Minutes of a meeting of Ilminster Town Council

held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster on Tuesday 27th November 2018 at 19.30hrs

Present:

Chair: Cllr J Fowler Councillors: Cllr D Belobaba, Cllr P Burton, Cllr J Dewick, Cllr M Gunn, Cllr M James, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr I MacKillop, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr R Swan, Cllr T Walker, Cllr F White.

In attendance:

Officers: Mrs A Cox, South Somerset District Council (acting as Clerk)

One member of the public attended the meeting.

Speaker 1

The speaker addressed the Town Council regarding the recent loss of the Open Spaces Wardens and the concern the residents of the town had regarding the manner of their leaving. He asked who was paying for the hearings and when would there be closure to events.

The Chairman confirmed this was an on-going staffing issue which was due to be discussed that evening and it was hoped to be resolved in the very near future. In the meantime, the resident's comments were heard and would be considered.

537. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Fagan and L Taylor.

538. Declarations of Interest

All Councillors declared a personal interest in Agenda item 3: Staffing, as members of the Town Council.

539 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED That in accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Agenda Item 3 "Staffing" be considered without members of the press and public present due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted i.e. Staffing terms of service, conduct and performance related matters.

540. Staffing

The Chairman reminded members of the proposal as detailed in the Agenda and further advised that professional advice had been sought from SSDC and SALC and as a result, the advice and membership of South West Councils would be taken. She reminded Members that they were only to discuss whether they wished to re-visit the decision of the Independent Panel, which would require a special Motion, signed by 8 Councillors to call a further Extraordinary meeting.

During a short discussion, it was clarified that:-

- Seven clear days, not including the day of the summons and the day of the meeting would have to be allowed before a further Extraordinary meeting could be held to discuss the decision of the Independent Panel.
- The report of the Investigating Officer and the information supplied to the Independent Panel, to be circulated to all Councillors prior to their next meeting.

Administration Note: Following the meeting, professional HR advice was received that it would not be appropriate for all Town Councillors to receive the report of the Investigating Officer and the information supplied to the Independent Panel.

It was then proposed and seconded that the resolution and sanctions of the Independent Panel meeting of 8th November 2018 be referred to Council for reconsideration under Part 7 (Previous Resolutions) of the Council's Standing Orders to discuss the soundness of the resolution and sanctions of that Panel.

Members discussed a possible date for the Extraordinary Meeting and it was agreed to hold it on Monday 10th December at 20.00hrs in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster.

RESOLVED That the following Councillors request that the resolution and sanctions of the Independent Panel meeting of 8th November 2018 be referred to Council for reconsideration under Part 7 (Previous Resolutions) of the Council's Standing Orders to discuss the soundness of the resolution and sanctions of that Panel.

Cllr D Belobaba, Cllr P Burton, Cllr J Dewick, Cllr M Gunn, Cllr M James, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr R Swan, Cllr T Walker, Cllr F White and Cllr J Fowler

11 in favour, 2 abstentions

The meeting closed at 20.00hrs.