Ilmington Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held in Ilmington Community Shop Café on 27 August 2026 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: Pauline Rigby (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

All members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Malcolm Lowe declared an interest in agenda item 8 about the padel court.

3. County and District Council Reports

County Cllr David Curtis had sent his apologies.

District Cllr Paul Harrison had also sent apologies.

4. Public Forum

There were no questions from the public.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2026.

The Clerk confirmed that a typo and numbering had been corrected.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of 30 July be approved.

In response to questions, Cllr Underwood confirmed that he had written to the ward councillor requesting posts to protect the verge outside the playground.

6. Planning Applications

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

It was reported that 26/00529/FUL for conversion and change of use of agricultural buildings to a dwelling at Compton Scorpion Barn had secured planning permission.

It was agreed to write a letter to the Planning Authority, commenting that, although no objection had been raised, the Council had requested that the development comply with Ilmington Neighbourhood Plan and would be interested to understand why this was not reflected in the conditions attached to the approval.

To consider council's response to planning applications:

6.2 26/01904/TREE: Crab Mill Grump Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LE - T54 - cypress - Fell. […] T55 - cypress - Fell. […]

Comment (submitted under delegated authority): NO REPRESENTATION.

6.3 26/ 26/01986/TREE: The Grey House Grump Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LE - G1 - ash - To remove overhanging branches from 3 ash trees from neighbouring property, back to the boundary. Labelled as 'A' on sketch plan. T1 - Portuguese laurel - To reduce a large Portuguese laurel by 50% (2m) to maintain its size and shape. […] Labelled as 'B' on sketch plan.

The Tree Officer intended to provide an update following a visit to the property. As Members did not have the necessary information, it was requested that the consultation period be restarted once the additional information had been provided.

6.4 26/02023/TREE: The Dower House Back Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LJ - T1 - Silver Maple - Fell G1 - 1x young ash and 1 x holly - Fell T2 - Holly - Fell T3 - Oak (semi-mature and in poor condition) - Fell T4 - Ash - Fell G2 - Poplar - Re-pollard T5 - Box - Fell T6 - Hornbeam – Fell.

Comment: NO OBJECTION

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

There were none.

7. Ilmington Recreation Ground

7.1 To consider a request from Ilmington Bowls Club to lay a gravel pathway behind the pavilion and reimburse them for the cost of the gravel.

It was RESOLVED that the request be approved and to pay the supplier's invoice for £162 plus VAT for the gravel.

7.2 To consider employing a caretaker / warden for the recreation ground

Members discussed creating a part-time support role to reduce councillor and Clerk time, considering employed, self-employed and voluntary options, and appropriate rates of pay. Cleaning was removed from the list of tasks as a cleaner had recently been appointed. It was agreed that the role and requirements should first be defined. The Clerk was tasked with drawing up a job description for the role.

8. Ilmington Tennis Courts

To re-consider the proposal for a padel court and determine whether the Parish Council is willing to submit a planning application in its own name, with the associated costs, plans and documents, to be provided by the project proposers.

Cllr Malcolm Lowe had declared an interest as one of the project proposers, but was invited to answer questions. He remained in the room but abstained from the vote.

It was RESOLVED to support the proposal and submit the planning application for a padel court, on the basis that the application fee will be paid for by a resident, and the final draft application being reviewed at a future Parish Council meeting..

It was agreed to write to Ilmington Tennis Club outlining the proposal and to give them an opportunity to raise any fundamental objections at this stage.

9. Village Greens:

To report, under delegated authority, the instruction to Alex Lewis Tree Care to remove two cherry trees on Upper Green at a cost of £750 ex VAT.

The Clerk reported that the arborist had submitted the required five-day notice and that the work was expected to be carried out shortly.

10. Grace's Playground.

10.1 To receive the routine playground inspection reports and consider actions arising, including quotation for additional repairs from Playdale at cost of £1,003.54 ex VAT.

It was noted that a junior swing had been taken out of use, as the nut securing the seat was missing, and replacements would need to be sourced.

