

Ilmington Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held in Ilmington Community Shop on 9th April 2026 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: Pauline Rigby (Clerk), Rick Burgess (Ilmington Road Safety Group), and several members of Mabels Farm Advisory Group

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Karen Peachey.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. County and District Council Reports

Cllr Paul Harrison summarised his written report, noting that Stratford District Council has set its budget. He wanted to remind people that the district council only receives 7% of Council Tax and highlighted, among other things, that £300,000 has been allocated over three years to support Neighbourhood Plans.

Commenting on Local Government Reorganisation, County Cllr David Curtis said it now appears more likely that a north-south split will be made, with precedents appearing elsewhere, but the decision rests with the Secretary of State later in the year. He is keen to support the parish in engaging with the developer of the Mabels Farm site. He also reported that he has met with highways managers about issues across his patch, and can help to escalate highway issues where necessary.

4. Public Forum

A representative of the Sewage Group provided an update. While Severn Trent has finished the sewer pipe upgrade, this has shifted the problem with sewage being transported to the treatment works faster than it could handle. The water testing group has found that levels at the outlet of the Ilmington STW are significantly higher than elsewhere on the river. Findings will be shared with Severn Trent and hopefully actioned.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 26 February 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record and they were duly signed.

It was agreed to consider agenda item 9 on village gateways next.

6. Village Gateways

WCC Highway Community Action Fund (HCAF) had presented options for each of the four village entry points where gates would be installed and had requested feedback.

It was RESOLVED that the preferred colour for the village gateways is white.

The options were reviewed in turn and preferred options agreed. It was agreed that Rick Burgess would draft the summary of the preferred options for submission to the HCAF.

A question was raised regarding responsibility, ownership and insurance of the gateways. It was agreed that the matter would be raised with HCAF.

7. Co-option:

To note the ongoing councillor vacancy, invite and consider applications.

Cllr Plyming had written an article for the local email newsletter, and it was hoped that people would come forward to ensure the continued operation of the council.

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

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

None to report.

8.2 25/03050/FUL: Red Lion Inn Front Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LX - Conversion of two storage buildings into two hotel rooms, plus changes to fenestration on front and rear elevation.

It was noted that NO REPRESENTATION was made, due to the consultation timing.

8.3 26/00529/FUL: Compton Scorpion Barn Compton Scorpion Farm Compton Scorpion Ilmington - Conversion and change of use of agricultural buildings to a dwelling with associated access drive.

Comment: NO OBJECTION to the building conversion; however, it is requested that any new services such as electricity and telecom cables are laid underground so as not to harm the landscape, and clarity is needed about the surface of the access drive to ensure it remains in keeping with the distinctive rural outlook.

8.4 26/00601/FUL: Land Off Armscote Road Ilmington - Proposed garage (Plot 2).

Comment: NO OBJECTION providing that drainage from the garage roof is connected to the soakaways on the site and not allowed to go into the brook.

Applications notified since publication of the agenda.

8.5 26/00749/TREE: Ilmington Community Shop Grump Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LE - T1 holly - Fell.

Comment: NO OBJECTION.

8.6 26/00695/FUL: 14 Armscote Road Ilmington Shipston CV36 4LL - Application for drop kerb for off road parking in front of Bungalow No.14 Armscote Road.

Comment: NO OBJECTION to the proposal, providing that the driveway is made from a permeable material.

9. Mabels Farm Advisory Group

9.1 To receive the results from the village survey on access, and consider recommendations from the group on the next steps.

Steve Routly gave the report on behalf of the Mabels Farm Advisory Group. The survey had achieved a 40% response rate. Of those who expressed a preference, 64% favoured access to the site from Mickleton Road, with 4% expressing no preference. Of those who preferred access from Back Street, their main concern was loss of the playing field land; however, it was noted that the map didn't clearly show how much land would be lost. Regardless of their access preference, many respondents felt that the development represented an opportunity to address existing issues with traffic and parking on Back Street.

The group recommended that the next step would be an initial meeting with the developer which had been tentatively arranged, and with WCC.

It was RESOLVED to go ahead with meetings with WPDG and WCC.

Cllr Curtis offered to liaise with WCC.

- 9.2 To consider commissioning a review of road access, traffic, and safety issues in connection with the proposed development.

The group recommended not pursuing this proposal, and instead engaging with the school regarding potential measures to address traffic and parking on Back Street.

- 9.3 To agree topics to be raised with the developer.

A meeting had been tentatively arranged for Tuesday 21 April.

Agreed topics: Housing mix, access options, and principles for design.

Following a brief discussion about 'affordable' housing, the Clerk was asked to forward the Housing Needs Survey to the developer to be sure they had a copy.

10. Highways Matters

To discuss issues relating to kerbstones and pavements in the village and agree to contact the Highway Authority to request inspection or remedial works.

