

Ilmington Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held in Ilmington Community Shop on 25 September 2025 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: Pauline Rigby (Clerk) and 6 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Lara Lowe and Chris Plyming.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lara Lowe declared an interest in item 13, a reimbursement of expenses.

3. County and District Council Reports

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

4. Public Forum

A group of residents had come to the meeting to discuss the Mabels Farm development, and it was agreed they would be allowed to speak under the relevant agenda item.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Clerk noted an omission in 8.2 on the pond. It was agreed to add "Cllr Underwood and Wildlife Group volunteer Liz Garton had been appointed as project leads."

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

6. Committee Minutes

To receive minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting on 5th September 2025.

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

7.1 To report planning decisions at variance with the views of the Council. None

7.2 25/01899/FUL: Land Off Armscote Road Ilmington - Proposed garage (Plot 1).

Comment: NO OBJECTION provided that the development adheres to policies in the Neighbourhood Plan relating to the increased flood risk in this location, and it is conditioned the drainage from the new garage is connected to the soakaway.

7.3 25/02185/TREE: Grump Cottage Grump Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LE -T1 cherry - Fell. Expires on 1 Oct25/01896/TREE: Orchard Barn Front Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LN -T1A field maple - fell.

Cllr Underwood declared an interest as the applicant and so left the room. As the meeting became inquorate, NO REPRESENTATION could be made.

7.4 To consider any applications notified since publication of the agenda.

25/02237/TREE: Mizpah House Front Street Ilmington CV36 4LA T1 - Leylandii - Fell T2 - cherry laurel -Fell T3 - Leylandii -Fell T4 - Leylandii -Fell T5 - Leylandii -Fell T6 - cherry laurel -Fell T7 - Leylandii -Fell T8 - Leylandii -Fell T9 - cherry laurel -Fell T10 - variegated cherry laurel -Fell T11 - cherry laurel -Fell T12 - cherry laurel -Fell.

Comment: NO OBJECTION

8. Local Plan / Neighbourhood Plan

- 8.1 To receive an update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) and clarification on the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA).

SWLP had issued an update on the call for sites exercise. Additionally, planners had responded to a recent enquiry explaining that while Mabels Farm had been eliminated from the allocations needed to meet South Warwickshire's wider needs, it remained a site allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan.

During the discussion it was noted that Stratford on Avon District Council had recently lost a court case, meaning it can no longer demonstrate the required five years, leaving the area open to speculative development. It was further noted that windfall sites can also no longer be carried forward.

- 8.2 To receive Manuela Perteghella MP's reply on Neighbourhood Planning funding.

The letter from the MP had been circulated.

- 8.3 To discuss WPDG tender for the Mabels Farm development and agree actions.

It was reported that the county council's development arm Warwickshire Property Development Group (WPDG) had issued a tender for the Mabels Farm site earlier in the year. The indicative plan shows 27 dwellings, compared with 20 allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan. Clarification is being sought on the reasons for this increase.

Jan Sherwood commented that, as there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and the reserve site is also likely to come forward, the village may have to accept some level of growth. The focus should be on how the parish council can influence the outcome. Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group wished to support the process.

It was RESOLVED that a working group would be convened to review the proposals for Mabels Farm and liaise with WPDG. The group would comprise members of the former Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Tim Allen, Joyce Bridges, Ross Chambers, Tammy Clifford, Jan Sherwood, and Martin Seymour. Cllrs Peachey and Underwood agreed to be the councillor representatives.

Several people questioned whether the business case for a new farmhouse is justified, given that the Mabel's Farm farmland has now been let to other tenants.

- 8.4 To call a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group.

Chairman asked if members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would also be willing to conduct the review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The group agreed to hold its first meeting on Friday 10 Oct, 3pm, at the Pavilion.

The Working Group members left the meeting at this point.

9. Protection of Verges

To agree the design, location, and installation of parking posts to protect village verges.

Concern had been raised that posts would increase maintainance.

It was RESOLVED to trial posts on selected sites of Lower Green and Mickleton Road, and councillors would measure and assess how many posts are required.

Funding could come from the 'Other projects' budget code, with additional budget allocation in the next financial year as the project is rolled out.

