Ilmington Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held in Ilmington Community Shop Café on 30 July 2026 at 7:30pm

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

**In attendance**: Pauline Rigby (Clerk), County Cllr David Curtis, District Cllr Paul Harrison, and three members of the public at the start of the meeting.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies from Cllr Chris Plyming.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared at this point in the meeting. [See minute 13].

**3. County and District Council Reports**

District Cllr Paul Harrison reported that it had been a busy month with the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) released for Reg 19 consultation, and the announcement of reorganisation of district and county councils into north Warwickshire and south Warwickshire unitary authorities. A pothole leaking sewage on Grump Street has been fixed, as have potholes outside the Howard Arms.

Cllr David Curtis reported that:

- a large 'For Sale' board by the Darlingscott junction was quickly taken down.
- The verge outside the Howard Arms will be repaired and Glasdon Glenwood posts installed to prevent people driving on it.
- There will be only one round of the County Councillor's Grant Fund this year.
- Elections to a new shadow authority will take place on May 2027 with the authority coming into existence on 1 April 2028. Current district councillors will stay on and serve for a further year during the transition.
- The County Council has reviewed its flag flying and library stock policies following Pride week. A heated debate took place on the administration's proposal to remove the words "climate change" from the Council Plan, which was defeated.

**4. Public Forum**

No members of the public wished to speak at this point in the meeting.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2026.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes be approved.

**6. Committee Minutes**

To receive minutes from the Recreation Ground Committee on 24 July 2026.

Minutes would be circulated when ready.

**7. To co-opt a new councillor (one vacancy).**

It was RESOLVED that Fiona Dakin be appointed as a parish councillor.

Fiona signed a declaration of acceptance of office and joined councillors at the table.

**8. Highways Matters:**

8.1 To consider supporting a petition calling for road safety improvements at the A429 Darlingscote junction following a serious collision in which a resident was injured.

It was RESOLVED to support the petition and write a letter. Cllr Curtis would request collision data from the County Council's Road Safety Adviser, with a letter from the Council to be sent once the data had been received. The petition would also be shared with neighbouring parishes to encourage wide support.

8.2 To discuss parking on the grass verge outside the playground.

Members were concerned that parking on the grass verge was obstructing the footpath. Cllr Curtis said he could provide bollards from his delegated highways budget, and asked that a request from the Parish Council be forwarded in writing.

Signage was also suggested, one at the pedestrian entrance directing people to the car park and another outside the main entrance saying parking is free. It was agreed that Cllr Malcolm Lowe would consider the matter and put forward some proposals.

At the request of the Parish Council, Cllr Curtis also agreed to see whether additional funding was available for bollards to protect Upper Green.

**9. Mabels Farm Advisory Group**

To receive an update from the Mabels Farm Advisory Group, and discuss arrangements for sharing information and advice with the Council.

A representative gave an update, noting that they had met with Stansgate Planning, and that Deeleys had not yet provided feedback from their public meeting. A note had been issued via the Ilmington Circulation newsletter clarifying that the alternative site layout presented at the public meeting had not been endorsed by the group.

The Clerk highlighted the importance of ensuring that matters for decision are properly included on the agenda and recorded in the minutes.

**10. Planning Applications**

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

None to report.

10.2 To consider council's response to planning applications:

10.3 26/01527/FUL: Arqiva Transmitting Station - Ilmington Warwickshire Police Radio East Tower Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4JG - Replacement and installation of satellite dishes on existing telecommunications mast.

It was noted that the application had been permitted.

10.4 26/01408/FUL: 8 Washbrook Place Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LZ - Demolition of existing ground floor bathroom, glazed porch and outbuilding to be replaced with two storey side and rear extension.

Comment: NO OBJECTION, subject to the proposal complying with the relevant design standards set out in the Ilmington Neighbourhood Plan. It was also requested that the new build incorporates integrated swift bricks for biodiversity enhancement.

10.5 26/01771/TREE: Middle Meadow Middle Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LS - T1 - Yew-Fell T2 - Yew-Fell

Comment: NO OBJECTION

10.6 26/01399/PIP: Church View Back Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LJ - New dwelling with associated driveway to rear garden Deadline 11 Aug 2026.

A comment of objection from a resident had been circulated in advance.

Comment: OBJECTION based on reasons given in the resident's representation, adding that if permission is nevertheless granted, the Council requests that all relevant Ilmington Neighbourhood Plan policies are fully adhered to.

10.7 To deal with any applications notified since publication of the agenda.

None had been notified.

**11. Benches:**

11.1 To consider request for a memorial bench on Lower Green.

It was RESOLVED that the request be approved in principle subject to final confirmation of the details of the proposed bench.

11.2 To consider request for a bench in memory of Sid Betteridge.

It was RESOLVED that the request be approved in principle subject to confirmation of the final design and position of the bench on the playing fields.

