

Ilmington Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held in Ilmington Community Shop on 28 August 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs Karen Peachey (Chairman), Lara Lowe, Malcolm Lowe, and Martin Underwood

In attendance: Pauline Rigby (Clerk) and five members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Chris Plyming.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lara Lowe declared an interest in item 13, a payment to herself.

3. County and District Council Reports

County Cllr David Curtis and District Cllr Dominic Skinner sent their apologies.

4. Public Forum

A resident asked for clarity about potential large-scale housing development near the village in the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan and Council agreed to look into it.

He also reported that he'd met with the project manager for the sewage upgrade work which is now underway. Severn Trent Water had offered to provide their plant, equipment, and labour to carry out some community work while they are in the village, and it was noted that the pond had already been specifically mentioned.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 31 July 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed.

6. Committee Minutes

To receive minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting on 1st August 2025, and consider matters arising:

6.1 Increase to pavilion maintenance budget.

It was RESOLVED to release £4,500 from the Pavilion earmarked reserve to the Pavilion maintenance budget.

6.2 Pavilion cleaner/caretaker position.

It was agreed to start advertising for cleaner/caretaker on self-employed basis in the first instance.

7. Planning Applications: To agree responses to planning applications.

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

Nothing to report.

7.2 25/01896/TREE: Orchard Barn Front Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LN -T1A field maple - fell.

Comment: NO OBJECTION

- 7.3 25/01959/TREE: Frog Orchard Frog Lane Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LQ - T1 silver birch - crown reduce by 3 metres and sides by 2 metres T2 ginkgo - crown reduce by 3 metres and sides by 2 metres T3 silver birch - crown reduce by 5 metres and sides by 1 metre.

Comment: NO OBJECTION

- 7.4 25/02013/TREE: The Hollow, Frog Lane Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LQ - G1 silver birch 6.no - reduce by 10 metres, from current height.

Comment: NO OBJECTION

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

8. Ilmington Wildlife Group

- 8.1 To approve signing as a deed an agreement for grant funding under Stratford on Avon District Council's Community Climate and Nature Recovery Fund Round 3, (002 'Bringing our pond back to life - Ilmington').

It was RESOLVED that the agreement be signed as a deed.

- 8.2 To discuss plan for delivery of the project and agree actions arising, including creating a working party to start clearing debris from the pond.

A report had been circulated containing a risk assessment for pond clearance, which had been shared with the Wildlife Group. Cllr Underwood and Wildlife Group volunteer Liz Garton were appointed as project leads. A group of volunteers were planning to start clearing debris from the pond on Sunday 31 August. Cllr Malcolm Lowe would explore disposal options for the tyres coming out of the pond.

It was proposed to ask Severn Trent if they would help clear the pond and use their cameras to investigate and help clear blockages of the pipe serving the pond.

A plan is needed for other tasks, including a life buoy, signage, bird and bat boxes.

- 8.3 To consider options for cutting wildflower areas.

The Wildlife Group reported that a volunteer has agreed to cut Upper Green again this year, and it was agreed to leave debris by the pylon until it can be removed. They also requested notice of when the contractor is cutting the playing field, so they could remove the posts allowing cutting to the edges of the field.

Other ideas put forward for managing the wildflower areas in future years were discussed including involving butterfly or conservation groups, or Duke of Edinburgh participants to assist, and asking the wider village for help. Although help with raking had been advertised this year, the response was limited. They asked the council to consider investing in a brush cutter or scythes for this work and suggested contacting Cotswold Voluntary Wardens about a scything course.

9. Ilmington Tennis Club

To discuss amendments to the agreement between Ilmington Tennis Club and Ilmington Parish Council, and agree the next steps.

A draft agreement had been circulated. Cllr Malcolm Lowe declared an interest as a member of the Tennis Club, but was invited to remain to provide feedback on the draft.

It was RESOLVED to approach the Tennis Club for comments on the draft agreement, including a covering letter asking them to review the constitution regarding the distribution of funds in the event the club is wound up.

