Ilmington Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held in Ilmington Community Shop Café on 24 September 2026 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: Pauline Rigby (Clerk) and one member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Chris Plyming.

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

3. County and District Council Reports

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

District Cllr Paul Harrison had also sent apologies.

4. Public Forum

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the item on village gateways be brought forward for discussion at this point. The decision is recorded under Minute 8.

Rick, representing the Road Safety Group, addressed the Council in support of the proposed village gateways and encouraged members to support the motion. He confirmed that the specifications had been discussed and agreed with Highways, and suggested provision for 20mph speed limits should be included in next year's budget.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2026.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of be approved.

The meeting was briefly paused due to interruptions by the robot vacuum cleaner.

6. Committee Minutes

To receive minutes of the Recreation Ground Committee meeting on 18 September 2026, and consider any recommendations from the committee.

The Clerk explained this had been included in anticipation that the committee may request additional budgetary provision, but the matter was no longer required.

7. Planning Applications

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

Re: 26/01986/TREE: The Grey House. The Tree Officer had replied that the consultation period could not be restarted. A comment of 'No objection' had been submitted, based on comments from councillors.

To consider council's response to planning applications:

7.2 26/02119/LBC: Mabels Farmhouse Back Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LJ - Proposed rebuilding of chimney in brick.

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Comment: NO OBJECTION.

7.3 26/02239/TREE: Wharf Farm House Middle Street Ilmington Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4LS - T1 - snake skin maple - Fell. T2 - hawthorn - Fell. T3 - Prunus Padus - Crown thinning by 20%. Crown lift by 1 metre. T4 - walnut - Crown thinning by 20% and crown clean. T5 - mixed hedge - Reduce by 1-2 metres.#

The Tree Officer intended to provide an update following a visit to the property. It was agreed that the response be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with councillors once the additional information had been provided.

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

There were none.

8. Village Gateways

To confirm that the Parish Council would like proceed with the procurement and installation of the village gateway improvements at an estimated total shared cost of £16,650, half of which is to be paid by the Parish Council.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would like to proceed with the procurement and installation of village gateways.

9. Other Highways Matters:

9.1 To receive an update regarding the petition calling for traffic lights at the Darlingscott crossroads, and consider any actions arising.

The petition organiser Sheila Lowe had sent written update, noting the petition had been verified and 1,052 signatures confirmed. This meant the petition met the threshold to be presented to Full Council on 15 December.

County Cllr David Curtis said he was very supportive of the petition and would present it at Full Council, liaising with Sheila Lowe. He encourage residents to attend and speak in support of the petition, as this could help strengthen the case.

The need to obtain relevant road safety data ahead of the December presentation was discussed, including submitting a Freedom of Information request if necessary.

9.2 To consider and approve the proposed designs and quotations for signs directing to parking on Mickleton Road, if available.

It was RESOLVED to contact the Tennis Club to request that the wording of the proposed ‘Pay and Play’ sign is clarified, to ensure it is clear that the wording refers to tennis facilities and not parking.

It was agreed, subject to Highways approval, to purchase the proposed directional parking signs, and to obtain alternative quotations for the V-shaped signs.

9.3 To discuss and agree bollards and/or signs to deter parking on grass verges.

It was RESOLVED to purchase 10 ‘no parking on verge’ signs from YourParkingSign, at estimated cost of around £200 to be distributed to key locations.

It was RESOLVED to explore the cost of purchasing bespoke no parking on village green signs.

It was further RESOLVED to write a letter to the local pubs, shop and the Village Hall, asking customers not to park on grass verges, greens or pavements because it is damaging the grass and kerbstones.

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10. Benches:

10.1 To approve purchase and installation of a new memorial bench on Lower Green, paid for by the donor in accordance with the Council's Memorial Bench Policy.

It was RESOLVED that the purchase and installation of the memorial bench be approved at a cost of £2,675 from Cyan Teak Furniture for the bespoke tree bench, and £550 for installation by Simon Healey Paddocks and Grounds.

10.2 To agree whether to repair, replace or remove the memorial bench to Lydia Saunders, given that no family members have come forward.

It was RESOLVED to remove the bench to Lydia Saunders, but retain the plaque.

10.3 To consider suitable locations for a memorial bench for the Betteridge family.

It was RESOLVED to suggest the above site on the playing fields to the Betteridge family as a possible location for the memorial bench.

