

## **Iminster Town Council**

Minutes of the **Planning, Highways and Transport Committee** held on the  
**6 April 2021 at 7-30pm.**

In line with Statutory Instrument 2020 No 392 (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, the meeting was conducted over Skype.

### **Present:**

Chair: Cllr A Shearman

**Committee Members:** Cllr L Taylor; Cllr R Swann; Cllr M James;  
Cllr I MacKillop

**Officers:** M Tredwin (Locum Town Clerk), J Earp (Deputy Clerk)

### **In attendance:**

**Councillors:** Cllr P Burton; Cllr S Shepherd; Cllr B Hamilton;

### **Public Forum**

Julia McKenzie Resident in Sea: - Since moving into the village in 2021 she and her husband have been shocked by the level and speed of traffic that goes through the village. The speed limit is the National Speed limit of 60mph and as such even when the traffic is moving at less than the speed limit it is still travelling very fast.

Signs erected on the Donyatt side of the village have had no impact in slowing the traffic down and neither have the 30 mph advisory signs erected by Donyatt Parish Council. Mrs McKenzie stated that she had major safety concerns over the amount of traffic and the speed with which it was travelling.

She wanted to know if there was anything that could be done to reduce this as an issue.

**Cllr Shearman** thanked Mrs McKenzie for her comments and responded by saying that the matter would be discussed later in the agenda.

**The meeting then went into session at 7.38 pm**

### **P398 Apologies for absence:**

Cllr L Wilcock

### **P399 Declarations of interest:**

No declarations were made in respect of any items on the agenda

**P340 Minutes: - Proposed** by Cllr Shearman and **Seconded** by Cllr Taylor

Members resolved that pending the addition of Cllr Vjeh's Surname in the minutes of the meeting held on the 2 March 2021, of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee, were an accurate record.

### **P341 – Ashcombe Lane**

A resident of Ashcombe Court has been in correspondence with the Deputy Town Clerk (DTC) over three main concerns. These concerns were; -

- a) The fact that there was no time limited parking on Ashcombe Lane

The DTC had consulted on the matter with Cllr Vjeh at South Somerset District Council (SSDC) and also Somerset County Council (SSC) Highways department and Highways require the Town Council to request any measures formally before any action can be considered. County has adopted the first 150m approximately of Ashcombe Lane whilst the balance is believed to be the responsibility of Ashcombe Court.

Members discussed the various aspects of time limited parking along with the issues related to a parking permit scheme. If Resident parking was to be requested from Highways then it would need to come as the result of being proposed and championed by residents. It was suggested that local residents be canvassed over the introduction of time limited parking, with the suggestion that this be done through discussions with Ashcombe Court's management committee.

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and Seconded by Cllr James members agreed unanimously to **Recommend to Full Council** to contact Ashcombe Court Management Committee to ask if they would canvass their residents as to if they wanted Time Limited Parking on Ashcombe Lane.

- b) That the inset into the pavement be reserved for emergency vehicles and a pickup point for disabled residents
- c) That improvements to the surface of the pavement be looked into

Members discussed the matter reaching the conclusion that it was important that a firm conclusion was obtained on exactly where the County Highway's responsibility ended and where the responsibility of the residents of Ashcombe Court started.

Proposed by Cllr Shearman and Seconded by Cllr James members agreed unanimously to defer this matter to a later meeting once boundary of responsibility of Highways and Ashcombe Court lay.

### **P342 – Installation of electric charging points**

Members debated the merits of “Lamp-post” charging of electric vehicles with the point that some areas of Ilminster were clearly not suitable for such an amenity. Various points that were made included:

- Currently there was not enough demand in the town for lamppost based electric charging points
- There was a large demand, but that points needed to be centrally located as on certain roads it was not a feasible option
- Demand will increase, but a feasibility survey by an organisation other than Ilminster Town Council should be carried out
- Affordability of electric vehicles had yet to be addressed in order for demand to increase significantly
- Companies are now introducing electric fleets and as a result increased infrastructure was needed
- Yeovil is looking to work with SSDC and Highways as a trial and perhaps Ilminster should look to try and do the same thing

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and Seconded by Cllr Swann members agreed to **Recommend to Full Council** to approach South Somerset District Council to enquire if there was a pilot scheme that Ilminster could be a part of with regards electric charging points.

### **P343 – Planning Application**

- A) 21/00281/HOU August House, Station Road, Ilminster – Erection of a double garage**

Cllr Shearman declared that as he knew the applicant he would be refraining from participating in voting on this item.

Various points were raised regarding the proposed development. This included the fact that a previous development had been rejected on the site as a result of concerns over what it might lead to. Other concerns were that it was a substantial two storey structure that was potentially on the edge of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, its design did not reflect those in the immediate surroundings and that it constituted an overdevelopment of the site.

Proposed Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Mackillop members resolved to recommend to South Somerset District Council that the application be refused on the following grounds.

- Overdevelopment of the site
- Not in keeping with the surrounding area

- Concerns over the impact in a potential Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**P344 – Planning Appeals**

No planning appeals were brought to the attention of the committee

**P345 – Planning decisions by South Somerset District Council**

Decisions made by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) are reported for information. For more details on these please see SSDC's website.

<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planningsearch>

**P346** – Cllr Shearman notified members that a letter from a resident had been received regarding bins in Silver Street and Wharf Lane and that he would request that this was put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**P347** – Cllr Shearman also updated members that there was money allocated for a Speed Indication Device (SID) and the purchase of a device and its implementation was being looked into.

**Meeting ended 8-26 pm**

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