10. Council Assets: Benches

To agree whether to repair, replace or remove the memorial bench to John Davenport.

It was RESOLVED to publish notices in 20:20 Circulation and in the Parish Magazine advising that the bench was damaged and the council intends to remove it and, if nobody comes forward, to remove the bench but keep the plaque.

11. Grace's Playground

To consider the annual playground inspection report and agree actions arising.

Actions arising agreed as follows:

- Clerk to raise the issue of wetpour shrinkage with ESP Play.
- Cllr Peachey to ask Jim Groves to look at the damaged seat.
- Cllr Peachey to ask Rob Hawkins to fill holes on the mound.
- Continue to monitor wobbly vertical posts.

12. Finance & Admin

12.1 To report income of £1,250 (WCC Cllr Grant) and £19,086 (precept).

12.2 To approve transfer of £20,000 from current account to savings.

It was RESOLVED that the transfer be approved.

12.3 To note the reduction in interest rate on the Unity Trust savings account to 2.10% from 23/11/25, and consider alternative savings options.

This was noted and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

12.4 To approve the bank reconciliation to 31 August 2025.

It was RESOLVED that that bank reconciliation be approved.

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

It was noted that no budget had been allocated to car park maintenance.

12.6 To approve payments as per the schedule below.

The Clerk requested and it was agreed to make two additions to the payment list: to MoreThisWay for fire exit sticks and Simon Healey for mowing.

It was RESOLVED that the payments list as amended be approved.

Date	Payee	In respect of	Amount
01-Sep	Open Spaces Society	Annual membership	£ 45.00
06-Sep	Tesco ‡	Box, brushes for Pavilion	£ 27.00
09-Sep	Waterplus *	Water charges	£ 139.27
10-Sep	Eroofing Ltd ‡	Non-adhesive barrier tape	£ 12.99
10-Sep	Play Safety Ltd	Annual playground inspection	£ 163.20
14-Sep	Asda Mobile ‡	SIM only bundle	£ 5.00
18-Sep	Post Office ‡	RM Tracked 48	£ 2.80
25-Sep	MoreThisWay H&S ‡	Fire exit stickers	£ 3.99
26-Sep	Simon Healey	Mowing cuts 13 and 14	£ 864.00
30-Sep	Staff costs *	September payroll	£ 890.45
30-Sep	Unity Trust Bank *	Account fee	£ 6.00

* Already paid ‡ Paid with card

TOTAL

£ 2,159.70

13. Pension Scheme

13.1 To note that the Clerk must be automatically enrolled in a workplace pension because of increased hours. This was noted.

13.2 To agree on the council's pension provider and level of employer contributions.

A report had been circulated which outlined the background and options. The Clerk declared an interest and left the room while councillors discussed the matter. When the Clerk was called back, the council's decision was conveyed for the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to appoint NEST as the Council's pension provider, with contribution levels set in line with the Pension Quality Mark Plus standard, i.e. 15% of total earnings, of which 10% is from the employer.

14. Internal Audit 2025-26

To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31 March 2026.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Helen Dubois as the council's internal auditor for 2025-26.

15. Strategic Risk Register

To review and update the strategic risk register.

The following updates and actions were agreed.

Item	Action
2	Business continuity: Update chairman's envelope
7	Assets: Adopt an asset management policy (pavilion, trees, benches, etc.)
8	Assets: is now a lower risk, as the council has taken the pavilion back in hand, and is working on agreement with Tennis Club. Next Bowls.
11	Banking: Appoint a councillor to set up payments in absence of Clerk.
26	Contact IT support for resolving OneDrive conflict and enabling cloud sync.
27	Data Protection: All councillors to use council email addresses.

It was RESOLVED that the risk register be approved.

16. Document retention policy

It was agreed to defer this item.

17. **Correspondence:** To consider actions arising:

17.1 Proposal from Imagine Padel. It was agreed to invite them to contact the Tennis Club to explore opportunities for collaborative work.

17.2 Invitation to WALC AGM, held online at 6pm on Weds, 12 Nov.

17.3 Warwickshire County Council Budget Consultation 2026/27.

18. **Member Reports** (for information only): None.

19. Future Agenda Items

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

20. Next Meeting

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

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

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____