It was suggested that the bench outside the shop should also be repaired and to approach the shop to ask whether they would be willing to contribute towards the cost. This item is to be added to the next suitable agenda.

11. Ilmington Recreation Ground:

To approve a job description and advert for the recreation ground caretaker / warden.

The Council considered the proposed job description and recruitment advert for a Parish Warden to assist with the maintenance and care of the council's property.

Members were concerned that a self-employed role might deter potential applicants, particularly those unfamiliar with or less comfortable with managing their own working arrangements, and agreed an employed position would also be considered.

It was RESOLVED to advertise the Parish Warden vacancy on the basis of the job description presented, with a shorter advert to be prepared for publication in 20:20 and the Parish Magazine.

Actions:
- Clerk to circulate the proposed wording of the advert for review before publication.
- Malcolm and Lara to meet prospective candidates.
- Applicants to be directed to the Clerk for further information.

12. Grace's Playground.

12.1 To receive the annual / routine playground inspection report and agree any necessary actions and expenditure arising.

This item was deferred because the inspection report had not been received.

It was noted that Playdale was expecting to carry out the repairs w/c 12 Oct.

The Clerk reported that the bolt had been replaced on the junior swing chain.

Members suggested replacing the wooden slide with an accessible roundabout.

It was RESOLVED to obtain a quotation for the supply and installation of an accessible roundabout, including the removal of the existing wooden slide.

12.2 To consider quotation for quarterly operational inspections.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Playsource of £450 ex VAT for a playground inspection package with one annual and three quarterly inspections.

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13. Finance & Admin:

13.1 To note income received of £23,233.50 (second half of precept).

13.2 To report transfer of £20,000 into the linked savings account.

The above was duly noted.

13.3 To approve the bank reconciliation to 31 August 2026.

It was RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation be approved.

13.4 To receive the budget monitoring report.

This was noted; there were no questions.

13.5 To note the NJC pay award of 3.3%, backdated to 1 April 2026.

13.6 To approve payments as per the schedule.

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

Date	Payee	In respect of	Amount
28-Aug	SLCC *	National Conference	£ 152.75
02-Sep	Lloyds Corporate Card ‡	Account fee	£ 3.00
02-Sep	Octopus Energy	Electricity charges	£ 127.44
03-Sep	Jane Wileman	Cleaning July	£ 76.25
05-Sep	Alex Lewis	Fell cherry trees	£ 900.00
09-Sep	Water Plus	Water charges	£ 254.25
14-Sep	Asda Mobile ‡	SIM only bundle	£ 5.00
16-Sep	Simon Healey *	Mowing cut 11	£ 475.20
27-Sep	Zen Internet	Pavilion broadband	£ 34.80
30-Sep	Staff costs	Sept payroll and backpay	£ 1,174.79
30-Sep	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	£ 7.00
* To be instructed ‡ Paid by card.		TOTAL	**£ 3,210.48**

13.7 To review and update bank signatories.

It was RESOLVED to add Cllr Fiona Dakin as a signatory on the bank accounts, and update the Clerk's phone number.

14. Asset Management Policy:

To adopt an asset management policy.

It was RESOLVED that the Policy be adopted.

15. Strategic Risk Register: To review and update the strategic risk register.

Members reviewed the document and agreed the following amendments:

- Risk 1: Change the likelihood rating to Medium, in light of Government advice regarding food stockpiling.
- Risk 2: Amend the impact rating for the loss of the Clerk to 3.
- Risk 5: Include accidental damage as an additional risk.
- Risk : Chairman's envelope to be updated.
- Resolved issues to be colour-coded black.

The Clerk was asked to update the document and bring back to the next meeting.

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16. Member reports: (For information only)

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

Cllr Dakin had attended a webinar on electric vehicle (EV) charging, which focused primarily on the role of principal authorities rather than parish councils. Grants are currently available to individuals without off-street parking. Parish councils have also been invited to propose potential sites for EV chargers, which could be included in a single contract covering South Warwickshire.

17. Future Agenda Items (for information only):

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

To be added: Hedge cutting, mowing contract, fencing around the pond.

18. Next Meeting

It was RESOLVED to change the meeting date to Thurs 5 November 2026, 7:30pm at Ilmington Community Shop Café.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:45 pm.

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____

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