The hot, dry summer had caused further ground shrinkage, resulting in some movement of a climbing unit. Playdale had provided a quote for remedial works. Councillors noted the need to consider the playground's resilience to hot summers.

It was RESOLVED to accept Playdale's quotation for repairs of £1,003.54 ex VAT.

11. Conclusion of Audit

To receive the external auditor's report for the year ending 31 March 2026, and consider any actions or recommendations arising from the report.

The auditor had commented that the council had incorrectly accounted for the outstanding credit card balance. The Clerk explained that this was due to having been given incorrect advice in this regard. It was agreed that the correct method would be followed in the following financial year.

12. Finance & Admin:

12.1 To note income received of £703.75 from Water Plus and £1,264.50 as compensation for damaged water pipe.

This was duly noted.

12.2 To approve the bank reconciliation to 31 July 2026.

It was RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation be approved.

12.3 To receive the budget monitoring report.

12.4 To approve payments as per the schedule.

It was agreed to add payment of £194.40 for the gravel to the payments list.

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

Date	Payee	In respect of	Amount
14-Jul	Playdale Playgrounds *	Repairs deposit	£ 612.92
30-Jul	Moore *	External audit fee	£ 378.00
31-Jul	Alan Gibson Heating	Shower decommissioning	£ 204.00
03-Aug	Lloyds Corporate Card ‡	Account fee	£ 3.00
03-Aug	Octopus Energy	Electricity charges	£ 82.13
07-Aug	Jane Wileman	Cleaning July	£ 78.25
10-Aug	M Whetren Heating	Boiler recommissioning	£ 150.00
11-Aug	InstantPrint ‡	Fire risk signs	£ 45.37
12-Aug	The Wright Signs	Deposit playground sign	£ 870.00
14-Aug	Asda Mobile ‡	SIM only bundle	£ 5.00
14-Aug	Sue Baker Pest Control	Wasp nest	£ 85.00
15-Aug	Pro Plumb Shipston	Emergency plumber	£ 150.00
17-Aug	Open Spaces Society *	Annual membership	£ 45.00
21-Aug	Pauline Rigby *	Clerk's mileage 26Q2	£ 158.40
22-Aug	Cotswold Concreting *	Gravel	£ 194.40
27-Aug	Zen Internet	Pavilion broadband	£ 34.80
31-Aug	Staff costs	August payroll, overtime	£ 1,163.79
31-Aug	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	£ 7.00
‡Paid by card * To be paid		TOTAL	£ 4,267.06

13. Correspondence:

13.1 To consider requests for additional mowing of verges to reduce fire risk.

Further correspondence had been received asking whether the Council would raise the matter with Highways. It was noted that, if dry summers become more frequent, the issue may recur and should be considered as part of the Council's wider work on biodiversity, resilience and fire risk management.

13.2 To consider resident's request to relocate a path on Upper Green.

On reviewing the title deeds, it was noted that the entrance to the house in question was not on Parish Council owned land, but may be on a highway verge. The Clerk had communicated this to the resident.

14. Member reports: (For information only)

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

Cllr Peachey had attended the Ilmington Tennis Club anniversary celebration.

Cllr Plyming reported that Mabels Farm Advisory Group had not held any meetings recently. The group was waiting for an update from the developer about the public consultation before providing an update to the village.

15. Future Agenda Items (for information only):

Already noted: Biodiversity Policy & Action Plan, replacement bus shelter,.

To be added: Pond safety, village gateways.

16. 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.

17. Staffing Matters.

17.1 Following the Clerk's appraisal, to consider the appraiser's recommendation to award the Clerk an increase of one salary point, to SCP 25.

It was RESOLVED to award the Clerk an increase of one salary point, to SCP 25.

17.2 To approve the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC National Conference on 13-14 October 2026, with the cost shared pro-rata with another council, resulting in a cost of £137.50 to this Council.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Conference be approved at a cost of £137.50 ex VAT.

It was also noted that the HMRC fuel rate had increased to 55p per mile.

18. Next Meeting

Thurs 24 September 2026, 7:30pm at Ilmington Community Shop Café.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____