

Ilmington Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held in Ilmington Community Shop on 22 January 2026 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: Pauline Rigby (Clerk), District Councillor Paul Harrison, and six members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

All councillors were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

The Public Forum was taken next while waiting for District Cllr Harrison to arrive.

3. Public Forum

A resident who lives near the Mabels Farm development site enquired whether the working group plans to consult local residents, and offered help as a chartered surveyor. A second resident who works in the construction industry also offered their support.

A volunteer reported that the bench survey was complete. Two benches require repair (one by sports field, one by the shop) while the bench by Berry Orchard may have been damaged by an impact. He plans to reassess and bring information to a future meeting.

A resident praised the children's playground and suggested adding adult exercise equipment to serve Ilmington's growing older population.

Another resident asked how neighbourhood plans could be funded now that Government support has been withdrawn, noting the community may need to resource it themselves.

4. County and District Council Reports

County Cllr David Curtis had sent his apologies and a written report.

Cllr Paul Harrison said since he last attended, there hasn't been a district council meeting, and his time has been mostly taken up with training and casework.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 December 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and they were duly signed.

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

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

None to report.

6.2 26/00005/TREE: Quaint End Front Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LN - T1 ash - Fell.

Comment: NO OBJECTION

6.3 25/03088/FUL: Proposed side/rear extension – Sun Hill House, 5 Armscote Road, Ilmington, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LL

Comment: NO OBJECTION subject to the following: it is vitally important that the building does not exacerbate local flooding and the roof drainage from the extension should connect to the soakaway as described in the original planning application from the developer and conditioned not to drain into the brook. The development should be consistent with Ilmington Neighbourhood Plan Policy and materials of the new extension must be an exact match to the existing stone.

7. Mabels Farm Working Group

To report back on the meeting with WPGD and Stratford-on-Avon District Council planning officers on 22 January and consider the way forward.

Cllr Plyming and Cllr Underwood along with two members of the Mabels Farm Working Group had represented the Council. The group were surprised by the Conservation Officer's assessment which appeared to give more weight to the character of Mickleton Road than Back Street, and underestimated the impact of existing traffic on Back Street. However, the Planning Team Leader had agreed to review the information presented.

A lengthy debate followed and opposing views were invited. It was acknowledged that there would be challenges in achieving access from Mickleton Road, particularly the land swap. An alternative suggestion to reduce the impact of the development was to provide off-street parking for the school and double yellow lines along Back Street.

The discussion then turned to possible actions. Members noted the importance of involving more people and ensuring the village as a whole supports their actions. It was suggested that a public meeting be called to update the village on discussions to date.

It was also suggested that Highways be contacted regarding the safety aspects of the proposed development and that the Council may consider commissioning an independent review of the two access options. A question was raised as to whether the Council has the legal power to incur expenditure on such investigations.

It was RESOLVED to hold a public meeting in the Village Hall on Monday 9th February, 7:30pm. The Clerk was authorised to book the venue and advertise the meeting.

A resident offered to source a quotation for professional reports.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their feedback.

8. Ilmington Playing Fields

8.1 To consider an event application for the Tempo Trail Races in May 2026.

It was noted that EA guidelines require race organisers to obtain written permission from landowners who's land they're crossing and access for emergency services.

It was RESOLVED that approval could not be granted until written permission is received from all relevant landowners, and that camping permission would only be granted if full details are submitted by 5 pm on Friday 20 February.

8.2 To note ongoing delays in the supply of the replacement nudge bar and to seek the Council's direction on how to proceed

The Clerk reported further delays although delivery had been promised in the coming week.

It was RESOLVED to approve the purchase of a nudge bar made by Rob Hawkins at a cost of £85 (no VAT) and add the invoice to the payments list.

The Clerk was asked to purchase more reflective tape to put on the nudge bar.

- 8.3 To consider terms of reference for a committee responsible for the playing fields as well as the pavilion.

