

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ilminster Town Council held on  
**Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 19:30 hrs, in the Council Chamber, Council Office, North  
Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DG**

- Chair:** Cllr L Taylor  
**Councillors:** Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr R Swann, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr M James, Cllr F White, Cllr H Lancaster, Cllr I McKillop  
**Officers:** Mr M Tredwin (Locum Town Clerk), Mrs J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk and RFO)  
**In attendance:** Six members of the public

**964. Public Forum –**

**Kym Toms**

K Toms spoke, one of the joint chairs of the South Somerset Carnival Park Committee spoke on their behalf to express their dismay and disappointment at the recent decision made at the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee to have the Council's Planning application declared invalid. They had been notified by SSDC that the application had been declared invalid and that the planning fee was being returned despite believing that all objections had been dealt with.

She outlined the benefits that carnivals bring to a community in general and to Ilminster specifically. Concerned as to why when all the issues had apparently been dealt with the application had suddenly been declared invalid. It was hoped that the decision would be reversed.

The chair explained that the item was not on the agenda but would be discussed at the upcoming Planning, Highways and Transport Committee meeting.

**Evelyn Ashford**

Concerns that E Ashford and others had failed to get questions included during the recent Neighbourhood Plan event at the Shrubbery. Asked why the Shrubbery had been included on the Neighbourhood plan and why had housing been allocated in the manner that it had. Whilst she had no objections to the number of houses allocated, she was concerned that parking infrastructure was not suitable for the number planned. Commented that more affordable housing was needed. E Ashford also felt that the Neighbourhood Plan had been put together in an appalling way.

Cllr Shepherd stated he would be commenting on various aspects during the meeting.

**965. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr P Burton - Attending an event at Swanmead School

Cllr M Gunn – Work commitments  
Cllr Keitch – attending another Meeting  
Cllr L Wilcock – Personal reasons

**966. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr M James - Item 18 Social Member of the Cricket Club  
Cllr Shepherd – Item 18 – President and Secretary of the Cricket Club

**967. Dispensations**

None provided.

**968. Minutes – Town Council**

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously the minutes of the meeting held on the **22 June 2021** as a correct record.

**Proposed Cllr Swann, Seconded Cllr Shearman.**

**969. Committee and Working group minutes**

Cllr White provided an update on the Herne Hill Working Groups progress

Cllr Shearman as link coordinator for the council with Swanmead provided an update on the School closures and expressed sadness at the impending departure of Mr M Walker as the departing Headteacher.

**970. District and County Councillor reports**

**County Councillor Vjeh's** report had been circulated to members

**District Cllr Keitch's** report had been circulated to members

**District Councillor Hamilton** confirmed the appointment of a new Chief executive along with the separation of the monitoring officer and returning officers roles.

He also confirmed that remote meetings would continue for the foreseeable future along with delegated power remaining in place for officers of the District Council.

Driver recruitment was proving an issue and this was playing a role in the bin collection issues that were being experienced.

Information on the unitary authority was still being awaited.

Cllr Hamilton also reported back on his first visit to the MTIG group. He had raised the issue of the weight limit restrictions on Butts and that this was being investigated by council.

Cllr Shepherd asked what the state of the planning department was at district. Cllr Hammond responded that a new lead planner had been appointed and that more planners were being recruited. There was recognition that matters were not perfect and that more ground was to be made up. There is a shortage of planners currently due to contractors in the private sector poaching them.

Cllr McKillop enquired if he had studied the culvert near Station Road. Cllr Hamilton responded that he had not at that point.

#### **971. Co-option of new councillors**

Members were informed that due to Covid restrictions Margaret Masters had informed officers that she had been advised not to attend the meeting. She wanted to confirm that she wanted her application to be co-opted to be progressed.

Both Ben Jenner-Hurford and Neil Tinson were present and confirmed their desire to be considered. Each presented to members and answered members questions.

Cllr White provided information on behalf of M Masters

##### **Co-option Vacancy 1**

Once all presentations were over members moved to consider the co-option for **Vacancy 1**. Votes were cast with B Jenner-Hurford receiving an absolute majority for the vacant seat.

