Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting
held in the Council Chamber. The Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster,
on Tuesday 27 February 2018 on the rising of the Open Spaces Committee

Present:
Chair: Cllr J Fowler
Councillors: Cllr D Belobaba, Cllr P Burton, Cllr J Dewick,Cllr M Gunn, Cllr I Mackillop,
                  Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd

In Attendance
Officers: Miss J Norris (Town Clerk) Mrs D Salt (Admin Officer (information))
Somerset County Councillor & District Councillor L Vijeh

No members of the public attended the meeting.

407   Apologies for Absence
         Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fagan, Keitch and Walker.

408   Declarations of Interest
         No declarations of interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda

409   Minutes
         The minutes of the meeting held on **20 February 2018** were considered.

                   RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2018 be
                              confirmed as a correct record.

**410   The Local Government Boundary Commission For England, Electoral Review Of
         South Somerset: Draft Recommendations**
         The Town Council's response to the current consultation on the draft recommendations
         for South Somerset were considered.
         Issues raised during consideration of this agenda item included:
         - The current arrangement of two district councillors for the ward works well; it
           gives electors a choice if they wish to contact a Councillor; the workload is
           manageable for the Councillors; communication between Councillors and the
           local government tiers is effective
         - The current wards of Ilminster and Neroche have very few common issues or
           interests
         - Neroche school takes pupils from Iminster
         - The proposals do not offer any resource savings
         - The number of electors for Neroche as a stand-alone ward meets the Boundary
           Commission criteria, to add Ilminster will be detrimental
         - The proposals will mean the Ilminster representatives taking on additional
           responsibilities which will be detrimental to the people they represent as it will
           take them away from the town into neighbouring parishes
         - The villages and rural parishes are proud of their own identity and wish to be a
           separate and unique entity - anything which erodes individual community
           identities or blurs the boundaries should be avoided.

Note: 20:08hrs the meeting went out of session for the District Councillor for Neroche to speak.

Cllr Vijeh said that she believed the proposed joining of the Ilminster and Neroche wards would be detrimental to the electors of both wards as they have little in common, currently the number of electors in Neroche meets the Boundary Commission criteria and under the proposals the District Councillors would all have to take on additional responsibilities e.g. attendance at more parish council meetings.

Note: 20:10hrs the meeting went back into session

Councillors continued their deliberations:

- If the proposed improvements to the A358 go ahead it will impact upon Ilminster and the villages
- It is important that villages retain their own individual identities
- The parishes that comprise Neroche ward object to the proposals

RESOLVED

(i)   That the Town Council does not support the Boundary Commission's proposal for a 3 member ward of Ilminster and Neroche

(ii)   That a letter is sent to the Boundary Commission stating that the Town Council's preference is for Ilminster to remain as a ward with the existing boundary and 2 members.

411   Electric Car Charger

The Town Council's response to a proposal for an electric car charger in an Ilminster Car Park was considered.

Issues raised during consideration of this agenda item included:

- Ilminster is a good location as it is about half way between London and Cornwall
- It may bring people into the town
- To get to West Street car park cars will have to drive through the town which will enable people to see the shops and facilities
- More electric charging points will be needed in the future

RESOLVED to support the provision of an electric car charging point in West Street car park.

The meeting closed at 20:23hrs