10. Ilmington Playing Fields.

10.1 To approve signing of an agreement with Warwickshire County Council for the new Community Orchard.

It was RESOLVED to approve the signing of the agreement for the new community orchard when the list of trees had been added.

10.2 To note that an expression of interest has been submitted to Stratford District Council's free trees scheme, and approve a full application.

Details of the application process were awaited.

10.3 To consider purchasing a long hosepipe and trolley for watering new trees.

It was RESOLVED that up to £300 be spent on a hose trolley and hose.

Councillors would send their suggestions to the Clerk.

10.4 To consider quotations for cutting the perimeter hedge on Mickleton Road.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Alex Lewis of £730 ex VAT.

It was noted that the cut should proceed as early as possible in case of wet winter.

11. Grace's Playground

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

It was noted that ground cracks are widening, and agreed to ask Rob Hawkins if he could fill them, using bag of soil from Red Horse Vale. The Clerk would organise soil delivery in consultation with Cllr Peachey.

12. Protection of Verges

To consider measures to protect village verges, including installation of parking posts.

The Locality Manager had provided some guidance on parking posts; any posts on highway verges would require permission from the county council. Councillors reviewed various designs, preferring wooden posts with pyramid tops and reflective bands. Potential suppliers include Batsford Timber, Glasdon, StowAg, and Woodcraft. Priority locations for the posts include the verge along Mickleton Road, the verge by the village hall, and the Lower Green. Signage would be reviewed to ensure that visitors are aware of free parking at the playing fields. To be considered further at the next meeting.

13. Finance & Admin

13.1 To approve the bank reconciliation to 31 July 2025.

It was RESOLVED that that bank reconciliation be approved.

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

It was RESOLVED that the report was received.

It was further RESOLVED to move £500 to the Equals Money account.

13.3 To approve payments as per the schedule below.

Cllr Lara Lowe had declared an interest in this item, and did not vote.

The Clerk requested that an invoice from Simon Healey be added to the list.

It was RESOLVED that the payments list, including payment of £924 to Simon Healey, be approved.

Date	Payee	In respect of	Amount
31-Jul	Lara Lowe	First aid kit, key safe	£ 26.99
09-Aug	Waterplus *	Water charges	£ 139.27
12-Aug	Jane Wileman *	Cleaning	£ 97.69
14-Aug	Asda Mobile ‡	SIM only bundle	£ 5.00
26-Aug	Simon Healey	Mowing, gate latch,	£ 924.00
31-Aug	Staff costs *	August payroll	£ 854.65
31-Aug	Unity Trust Bank *	Account fee	£ 6.00
* Already paid ‡ Paid with card TOTAL			£ 2,053.60

14. Strategic Risk Register

To review and update the strategic risk register.

This was deferred to give councillors more time to review.

15. Correspondence: To consider actions arising:

15.1 Warwickshire County Council public survey on Local Government Reorganisation.

15.2 Stratford on Avon District Council on Local Government Reorganisation: Invitation to Parish & Town Council Focus Groups, consultation open until 14 Sept.

15.3 Emergency planning and event training for Parish Councils on 24 Sept 2025.
Unfortunately nobody was available on the date.

15.4 Complaint about dog poo bin outside the telephone exchange.

It was suggested the bin is moved to the Compton Scorpion road.

15.5 Letter regarding running event. It was agreed to write to Tempo Events requesting an update on the plans for their October event, asking them to provide an event plan, and to consult with the parish council on any road closure applications.

16. Member Reports (for information only)

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

Cllr Lara Lowe attended the recent village hall meeting with Manuela Perteghella MP. Regarding local government reorganisation, the MP was keen to make sure that this part of Warwickshire remains retains its rural identity, rather than being merged with the northern end. They also discussed concerns about the future of Neighbourhood Planning and shortcomings of planning enforcement.

17. Future Agenda Items

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

Already noted: Highways walkabout, Neighbourhood Plan review.

18. Next Meeting

Thursday 25 September 2025, 7:30pm in Ilmington Community Shop Café.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:55 pm.

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____