

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held in the Council Chamber. The Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster, on Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 19:30hrs.

Present:

Chair: Cllr J Fowler

Councillors: Cllr D Belobaba, Cllr P Burton, Cllr J Fagan, Cllr I Mackillop, Cllr S Shepherd
Cllr R Swann and Cllr T Walker

In Attendance

Officers Miss J Norris (Town Clerk)

2 members of the public attended the meeting

Speaker 1 Sally Gay-Rees

The speaker wished to develop the argument that the proposed development of land south of Canal Way is not in keeping with the area. The Peripheral Landscape Study of Ilminster does not take into account the recreational use of the land around the proposed development nor the housing that has been built since the study was undertaken. If one stands on the cycle path and look across to Mitchells Hill and Herne Hill the natural conclusion is that the proposed development would have at least a medium visual impact.

The application for outline permission is for up to 400 houses which is stated as being of low visual impact. The speaker was concerned that the density of the development would have an adverse visual impact

The Deputy Mayor responded that the Town Council is opposed to the development in its current form and suggested that speaker writes formally to the South Somerset District Council Planning Department stating her objections to the application also that she attends the Regulation Committee at the District Council when the planning application is scheduled for discussion.

Speaker 2 Mr Colin Bailey

Service N10 seems to have been unilaterally withdrawn last week; people arrived at the Square to catch it but it didn't arrive so some people went to the library to get the No 30 service; this filled the bus so it then did not stop at other stops along its route.

The speaker has contacted Somerset County Council to ask about a replacement service for N10 but no one seems to be bothered, he has also contacted the County Councillor for Ilminster.

Whilst Mr Bailey was speaking Cllr Belobaba looked on-line and reported that the route has been taken over

The Chair said that the Town Council will write to Somerset County Council to ask for an explanation of the current situation and what is being done to provide a replacement N10 service.

The Ilminster Forum is investigating the possibility of a community bus as one of their potential projects.

321. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James, Keitch, and Shearman.

322. Declarations of Interest

Councillors made Declarations of Interest as detailed in the table below

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Nature of Interest	Type of Interest	Action
Cllr S Shepherd	The Shed – Lease	332	President of Ilminster Cricket Club	Personal	Spoke and voted

323. Minutes

a) minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 as correct record subject to the attendance lists being checked and the apologies amended

b) Office Action Plan relating to the Town Council Meetings.

Issues discussed during consideration of the action list included:

- Interior snagging at Archie Gooch Pavilion

RESOLVED to note the office action list

324. Police Report

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Police to report on any matters relevant to policing in Ilminster.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- A number of people have complained to Cllr Walker about the tractors going down Townsend, especially the speed they are going and that the drivers are on their mobiles; the size and speed of the vehicles can frighten other road users

325. Mayor's Announcements/Engagements

a) The Deputy Mayor announced that 10 people have requested election following the resignation of Rob Drayton; nomination paper must be hand delivered to South Somerset District Council by 4.00pm on 3 November, if an election is required it will be held on 30 November.

b) The Mayor had attended engagements between 12 September and 10 October 2017 as detailed on the engagement list which had been circulated.

326. Report from the County Councillor for the Ilminster Division

The report from the County Councillor had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Under the road safety item – the list of people to be consulted seems to be exhaustive
- Somerset skills & learning grant reduction of grant from central government – need to keep a watch on the situation as there is a facility in Ilminster

- Opportunity to purchase SID - would like to investigate costs
- The future of the library service. The Town Clerk said that officers from the County Council had met with the Mayor and herself and explained there would be public consultation, probably towards the end of 2017 about the library service. From the information that the County Council had collected so far it could be seen that the Ilminster Library had good volunteers and community events but the number of active borrowers was low.

327. Reports from District Councillors

There were no reports from District Councillors.

328. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

This agenda item provides Councillors who are representatives on outside bodies an opportunity to report on the organisations' activities. The only report was an email from Cllr Walker regarding Swanmead School which will be forwarded to all Town Councillors.

329. Recommendations from The Open Spaces Committee

The Chair of the Open Spaces Committee presented the recommendations made by the Committee meeting held on 26 September 2017.

