

Ilmington Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held in Ilmington Community Shop on 27 February 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs Karen Peachey (Chairman), Chris Plyming (arrived during the public forum), Lara Lowe, and Malcolm Lowe,

In attendance: Pauline Rigby (Clerk), County Cllr Izzi Seccombe, 8 members of the public, including members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Martin Underwood.

Cllr Chris Plyming had warned he might be late.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. County and District Council Reports

County Councillor Seccombe gave an update on local government reform. Warwickshire is not going forward in the first wave and the county council elections will not be delayed. The Government expects local authorities to come forward with their reorganisation proposal by mid-March and detailed plans by mid-November. They have now been looking at the huge amount of work involved and key decisions they need to make.

District Councillor Skinner was not present.

4. Public Forum

A member of the public spoke about sewage upgrades: Severn Trent Water (STW) is currently working on the reed beds at the sewage works, so that storm overflows will pass through reed beds rather than going straight into the brook. The main pipe upgrade is imminent. The water testing group has established that phosphate levels coming from sewage works are high, and they are intending to pursue this with STW.

It was also mentioned that Stratford on Avon District Council had approved a road closure on Featherbed Lane apparently without consulting Warwickshire Highways, resulting in a morning where there were no routes in or out of the village. A letter would be sent to SDC requesting they coordinate with WCC on future closures.

A resident spoke about drainage problems on Whitehouse Lane after heavy rain. She did not know who was responsible and asked if the parish council would investigate.

A resident of Back Street raised concerns about the poor condition of the road verges, which have been damaged by additional traffic during diversions. They asked who would be responsible for restoring the verges. Cllr Seccombe assured that she would raise the issue with highways, although repairs may have to wait until after the roadworks are completed, and suggested notifying Severn Trent that the community expects the verges to be made good.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 23 January 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed.

6. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Jan Sherwood, former Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, introduced a three-part review of neighbourhood planning.

First, she wanted to highlight the necessity of reviewing neighbourhood plans every five years to avoid the plan becoming outdated and vulnerable to speculative development.

Second was about the abrupt change in Government policy, which changed how housing land supply (HLS) is calculated. Stratford on Avon District Council's HLS has dropped from 24 years to 3 years under the new method and they are challenging this in court.

Finally she raised several points of interest in the new NPPF: for example that great weight is given to school places in decision making, and minimum density standards.

Ultimately, the Parish Council has the option to decide whether or not to review their current Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Planning Applications

7.1 To note planning decisions at variance with the views of the Parish Council.

It was noted that application Sunny View on Grump Street had been refused.

To note comments on planning applications submitted under delegated authority:

7.2 25/00004/FUL: Jasmine Cottage Campden Hill Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4JF – To increase the size of drive by 2.5m wide to accommodate another off road parking space. Any water run off from the proposed extended drive will be retained on applicants land and new space to use hardstanding tiles.

Response: NO OBJECTION.

7.3 25/00157/FUL: Mizpah House Front Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LA – 2 storey rear extension, dormer extension to attic. Internal alterations: to rearrange the staircase and form new boot room and WC from existing garage space, new porch above front door, replacement timber windows. 25 Feb 2025

Response: NO OBJECTION

7.4 25/00309/LBC: Sansome House Back Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LJ – Roof re-tiling (amendment to materials of approved application ref. 24/00428/LBC)

Response: SUPPORT the application as a practical approach.

7.5 To consider any applications notified since publication of the agenda. None.

8. War Memorial

To consider new detail for proposed steps at the War Memorial.

Cllr Malcolm Lowe had circulated a new drawing, showing detail of the steps and low wall. The design creates a seating area for reflection, with space for plaques. A concern was raised about future maintenance and which organization would manage it.

It was RESOLVED that the council supports the alterations to the War Memorial according to the plans presented.

9. Grace's Playground

9.1 To determine further actions following the site meeting with ESP Play.

A complete response was still pending, so the matter was deferred.

9.2 To receive the routine inspection report(s) and consider any actions arising.

The Clerk had been unable to carry out inspections in daylight hours.

