

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held in the Council Chamber. The Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster, on Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 19:30hrs.

Present:

Chair: Cllr V Keitch

Councillors: D Belobaba, P Burton, J Dewick, J Fagan, J Fowler, M James, A Shearman, S Shepherd, R Swann and T Walker

In Attendance

Officers Miss J Norris (Town Clerk) Mrs D Speed (Deputy Town Clerk)
County Councillor L Vijeh

3 members of the public attended the meeting.

353. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor MacKillop

354. 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 J A Shearman	County Councillors report	355	Lives almost opposite the Skills and Learning centre	Personal	Spoke

355 Community Right to Bid

The Localism Act 2011 gives communities the right to bid for land or buildings which they believe could be beneficial to their communities. The Council was asked to consider nominating The Skills and Learning Centre in Ditton Street, Ilminster as a community asset and request South Somerset District Council to make the appropriate registration.

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Current community uses of the building include
 - Community education
 - Adult education
 - Polling station
 - Faith groups
- The premises may be suitable for Town Council Offices with community space available for small meetings and groups
- It would be nice if the town had a small museum
- It may be possible to co locate on the site e.g. tourism information, Christmas lights storage, resilience store
- The current Town Council offices are not fit for purpose as having steps in the entrance makes it very difficult for people to get in and leave the building

- There is no guarantee that the current Town Council offices will remain available for rent
- The adult / community education programmes provided at the Skills and learning centre have been very popular and at one time there was a footfall of over 1,000 people necessitating use of the school next door as well.
- The building is within the conservation area
- Within the grounds is a Grade II listed flagpole base

RESOLVED to request South Somerset District Council to list 47 Ditton Street, Ilminster, currently the occupied by Somerset Skills and Learning, as an asset of community value.

The meeting closed at 19:40hrs.