Cllr Peachey introduced this item, noting that many granite kerbstones around the village were coming adrift. She propose to write to the highway authority to request that they inspect the pavements and kerbstones with a view to repairing them. Damage to verges elsewhere and the impact of the spring above the war memorial were also noted.

It was RESOLVED that Councillors would undertake a site walkabout to identify issues for referral to the highway authority, following which the authority would be contacted to request a site visit to assess the matters raised and consider appropriate repairs.

11. Ilmington Playing Fields

- 11.1 To report expenditure under Clerk's delegated authority of £139.14 on trees and £133.56 on tree guards, to ensure tree planting before the end of March.

It was further reported that Rob Hawkins had charged £60 for planting the trees.

- 11.2 To consider the purchase of bird, owl, bat and hedgehog boxes under the project 'Bringing our pond back to life'.

It was noted that the Wildlife Group had already purchased bird, owl and bat boxes, and suggested that the parish council may wish to provide an information board instead, explaining the purpose of the project and what it has achieved.

- 11.3 To consider the purchase of a lifebuoy, safety station and/or signage for the pond .

It was RESOLVED that signage be purchased with messages 'danger unfenced pond, no swimming, children must be supervised', one for each end of the pond.

Following a discussion about risk assessment of the pond area,

It was further RESOLVED to purchase a 30" lifebuoy in open housing at £205 ex VAT plus installation and to investigate commissioning a risk assessment.

12. Grace's Playground

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

The Clerk reported that tree on the Mabel Farms boundary has fallen across the ditch.

Cllr Lowe left the meeting at this point.

13. Finance & Admin

13.1 To note income received of £181 from Stratford District Council (tree grant) and £2,532.36 from closure of Ilmington Pavilion Association bank account.

13.2 To report transfer of £2,500 from savings to the current account.

13.3 To approve the bank reconciliation to 28 February 2026.

It was RESOLVED that that bank reconciliation be approved.

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

No questions were raised.

13.5 To approve payments as per the schedule.

It was agreed to add an invoice from TreeTech of £1,260 to the list and,

It was RESOLVED that the payments list be approved.

Date	Payee	In respect of	Amount
02-Mar	Lloyds Corporate Card ‡	Account fee	£ 3.00
07-Mar	Screwfix ‡	AA batteries	£ 6.56
07-Mar	Ultimate One ‡	Weld mesh tree guards	£ 133.56
09-Mar	Jane Wileman *	Cleaning February	£ 50.00
10-Mar	Waterplus *	Water charges	£ 149.39
13-Mar	Hutchings & Son *	Trees	£ 139.14
14-Mar	Asda Mobile ‡	SIM only bundle	£ 5.00
17-Mar	Busy Fingers ‡	A1 plan copying	£ 7.90
17-Mar	Octopus ‡	Pavilion electricity	£ 13.02
20-Mar	Clerk expenses *	Mileage	£ 129.60
23-Mar	CartridgeSave ‡	Printer ink	£ 33.00
23-Mar	Rob Hawkins *	Tree planting	£ 60.00
23-Mar	Simon Healey *	Mowing	£ 475.20
25-Mar	Chris Tombs (EE) *	Pavilion broadband	£ 26.52
26-Mar	Rheams Plumbing	Boiler major service	£ 222.00
27-Mar	Zen Internet ‡	Pavilion broadband	£ 52.80
31-Mar	Staff costs	March payroll	£ 934.41
31-Mar	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	£ 7.00
01-Apr	TreeTech	Pond tree works	£ 1,260.00

* Already paid ‡ Paid by card

TOTAL **£ 3,708.10**

13.1 To sign the direct debit mandate for Zen Internet Ltd for Pavilion broadband.

It was RESOLVED to sign the direct debit mandate for Zen Internet.

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

14.1 Letter regarding the need for more housing in the village.

It was agreed to respond, thanking the writer for his comments, which will be borne in mind when updating the Neighbourhood Plan.

14.2 Letter about silhouettes being added to the War Memorial.

It was suggested that the silhouettes could be installed on a seasonal, temporary basis in the lead-up to Remembrance, rather than remaining in place year-round, which may enhance their impact. The Parish Council had not given prior agreement for permanent installation and therefore requested their removal, with the option for them to be reinstated annually around Remembrance.

14.3 Letter to Warwickshire County Council about issues relating to Back Street.

The information was noted.

14.4 Consultation on BT Payphone removal, deadline 10 April.

No comment was required.

14.5 Briefing and template motion on Neighbourhood Governance Structure.

It was agreed to defer this item.

14.6 Request for access over council land to rebuild wall.

It was RESOLVED that permission be granted.

14.7 Email introducing Severn Trent's new Community Flooding Officers.

The information was noted.

15. Member Reports (for information only):

Notice of Ilmington Tennis Club AGM on Weds 22 April.

16. Future Agenda Items

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

Already noted: Neighbourhood Plan Review.

17. Next Meeting

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:00 pm.

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____