

## ILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2013.

Present:- Mr. A.G. Wilkins (Chairman), Mr. F.J. Edmunds, Mrs. R., Edmunds, Dr. I.H. Jones and Mr. M.T. Robinson. Also present were County Cllr. Mrs. I Seccombe. District Cllr. C.J. Saint. Five members of the public attended.

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. A.D. Wright.

### DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Wilkins declared an interest in the Village Hall and grass cutting.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Miss Sabin spoke about a document produced by the Trustees of the Village Hall, which would be delivered to everyone in the village, in response to the latest information from the Community Shop committee. The Trustees would be taking advice from the Charity Commission on what had to be done to comply with both their governing document and the Charity Commission's guidance and regulations.
2. Mr. Rob Hawkins spoke about the state of the trees around the village. He had dealt with those in Washbrook Place and at the junction with the Darlingscott road, but there were many more throughout the village that needed attention. He would be willing to deal with these if he knew who was responsible for them.
3. Mr. Hawkins reported that Mr. R. Shurey was finding it difficult to continue to clean the outside toilets at the pavilion, and he wanted to know whether the work could be passed to the people who cleaned the pavilion. However, if there was going to be an extra cost for this, then Mr. Shurey would like to continue.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed.

### MATTERS ARISING

1. The Chairman reported that the gap in the playing field hedge by the skateboard ramp would be fenced off by Mr. Meredith.
2. Letters of thanks for cutting the playing field hedge had been sent to Mr. Tony Burton and Mr. Nigel Elcomb.

3. There was nothing to report on the grass mowing specification.
4. The Village Shop Committee wanted the Parish Council to support their proposals, and Cllrs. Jones and Robinson would do an independent investigation into the matter and report back to the Parish Council.
5. Catholic Church. Cllr. Jones reported that since the Church was originally built as a Catholic school, it could only be sold on the open market if there was no use for it in the community.
6. Cllr. F.J. Edmunds reported that the Sports & Social Club had now received a refund on their Council Tax.
7. Skateboard. Cllr. Robinson reported that he had received three estimates for a new skateboard, ranging from £19,000 plus base to £26,000 plus base. He said that grants for this were not very likely as this would not be a new facility but a replacement, and in any case there would only be a 50% grant. He wondered whether the ramp could be repaired using harder wearing material, other than plywood boarding. He agreed to ask Mr. Meredith what could be done and arrange a meeting on site to discuss the matter.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter from the Sports & Social Club Committee, thanking the Parish Council for their recent financial help with running the club, including paying for the roof repairs and helping them to obtain a reduced rate in Council Tax and a refund.

#### PLANNING

1. 13/02458/ELEC. Application from Western Power Distribution for permission to remove overhead lines and replace them with underground cables in Frog Lane and Grump Street, and reposition one pole in Frog Lane. All those affected had been consulted, and the Parish Council had no representations to make.
2. 13/01884/FUL. Notice of permission with conditions from the District Council for an extension to the garden studio at Frog Orchard, Frog Lane.

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr. Jones reported that he and Cllr. Robinson had had a very helpful meeting with the District Council. Once the Core Strategy was adopted there would need to be up to 50 new dwellings in Ilmington by 2028. Cllrs. Jones and Robinson were still working on this.

## PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW

The first part of the review, which was to improve the agendas for Parish Council meetings, had been sorted out. Progress was being made on auditing the various roles and responsibilities of Parish Councillors.

## STANDING ORDERS

Cllr. Jones reported that he had been going through the Standing Orders, and when he had finished he would send them to Parish Councillors by email. Any comments should be sent to him so that the Standing Orders could be adopted at the next meeting.

## DANGEROUS TREES

Cllr. Jones stated that no work had been undertaken to the dangerous trees owned by Mr. Nash of The Hill, Back Street, Ilmington. It was reported that in total nine trees were deemed dangerous and in need of removal or in need of urgent attention. As reported at the September Parish Council meeting, three young children narrowly escaped death or serious injury when a large limb fell from one of these trees into their garden destroying their trampoline. Cllr. Jones stated that it was now nine weeks since a professional report stated that urgent action was needed in respect of these very large trees. The professional report concluded that one of these trees was so dangerous it should be removed within one month (by 18<sup>th</sup> September). This tree was still standing and, with the other eight trees, represented a danger to the public. Consequently, access to the area remained closed. The Parish Council had received two documents issued by the District Council. The first informed the Parish Council that they intended to take action by issuing a notice to Mr Nash to remove one of the trees. At the time of the meeting, this notice had not been issued. Additionally, the District Council stated that Mr. Davenport, owner of Ashley Cottage, could undertake work to the trees which overhung his land and that this work could be undertaken without the consent of Mr Nash. It was pointed out by Cllr. Jones that these were not small garden trees that needed trimming but large trees of up to 30 metres in height and were the responsibility of Mr. Nash, the owner. The second document from the District Council concerned a Planning Consent Decision for these trees. It gave consent for the required work to be undertaken to all the trees in question. It was drawn to the attention of the meeting that this document contradicted the first District Council document as it stated that work could only be undertaken with the consent of the owner of the trees, Mr. Nash. The Parish Council regretted the lack of appropriate action by the District Council. It had failed to employ its legal powers to resolve this long running dangerous situation. It was stated that this demonstrated a scant regard for the safety of the parishioners of Ilmington and the general public.

## WAR MEMORIAL

The Chairman reported that he had inspected this today and found that the work was finished and had been well done.

### FOOTPATHS / RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllr. Robinson said that the Chairman had maintained these for years, and had only stopped doing so when the County Council no longer paid the Parish Council £100 for the work. This had only been enough to pay for repairs to his equipment. Cllr. Robinson said that the footpaths in the village were in a poor state, and he recommended that a figure should be put in the budget for paying a contractor to keep the footpaths cleared. A specification of the work should be produced and applicants should be sought.

### HIGHWAY MATTERS

The Chairman gave a list of blocked gullies round the village, and County Cllr. Seccombe would try to get the gully buster out to deal with them. He also gave a list of potholes and areas of road which were breaking up around the village. He wanted to write a letter to Mr. Jeff Morris of County Highways with a copy to Cllr. Seccombe, listing all the work that needed to be done.

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

An advertisement had now been put on the village website and on the notice boards, and applications were required to be in by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Seccombe reported on consultations going on over the budget and the massive savings that had to be made.

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Saint also reported on savings, a large amount of which had come from refuse. The challenges that faced the District Council were housing and employment.

### FINANCE

The following cheques were approved, signed and were within budget:-

1. G.V.S. Righton	Mowing Playing Field	£156.00
2. Grant Thornton	2013 Audit	£240.00
3. Severn Trent	Water supply to pavilion & sports ground	£180.86
4. S.M. Gardner	Clerk's salary and expenses	£646.07

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The following items should be put on next month's agenda:-
  - (a) Work to be done on trees round the village.
  - (b) Pavilion toilets.
  - (c) Two trees at Manor Barns. Should they be pollarded?
2. Cllr. F.J. Edmunds thanked Mr. Hawkins for clearing the trees in Washbrook Place and at the junction of Featherbed Lane and the Darlingscott Road.
3. Cllr. F.J. Edmunds reported that there would be a bonfire party on the playing field on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

This would be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Date

Chairman