

FULL COUNCIL

Date: 20 February 2024

Title: Ilminster Town Council's 50th Birthday

Purpose of Report:

For Members to consider options to mark the Town Council's 50th year.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to form a working group of three councillors to discuss and provide options to commemorate the occasion of the Town Council's 50th Birthday and bring their plans to the next Town Council meeting to be held on 19 March 2024.

Report:

1. Ilminster Town Council was established on 1 April 1974 as part of wider reforms of local government which removed the Urban District Councils and formed the five district councils of Somerset with Town Councils becoming the first tier of government.
2. The 15 Councillors, who represent the community, are supported by the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Officers, a grounds team and a Town Crier.
3. The Town Council has made a variety of decisions over the years such as refurbishing the play parks, installing a skate park, refurbishing the public conveniences on the recreation ground, successfully applying for Herne Hill to be recorded as a nature reserve, setting up a youth project to support young people in Ilminster; the purchase of the Old Magistrates Court in order to ensure the continuity of a historic building and to give the Town Council its own offices; as well as involvement with the building of the Archie Gooch Pavilion and the refurbishment of the public tennis courts.
4. As this year is the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Town Council and Members may wish to mark this important occasion. There are many options such as a special edition newsletter, a Civic service at The Minster etc. It would be appropriate for Members to decide what to do and assist with the preparations.
5. Members may choose to form a working group of three councillors to discuss and provide options to commemorate the occasion of the Town Council's 50th Birthday and bring their plans to the next Town Council meeting to be held on 19 March 2024.

**Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
February 2024**