**Proposed by Cllr James and Seconded by Cllr Swann** members **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint Mr Ben Jenner-Hurford as a co-opted councillor.

#### **972. Co-option Vacancy 2**

Members moved to consider the co-option for **Vacancy 2**. Votes were cast with N Tinson receiving an absolute majority for the vacant seat.

**Proposed by Cllr Swann and Seconded by Cllr Shearman** members **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint Mr N Tinson as a co-opted councillor.

#### **973. Police report**

Members **NOTED** the report from the police.

#### **974. Clerk's update report**

##### **Neighbourhood plan**

Cllr Shepherd updated members on the latest stage of the consultation process. He confirmed that the number of 839 houses had been set by District Council and that

the town council did not have the power to alter that number. He expressed concern that comments on social media were not truly reflecting the opinion of the town.

**975. Finance report**

The deputy clerk informed members of the financial situation of the council as of the 15 July 2021. It was noted that there were still some payments relating to the playpark that were yet to be incurred. The slide had been ordered but had yet to arrive. There was also still a decision over fencing to be made with some members in favour and others against it.

Members also discussed the hiring of the Iris for two weeks. Concerns were raised over the necessity to have this equipment for such a lengthy period and how it was being used required closer consideration as did the areas it was being used in.

Members **RESOLVED** to Hire the Iris for two weeks for 2021 only.

**Proposed Cllr Hamilton, Seconded Cllr Swan.**

**976. Direct debit payments report**

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree the payment of the Direct Debits for the financial year 2021-22 as submitted to the meeting.

**Proposed Cllr Swann, Seconded Cllr Shepherd.**

**977. Members committee and working group membership and appointment to external bodies**

**978.** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree Members committee and working group membership and appointment to external bodies for 2021-22 as submitted to the meeting.

**Proposed Cllr Swann, Seconded Cllr Hamilton.**

**979. Youth Project report**

Members noted that there was a need to ensure that there was accountability maintained and that measurable outcomes were identified.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree the Service Level Agreement with Young Somerset for the provision for youth support as submitted.

**Proposed Cllr Lancaster, Seconded Cllr White.**

**980. Party on the Park report**

Members to discuss the request from the organisers of the Party on The Park to use facilities at the recreation ground as well as a request for the Vintage Car Show to take place at the same time as the Party on the Park. Whilst some concerns were raised by members over the amount suitability of supply it was felt that it should be handed to officers for them to manage.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to give delegated power to the officers to agree suitable arrangements for the Party on the Park and Vintage Car Show in August 2021. **Proposed Cllr Shearman, Seconded Cllr Hamilton.**

**981. Victoria Evening and Christmas lights Switch on**

Members discussed the event and noted that it was organised by the Chamber of Commerce.

**982.** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to the proposed Victoria Evening and Christmas lights Switch on event as outlined in the supporting papers.

**Proposed Cllr Shearman, Seconded Cllr Hamilton.**

**983.** *That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded while members consider this item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960*

Members **RESOLVED** to move the Meeting into Exempt Business

**Proposed Cllr Hamilton, Seconded Cllr Shearman**

**Exempt Business**

**Members agreed to look at exempt items in a different order to that on the agenda so that those with an interest in the Cricket Club lease could leave the meeting.**

**984. Quotation for works at Cemetery Lodge**

Members discussed the cost of the work that was required to bring the Cemetery Lodge up to a habitable condition. It was noted that further work would be required in the future. Members considered the income and expenditure figures for the building over the past 19 years. The economic viability of maintaining the property as living accommodation was debated at length. It was noted that the lodge is an emotive topic.

Members **RESOLVED** authorise Officers to investigate and instigate serving notice on the sitting tenants at Cemetery Lodge.

**Proposed Cllr Hamilton, Seconded Cllr James.**

**985. Cricket Club Lease**

Members discussed the draft leases being made available to both Ilminster Cricket Club and to Ilminster Education Foundation.

Members **RESOLVED** authorise Officers to accept the draft leases and for officers to send them to both Ilminster Cricket Club and the Ilminster Education Foundation.

**Proposed Cllr Hamilton, Seconded Cllr James.**

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