It was noted that the bench dedicated to Lydia Saunders was in poor condition, and agreed to issue a notice inviting any family members who wished to arrange for its replacement to come forward.

11.3 To note that memorial bench to John & Betty Bryan has been repaired, and approve claim for cost of preservatives £24.99

It was RESOLVED that the claim from Paul Bryan for £24.99 be approved.

**12. Grace's Playground.**

12.1 To confirm the annual inspection is booked with Playsafety Ltd in Sept 2026.

It was confirmed that the annual inspection was booked at a cost of £83 ex VAT.

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

It was noted that the gate post by the sand pit gate post was rotten and would need to be replaced. The Clerk would source quotations.

The Clerk reported that Playdale had scheduled the repairs to the zig-zag steps and clatter bridge in early September.

**13. Finance & Admin:**

13.1 To note income received of £373.56 (credit interest) and £27.39 (wayleaves).

This was duly noted.

13.2 To approve the bank reconciliation to 30 June 2026.

It was RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation be approved.

13.3 To receive the budget monitoring report.

The report was received, there were no questions.

13.4 To approve payments as per the schedule.

Simon Healey Paddocks and Grounds had submitted an invoice for £950.40 ex VAT for mowing, and it was agreed to add this payment to the list.

Cllr Peachey declared an interest in the payment to Shakespeare Sweeps as the provider was her son, and did not participate in this item.

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

| Date | Payee | In respect of | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30-Jun | Bobs Bogs * | Portaloo hire | £ 48.00 |
| 02-Jul | Lloyds Corporate Card ‡ | Account fee | £ 3.00 |
| 02-Jul | Octopus Energy | Electricity charges | £ 69.07 |
| 03-Jul | Empire Drinks * | Chiller removal | £ 420.00 |
| 03-Jul | Hirers x2 | Deposit return x2 | £ 200.00 |
| 06-Jul | Amazon ‡ | Stationery | £ 29.25 |
| 06-Jul | Rob Hawkins * | Mowing village greens | £ 950.00 |
| 06-Jul | Jane Wileman | Cleaning June | £ 70.00 |
| 09-Jul | Water Plus | Water charges | £ 110.54 |
| 12-Jul | Microsoft Ireland ‡ | Exchange licences | £ 89.28 |
| 16-Jul | Asda Mobile ‡ | SIM only bundle | £ 5.00 |
| 17-Jul | Shakespeare Sweeps | Pavilion repairs | £ 240.00 |
| 20-Jul | ICO | Data protection fee | £ 47.00 |
| 20-Jul | Stansgate Planning * | Consultancy (Stage 1) | £ 1,024.80 |
| 27-Jul | Zen Internet | Pavilion broadband | £ 34.80 |
| 30-Jul | Simon Healey * | Mowing cuts 9 and 10 | £ 950.40 |
| 31-Jul | Staff costs | July payroll / overtime | £ 1,163.79 |
| 31-Jul | Unity Trust Bank | Service charge | £ 7.00 |
| ‡Paid by card * To be paid | | TOTAL | £ 5,461.93 |

**14. Correspondence:**

14.1 Marking the 200th Anniversary of the Stratford-Moreton Tramway.

It was agreed to publicise details locally.

14.2 Stratford District Council Litter hotspot survey, deadline 5pm on 11 Sept 2026.

Featherbed Lane was highlighted as a litter hotspot.

14.3 Complaint about condition of the bus shelter.

It was noted with thanks that volunteers had cut the hedges and cleaned the shelter.

**15. Member reports: (For information only)**

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

The Chairman had been invited to the Ilmington Tennis Club anniversary celebration.

**16. To consider holding the Annual Parish Meeting in March 2027.**

It was suggested holding the meeting earlier in the year to draw the date away from the local elections and ease pressure on meetings in May.

It was RESOLVED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 10 March 2027.

**17. To consider request for a license for Thatch Cottage.**

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Wellers Law to progress the matter, subject to the requester paying the associated legal fees.

**18. Future Agenda Items (for information only):**

To be added: Possibility of a replacement bus shelter.

**19. Next Meeting**

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

**20. Closed Session:**

To exclude press and public in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 owing to the confidential nature of the business.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting be closed to press and public.

**21. Staffing Matters:** *Minute 18 of 31 July 2025 refers*.

21.1 To review the current temporary increase in the Clerk's contractual working hours, and determine future arrangements.

It was RESOLVED that 20 hours of overtime worked by the Clerk be approved.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk's contractual hours be increased to 10 hours per week on a permanent basis. A letter would be issued to confirm the change.

21.2 To appoint a councillor to carry out the Clerk's annual appraisal.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Lara Lowe be appointed to conduct the Clerk's annual appraisal, for a period of no more than three years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: ______________________________