

## **Minutes of the Annual Community Assembly Meeting** (otherwise known as the Annual Town Meeting)

held at Greenfylde Church of England First School, Silver Street,  
Ilminster, TA19 0DS on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 6.30pm

### **Attendance:**

23 Members of the public from Ilminster were in attendance as well as 6 people from outside of the town boundary.

### **18.30 The Town Crier, formally opened the meeting with a cry.**

The Mayor, Cllr Philip Burton, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Community Assembly meeting held on 25 May 2021 were agreed to be a true record. Proposed by Cllr Burton and seconded by Cllr Taylor.**
- 2. Cllr P Burton** delivered the **Mayor's Report** in which he thanked all members of the Ilminster community for the work they did during the covid period. He gave special thanks to those people who supported the local businesses and to those that helped organise the many varied events that once again were able to be held post-covid.

Thanks were given to the office and ground staff and new staff. Special thanks were given to the three council members that had chosen not to stand for re-election and a very warm welcome to the new and returning councillors looking to serve the community over the next five years.

### **3. Committee Reports**

Each of the Chairs of the three main council committees provided reports on the work that had been conducted over the past year.

Cllr Taylor outlined the work that had taken place in respect of the recent flooding in Ilminster. She described the council's desire to continue to work towards bringing long term solutions to the very real threat that the community faced in the future from changing climate conditions.

Cllr Shearman explained the work that the Planning, Highways and Transport committee had carried out to ensure planning applications were considered by the council in their role as consultees.

Cllr Shepherd as Chair of the Resources committee talked about the progress the council was making to bring a Neighbourhood Plan into being for the town. He also talked about the positive way that the auditor had responded to the way the Council was managing its administrative affairs.

A report was delivered on behalf of the Chair of the Open Spaces committee. The work that was being carried out at the nature reserve at Herne Hill was explained.

Thanks were given to Green Ilminster for the work that they had carried out on their litter picking activities around the town. The completion of the recreation ground refurbishment was reported upon as was the support from the "Welcome Back" funds that were being applied for from South Somerset District Council.

## **5. Public Question Time and reports from local organisations**

A member of the community spoke on behalf of both the Heritage of the Ile and the History Society. It was explained that both organisations are looking to set up a place where the public can visit to view various memorabilia and history items about the time. Currently rents and rates are such that they are unable to afford to do this. They asked if anyone knew of suitable premises, could they please get in touch with the organisations being represented.

They also asked the council to bear them in mind should it find itself in a position to be able to offer premises at a subsidised or even free rate to the organisations for a period of 12 to 18 months.

A "Green Ilminster" representative outlined the work that had taken place Green Ilminster over the last year. This included greater social media awareness, working more closely with schools, local groups, and also local government.

Information was given on their responses to the Ilminster Town Plan and also on the fact that Ilminster tree project has now been taken under the Green Ilminster umbrella. The introduction of the Share and Repair shop earlier in the year was spoken of in very positive terms and they hope that their reconstituting as a Community Interest Company will enable them to grow and influence the local community in the coming years.

The Vicar spoke about the work that has taken place at the Minster. During the Covid period this was seen to be a vital part of helping people to deal with a variety of issues. It was brought to people's attention that over the coming year the Minster would be facing a significant shortfall in its funding requirements.

A spokesman on behalf of Experience Ilminster CIC explained the work that they do. They outlined the events that take place and the various things that are required to make these events happen. Thanks were given to the Town Council for the support that they give as well as to the members of the community for all of their tireless efforts as well.

A Trustee of Ilminster Arts Centre spoke about the work the centre has done over the past 25 years. It was explained that they are tenants of the building and are required to maintain it sympathetically. Covid has meant that they are suffering from a shortfall in funding, and they are working on a five-year plan. They always welcome approaches from people wanting to be trustees.

The PCSO for Ilminster briefly introduced the new inspector for the area and outlined the plans for the coming year.

**Meeting Closed at 19.15**