A draft terms of reference had been circulated. It was also recommended that the Council formally retire the Playing Fields Committee Constitution dated 15 January 2006 and confirms that responsibility for the playing fields and associated facilities rests with the Council, pending any future arrangements it may choose to put in place. Delegated responsibilities could be given to sports clubs for any additional maintenance and those clubs invited to report into the new committee.

It was agreed to include a clause that “The committee may co-opt additional non-voting members where it considers this necessary.”

It was RESOLVED that, with this amendment, the Terms of Reference be adopted.

It was further RESOLVED that the Pavilion Committee be renamed the Recreation Ground Committee to reflect the expanded responsibilities.

Members agreed to invite sports clubs to attend the next committee meeting.

9. Tree Works & Orchards

- 9.1 To consider quotations for tree works around the pond.

It was RESOLVED that the quotation from TreeTech Arboricultural Services be accepted at a cost of £1,050 ex VAT.

- 9.2 To agree location for plaque for the Community Orchard.

It was RESOLVED to place the plaque by the tree closest to the pedestrian gate.

- 9.3 To consider a quotation from Tree Frontiers for a re-inspection of council trees.

Cllr Peachey introduced this item. The Clerk reported that Tree Frontiers had advised the next survey be undertaken 28 months after the last, in autumn/winter 2026-27, so the trees can be inspected in a different season.

10. Grace's Playground

- 10.1 To receive the routine playground inspection reports and agree actions arising.

It was agreed to defer this item.

- 10.2 To review previous decisions relating to the provision of a sign and a plaque acknowledging playground donors.

Members noted the council's previous decision to acknowledge the shop's contribution towards the basket swing on the main sign. It was agreed that an updated quotation be obtained, with a view to installation in the spring. Cllr Malcolm Lowe agreed to obtain a refreshed quotation.

11. Finance & Admin

- 11.1 To note income received of £247.50 from WCC and £395.66 in credit interest.

Revisit if interest rates go down any more.

- 11.2 To approve the bank reconciliation to 31 December 2025.

It was RESOLVED that that bank reconciliation be approved.

- 11.3 To receive the budget monitoring report for the year to date.

The report had been circulated.

11.4 To approve payments as per the schedule.

It was agreed to add the payment of £85 to Rob Hawkins to the payments list.

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

Date	Payee	In respect of	Amount
09-Jan	Waterplus *	Water charges	£ 166.57
11-Jan	GeoXphere Ltd	Parish Online mapping	£ 67.20
11-Jan	Jane Wileman *	Cleaning December	£ 70.00
14-Jan	Asda Mobile ‡	SIM only bundle	£ 5.00
20-Jan	Rob Hawkins	Nudge bar	£ 85.00
31-Jan	Staff costs	January payroll	£ 934.41
31-Jan	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	£ 6.00
TOTAL			£ 1,334.18

* Already paid ‡ Paid with card

12. Donation Requests

12.1 Ilmington PCC towards churchyard maintenance.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £550 to Ilmington PCC.

12.2 Shipston Proms 2026

It was RESOLVED to decline the request.

13. Correspondence:

13.1 Ilmington Horticultural Society site meeting re location of commemorative tree.

Cllrs Peachey and Underwood to take the meeting.

13.2 SDC consultation on second homes council tax premium.

It was agreed that councillors could submit individual responses.

13.3 Planning Conditions and Planning Obligations training session for Town and Parish Councils on Wednesday 4 March 2026, 6-8pm. This was noted.

14. Member Reports (for information only):

Cllr Plyming reported that, in consultation with the Clerk, it had been agreed that a BBC production unit could use the playing fields car park and overflow car park, with protective boards to be laid, during the week of 13th-19th February.

15. Future Agenda Items

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

Already noted: Tennis Club agreement, bench repairs.

To be added: Retiring the Playing Fields Committee, Neighbourhood Plan review, playground sign.

16. Next Meeting

Thurs 26 February 2026, 7:30pm at Ilmington Community Shop Café.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:50pm.

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____