

A meeting of the **Planning, Highways and Transport Committee** was held on **1 August 2017** in the Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster commencing at 19:30hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Shearman

Councillors: Cllr Belobaba, Cllr Burton, Cllr Fowler, Cllr James, Cllr MacKillop, Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Swann and Cllr Walker

In attendance:

Miss J Norris (Town Clerk) and Mrs Deborah Speed (Deputy Clerk)

Somerset County Councillor L Vjeh

MP for Ilminster, Marcus Fysh

44 members of the public attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and explained that there were 2 meetings scheduled for the evening. Members of the public are usually allowed 3 minutes each to speak before the meeting formally starts but there would be a little leeway allowed in that timing.

The Chairman then reminded those present that it would not be possible for the meetings on the evening to take any action regarding flooding but there would be an agenda item at the Town Council on 15 August 2017; he further reminded the meeting that the Town Council has very little remit and responsibility regarding flooding but it can listen to concerns and help gather relevant information with a view to making representations to the appropriate organisation.

The Chairman also explained that individuals needed to give express permission for their contact details to be shared with other organisations otherwise the Town Council would not be able to forward the contact details and it would therefore be helpful if permission could be indicated on the attendance sheet.

The Deputy Mayor gave the Mayor's apologies and explained that the Mayor was aware of the concerns about flooding and had intended to be at the meeting but unfortunately the emergency admittance of a close family member to hospital that afternoon meant that she had to be at the hospital.

The Somerset County Councillor for Ilminster, Linda Vjeh, introduced herself and said that despite her best efforts she had been unable to secure attendance at the meeting from anyone else from Somerset County Council nor anyone from the Environment Agency. The County Councillor expressed her sympathy for those who had been affected by the flooding and reiterated her willingness and determination to help resolve the issues that had caused the flooding.

The County Councillor then read out a statement from John Woodman, the Somerset County Council Cabinet Member responsible for Highways and Transport, which is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes. The statement included the information that the County Council Flood Team has contacted all agencies with a role in water management to gather information to help understand the cause of the recent flooding in the town. There will also be a community drop-in event with County Councillors Officers present to receive information and answer questions.

Speaker 1 Chris Lawrence

The speaker has been in Ilminster for 10 years and in lives Blackdown View where the water gathers. The drains are never cleared and the gathered water then makes a tidal wave down North Street. It was not the first time [23 July] that such flooding had occurred and the effects are devastating. The speaker has complained about the drains not being cleared but nothing is done; there does not appear to be any maintenance programme and no funding; some drains are not cleared because there are always cars

There is confusion over how often the gullies are emptied in August 2015 it was said that the drains in Ditton Street were part of an annual programme but the speaker has been told it is actually 4 yearly – whatever the maintenance regime is, it is not often enough as the flooding continues to happen.

Speaker 8 Caroline Speke

The speaker owns Silver Street Dairy. The deluge of water was of biblical proportions. The speaker was alerted by a member of staff that there was water getting into the property and eventually the property had to be pumped out by fire brigade - the water ingress included foul water.

The speaker understands that the nearby drains have not been cleared / jetted / rodded, Any report that is compiled as a result of the recent flooding needs to be made public as should the drain maintenance information including dates when work was done and what was done; if such a report is not planned the Town Council should request one.

A further point was raised by a member of the public that the people doing drain clearance need to be trained properly.

The Chairman took the meeting into formal session.

P104 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fagan & Keitch

P105 Declarations of Interest

Councillors made Declarations of Interest as detailed in the table below

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Nature of Interest	Type of Interest	Action
Cllr J M Fowler	Agenda 8, Yellow Lines - Daido Factory, Winterhay Lane	P110	resident of Winterhay Lane	Personal	This item was deferred

P106 Minutes

A) The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2017 were considered **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

B) The Office Action Plan relating to the Committee was considered **RESOLVED** to note the action plan.

P107 Police Report

There was no written police report nor were any police related matters raised.

P107 Planning Applications and Listed Building Consents

The Committee considered applications as detailed below:

a) 17/02509/FUL – Unit 2, Harts Close, Ilminster, TA19 9DJ

The change of use of premises from Use Class B1 (light industrial) to B2 (general industrial for vehicle repairs).

Issues discussed included:



The following decisions made by South Somerset District Council were reported for information. More details are available on the South Somerset District Council Website:
<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planningsearch>

- a) **17/01758/FUL – 42 Herne Rise, Ilminster, TA19 0HJ**
Demolish existing rear concrete steps and replace with timber decking area and steps
Permission granted subject to conditions
- b) **17/01976/S73 – 50 Herne Rise, Ilminster, TA19 0HJ**
Application to vary planning condition 2 (approved plans) of approval **16/04445/FUL** to amend the rear door positioning and remove external staircase
Permission granted subject to conditions
- c) **17/02116/LBC – The Hermitage, 29 Station Road, Ilminster, TA19 9BE**
The carrying out of external alterations by repainting external windows/doors
Permission granted subject to conditions
- d) **17/02330/FUL – 27 New Road, Ilminster, TA19 9AF**
The erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling house
Permission granted subject to conditions
- e) **17/02271/LBC – National Westminster Bank, 10 East Street, Ilminster, TA19 0AA**
Installation of replacement ATM machine
Permission granted subject to conditions

P109 Planning amended plans/additional information

16/05500/OUT – Land South West of Canal Way Ilminster Somerset

Note: 20:31 hrs the Chair took the meeting out of formal session for members of the public to speak regarding the application;

Speaker 10 Trevor Shaw –

As you leave Canal Way and go onto the cyclepath the first field on the left floods badly. The original plan designated this as a play area and holding pool, in the revised plans the holding pool has disappeared and been replaced by play area and MUGA. Water drains into small pipe between Hither Acre and Adams Meadow and lies on top until it drains away which takes 6-7 days; a bigger pipe would cause problems lower down the system. Water is constantly at the top of the ditch and the 4 or 5 grills within the ditch get blocked; the developer does clear the grills from time to time but they do get easily blocked. At the moment the ditch just about stops the houses from being flooded but not the gardens and garages; this flooding would be exacerbated by a larger pipe. The speaker personally clears the ditch about 6 times per year to keep it flowing. The amended plans do not resolve the highways issues that the development will cause.

Speaker 11 Ken Lake

If the development is allowed to proceed in accordance with the submitted plans the traffic throughout Ilminster will become horrendous. The speaker lives in Wharf Lane and there are problems getting onto Canal Way now. The application if approved will increase the number of cars in and around the town by at least 500. When the school moves what will happen to the school grounds – what sorts of conversations need to be had as to what it will be used for?