The Committee Chair emphasised that the Open Spaces Review Group had largely fulfilled its remit, so it was an appropriate time to consider how users of the Rec and Britten's Field may contribute towards development and management in the future.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Whether or not Ilminster Sports Club Ltd should be represented on the proposed User Group

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Open Spaces Review Group and its sub groups are formally dissolved as their main tasks have been undertaken and the specific outputs provided
- (ii) That a Recreation Users Group is established with the Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

330. Wharf Lane Recreation Ground Toilets – Progress Report

The information provided by the Project Leader was considered together with papers that Cllr Shepherd had obtained at the Councillor meeting with the Project Leader.

- The final project cost should be under budget
- It is not anticipated that any more than £1,000 will need to be spent from the contingency sum
- It is proposed that there is a paper towel dispenser in the disabled toilet rather than an electric hand dryer
- The walls of the disabled toilet will be plastered and painted rather than tiled
- It is proposed to have a RADAR lock on the disabled toilet

331. Neighbourhood Plan Update

An oral progress report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was given by Cllr Walker as Chair of the Steering Group

- The first development group meeting had taken place on 16 October when Tim Cook from South Somerset District Council gave a good overview of the Neighbourhood Plan Process
- Cllr Walker expressed his disappointment at the pace the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The Town Council members of the Development Group

¹RESOLVED that Cllr Walker will be invited to attend every Neighbourhood Plan Development Group meeting

- (i) *to accept Cllr Belobaba's offer to stand down as a Town Councillor representative on the group*
- (ii) *that Cllr Walker be one of the Town Council's representatives on the Neighbourhood Development Group (in lieu of Cllr Belobaba)*

332. The Shed – Lease

The final version of The Shed Lease was presented for approval prior to signature

RESOLVED that the Shed Lease as presented was approved for signature.

333 External Auditor's Report

The report of the External Auditor was presented.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The additional information the external auditor had requested
- Congratulations to the staff for achieving such a high standard
- Delight that no issues had been raised by the external auditor

RESOLVED to note the correspondence from the external auditor

¹ Amended in accordance with Minute 342 of the Town Council meeting held on 21 November 2017

334. Flag Flying Days

The list of days when flags may be flown outside the Town Council office was considered

RESOLVED that the appropriate flag be flown outside the Town Council office as shown below:

Every Year

Merchant Navy Day (Red Ensign)

Somerset Day (Somerset Flag)

Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen (21 April) (Union Flag)

Official celebration of her Majesty's Birthday (Union Flag)

Remembrance Day (Union Flag)

2017

Her Majesty's 70th Wedding anniversary (20 November) (Union Flag)

335. Authorisation of Payments and Notification of Virements

The Schedule of Payments for authorisation was presented for Council's approval.

RESOLVED that the payments listed in the schedule presented to Council totalling £18,453.64 gross are approved

336. Clerk's Updates

The following Clerk's Updates had been sent by email since the last Council agenda was published and no questions were raised about it at the meeting.

Number	Date	Topic
10/17	19.09.17	1. Zip Wire & Gate 2. Toilets 3. Newspaper Cuttings
11/17	10.10.17	1. Geoffrey Clifton Deceased 2. Tesco Bags of Help 3. Toilets

337 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED to agenda item 18 Apologies for Absence from Cllr Kinder and agenda item 19 Bequest to Ilminster Town Council without members of the public and press present, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted i.e. personal and business information.

338. Apologies for Absence from Cllr Kinder

The reasons for Cllr Kinder's continued absence were considered.

RESOLVED to accept Cllr's Kinder's apologies for continuing absence due to family commitments.

339. Bequest to Iminster Town Council

The terms of business for the solicitors dealing with a bequest to Iminster Town Council were considered.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The number of work hours estimated to deal with the estate

RESOLVED

- (i) That a letter be sent to the solicitors asking that that a log of the hours on this case is submitted at the same time as any invoice
- (ii) to accept the terms of business as supplied by the solicitors.

The meeting closed at 20:58hrs

