuart Edwards, the agent for Mr. Michael Markham, the owner of Ilmington Grange, saying that the Department required a full planning application for an agricultural storage building at Ilmington Grange.
6. 13/01304/FUL. Notice of refusal by the District Council for a 2 bay oak framed garage/carport at Cherry Orchard, Frog Lane.
7. 13/01741/FUL. Notice of permission with conditions by the District Council for an additional window at Park Piece, Grump Street.
8. 13/01397/FUL. Notice of permission with conditions by the District Council for a two storey extension and alterations at The Dormers, Campden Hill.
9. 13/01667/FUL. Notice of permission with conditions by the District Council for change of use of land for the creation of a new vehicular access and driveway at Southfield Farm, Compton Scorpion.
10. 13/01776/FUL. Notice from the District Council that this application for improvement to an existing gate access from the highway to provide a new independent vehicular access at Caley Fields Farm had been withdrawn.

11. 13/01884/FUL. Planning application for an extension to the garden studio at Frog Orchard, Frog Lane. The Parish Council had no representations to make.

12. Pre-planning application by Lauren Lewis & Joshua Hawkins for a new dwelling on land at the end of Washbrook Place and opposite the house belonging to Joshua's father, Mr. Rob Hawkins. After studying this, the Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr. Wright and agreed that the Parish Council should support this in principle, because it was a case of a young Ilmington couple trying to build their own affordable house in the village. It was agreed that any resulting planning application received by the Parish Council for this one off dwelling would need to be secured via a S106 legal agreement in order to secure the house for local people. It was agreed that this Parish Council support should not set a precedent for any other applications for building new dwellings in the village.

ARMSCOTE ROAD HOUSING

The Clerk reported on the meeting on 11th September to mark the start on site of the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association's (WRHA) development at Ilmington. This was attended by representatives of WRHA and their partners together with representatives of Ilmington Parish Council and Mrs. Romey Allison. WRHA had given a donation to the village of £2,000 for the purchase of an Intelligent Public Access Defibrillator, which was brought to the meeting by Mrs. Allison. A press release from WRHA was printed in the Stratford Herald, and the Chairman of WHRA was thanked for the donation and the refreshments in the Howard Arms afterwards.

DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY

Cllrs. Jones and Robinson and Mr. Greg Woodall had a meeting at the end of August to discuss the Core Strategy (Planning) and its impact upon Ilmington Parish. Cllr Jones consulted the District Council on the options for the Parish. It was explained that Ilmington Parish could apply to be designated a Neighbourhood Plan Area and, if so designated, produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Such Plans are intended to give local people a direct say in the future development of their area. Neighbourhood Planning is concerned with shaping the development of a local area in a positive manner. Cllr. Robinson proposed that the Parish Council submit an application for Ilmington Parish to be designated a Neighbourhood Plan Area, seconded by Cllr. Rachel Edmunds and agreed. The Parish Council will now make application under Part 2, Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW

Cllr. Jones reported that the Parish Council Review was progressing well and that the Parish Council meeting agenda format now more closely reflected the statutory requirements. The agenda for each meeting was now placed on the Internet through the Ilmington 20 / 20 site. This was accessible to all parishioners. Cllr. Jones circulated a review of the Parish Council's responsibilities and asked all Councillors to check it for accuracy, fill in missing information and return it to him for inclusion

in the main document. Cllr. Wright asked if a map could be supplied to all Councillors showing the whole village.

DANGEROUS TREES

Cllr. Jones reported that he had visited Ashley Cottage and Hurdlers Lane together with Cllr. Wilkins on Monday 19th August. The visit was in response to a report by Mr A Davenport of Ashley Cottage of damage resulting from a fallen branch from a tree. It was observed that a large branch had fallen from a considerable height destroying a trampoline and seat in the garden of Ashley Cottage. A large Ash tree was found to be leaning across a path used by the public. The tree belonged to a neighbour of Mr Davenport. The Parish Council tried to contact the owner of the tree, but he was away from home on family business. The Parish Council met that evening and determined that the tree presented a potential danger to parishioners and agree to close the footpath until the situation could be resolved. On Wednesday 21st August the District Council sent out a Forestry and Landscape Officer to review the situation. She agreed the Parish Council had taken the correct action in closing the path used by the public as a safety precaution. The District Council confirmed that these trees had been a matter of concern as far back as 2008. An inspection of the trees was undertaken on 22nd August by Charlton Abbots Forestry Ltd. This confirmed that the some trees presented a risk and required urgent attention. It was understood that the District Council had the powers, but not a duty, to remove trees that presented a danger. However, the Parish Council were concerned that it was now six weeks since the trees were identified as presenting a danger and no action has been taken to make the site safe. Consequently, the path remains closed and the garden of Ashley Cottage cannot be used safely by the occupants.

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB COUNCIL TAX

Cllr. Jones reported that the District Council had agreed to re-assess the Club's Council Tax. Cllr. F.J. Edmunds reported that a refund was being sent to the Club.

PLAYING FIELD & PAVILION

1. The Tennis & Multi Sports Club wished to build a third multi-use court alongside the current practise wall, and needed the permission of the Parish Council to use the land. The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr. Jones and agreed that the Club could go ahead with building a third multi-use court.
2. The Cricket Club wished to install some cricket nets on the spare land between the mound and the area of trees. Cllr. F.J. Edmunds proposed, seconded by the Chairman and agreed that the Club could go ahead with the installation.
3. Pavilion roof. This had now been completed but the final payment had not been made.

4. Cllr. F.J. Edmunds reported that two estimates had been received for work on the entrance to the Playing Field car park. One was for a concrete surface costing £3,200 + VAT, and the other was for a tarmac surface costing £4,200 + VAT. If the concrete surface was the choice the entrance would not be available for use for a week. Some of the sports clubs and the Show Committee were giving donations towards the cost, and the Parish Council felt it would be better to have the concrete surface as it would last longer.

5. Skateboard Ramp. The Chairman and Cllr. Robinson had inspected this, and felt that the condition was so poor that it was hardly worth repairing in the usual way. Cllr. Robinson agreed to ask for information from three firms and obtain quotes.

WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr. Robinson reported that in order to obtain a grant two identical quotes were needed, and all three firms quoted for different work. Wrights of Campden quoted £6,600 + Vat for re-cutting the inscriptions and painting them black; Banbury Memorials quoted £2,240 + VAT for cleaning the panels and re-cutting the cement filled lettering and enamelling the text; and George Clifford & Sons quoted £425.00 + VAT for cleaning the panels and the lead filled text. Cllr. Robinson proposed, seconded by the Chairman and agreed that the Clifford's quote be accepted.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Saint reported on recent developments at the District Council. He wished that he had been told about the problems with the verge cutting, and it was agreed that in future problems should be reported to him so that he could take action.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had now tendered her resignation with effect from 5th September. According to her contract she had to give three months' notice, which would take her to the end of December. An advertisement would now have to be produced and various other regulations complied with. Cllr. Jones agreed to manage this process. Cllr. Wright proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Gardner for her work over so many years, and this was agreed.

FINANCE

The following cheques were signed out of meeting and were within budget:-

1.	31 st July	Jessop Roofing	£ 8,400.00
2.	8 th August	Jessop Roofing	£ 7,011.60
3.	19 th August	Ben Huckfield, dealing with wasps	£ 40.00
4.	19 th August	G.V.S. Righton, mowing playing field	£ 624.00
5.	19 th August	Jon Mawson Ltd, pressure pump for Bowls Club	£ 660.60
6.	19 th August	R.J. Shurey, toilet paper for Pavilion	£ 15.00