9.3 To consider quotation for Playdale repairs.

It was RESOLVED that the quotation of £2259.43 ex VAT be accepted.

Members of the public departed the meeting at this point.

9.4 To consider options for playground sign(s) acknowledging donors.

Cllr Malcolm Lowe had circulated two designs. Councillors liked one with the curved moulding on top. As the price had increased, he would seek additional quotations.

10. Ilmington Playing Fields

10.1 To consider purchase of new posts and a field gate behind the bowls club.

It was RESOLVED:

that Financial Regulations requirement for three quotations be suspended due to the proven quality and value of the current contractor's work, and

that the quotation from Simon Healey of £1,350 ex VAT be accepted.

10.2 To consider purchase of padlocks for the height barrier and the gates.

Cllr Plyming to check and liaise with clerk over type/size of padlock to buy.

11. Ilmington Pavilion

11.1 To consider how utilities and maintenance costs are shared among sports clubs.

After a discussion, the matter was deferred.

11.2 To discuss response from Tempo Events regarding hire fees.

Councillors noted that part of the fee is to compensate the village for the disruption, especially as the trail events are getting bigger.

It was RESOLVED to set a charge of 75p from April, with the intention to move to £1 from November when the Winter Series starts again.

11.3 To consider request from Tennis Club about sharing external hire fees.

It was RESOLVED that the 20% share of external hire fees be waived, but instead charge a contribution towards water bills, initially set at £50 and reviewed annually.

Cllr Malcolm Lowe had declared an interest and did not vote.

11.4 To agree purchase of key safe and/or new locks.

Councillors were interested in a solution which provides an audit trail. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes from installers. Cllr Plyming to share details of locksmiths.

12. Grants & Donations:

12.1 To consider a request from Ilmington PCC towards churchyard maintenance.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £400.

12.2 To consider a donation request from Shipston Home Nursing.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £200.

12.3 To confirm release of funds to Ilmington Sewage Group for water testing.

It was RESOLVED that £194 be paid to Steve Routly for water testing chemicals.

13. Finance & Admin

13.1 To approve the bank reconciliation to 31 January 2025.

It was RESOLVED that that bank reconciliation be approved.

13.2 To receive the budget monitoring report for the year to date.

The report had been circulated.

13.3 To approve payments as per the schedule below.

It was RESOLVED that the payments be approved.

Date	Payee	In respect of	Amount
27-Jan	Simon Healey *	Fencing	£ 4,740.00
31-Jan	Jane Wileman *	Toilet cleaning	£ 60.00
06-Feb	Rob Hawkins	Tree planting	£ 150.00
09-Feb	Steve Routly	Water testing chemicals	£ 192.24
10-Feb	Waterplus*	Water charges	£ 4.62
12-Feb	Microsoft ‡	Exchange Online	£ 3.96
15-Feb	Asda Mobile ‡	SIM only bundle	£ 5.00
28-Feb	Unity Trust Bank	Account fee	£ 6.00
28-Feb	Staff costs	February payroll	£ 707.22
* Already paid ‡ Paid with card			TOTAL
			£ 5,869.04

13.4 To agree spend from EMR on the overflow car park fencing.

It was RESOLVED to allocate the car park fencing payment to the UK SPF grant and the match funding element of the grant to CIL.

14. Internal Auditor

To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31 March 2025.

It was RESOLVED that Jane Olds be appointed as internal auditor at a fee of £260.

15. Member Reports

Report(s) by any members who attended any meeting on behalf of Council.

Cllr Lara Lowe attended the Village Hall Trust meeting at the end of January, advising that she would not become a trustee, but was happy to remain as the liaison.

16. Correspondence: To consider actions arising:

16.1 Complaint about conflicting road closures. Dealt with in the public session.

16.2 Complaint about damage to roads and verges during roadworks. As above.

16.3 Nominations for Kings Garden Party in May 2025. Deadline had passed.

17. Future Agenda Items

To receive information about future items of business (for information only).

18. Next Meeting

Thursday 27 March 2025, 7:30pm in Ilmington Community Shop Café.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10pm.

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____