

Action Plan Draft

Council Meeting 12 January 2010

Action Number	Minute number	Date raised	Action	Comments	Proposed date
1	9	07/10/08 P	Incorporation of Ilminster by Design into Local Development Framework	Discussion to take place Meeting arranged for May with Clerk and District Officer Workshops in November Report sent to SSDC December 2009	
2	7	20/01/09 FP	Provision of notice boards	To replace Triangular notice board To secure cost of new board and seek additional funding from SSDC Cllr Davis, Shepherd, Turner and Town Clerk to agree notice board design Design agreed	Complete
	5	28/04/09 FP			
	6	14/07/09 FP		Quotes received – on order	
3	8	15/07/08 FP	Creation of website	To create a website	Now
4	6	17/03/09 OS	Ilminster Scarecrow Competition	Quotes to be obtained	Now
5	10	21/04/09 OS	To produce new Herne Hill leaflets	To discuss format in the new Year	OS 26/01/10
	9	15/09/09 OS		To update the content and research reprinting costs	
6	9	07/07/09 OS	Provision of seats on Canal Way and Shudrick stream footpath	Further quotes required. Quotes obtained	
				To ask SSDC if they would provide seats.	OS 26/01/10
7	8	01/12/09 OS	Planting Strategy for Roundabouts	Report prepared – location/costs to be decided Highways Authority to be contacted. Report prepared	OS 26/01/10
					OS 26/01/10

8	11	26/02/08 Council	Purchase of land in the area of Brittens Field for recreational purposes	To report back on availability and costings. Preliminary meeting on 9 October 2008 – Agreed in principle Waiting decision on ISI To take a lead in the development of the project Business plans to be prepared Management Structure being discussed, draft structure to be brought to Council Meeting scheduled with SSDC to discuss business plan Revised business plan for incremental approach commissioned	January 2010
9	9 7	12/05/09 29/09/09 P	Canal Way parking restrictions	Due to be advertised in June, revised to August Advertised with a closing date of 13 October Implementation promised within 12 weeks	January 2010
10	9 7	12/05/09 P 29/09/09 P	Town signage	Waiting response from Highways. First proposals reported 28 July response sent to highways Signs for Ditton Street/Orchard Vale on order. Signs arrived and due to be installed Proposals for western approaches due early 2010	January 2010
11	6	23/09/08 FP	Provision of Street Furniture To purchase and install two bus shelters on Canal Way and Riec sur Belon Way	Local transport plan team approached Design and location confirmed To clarify maintenance responsibilities of bus shelter	January 2010
	10	03/11/09 FP	To repair Listers Hill bus shelter	Quote received for repair of bus shelter New shelters and repair to Listers Hill due to be completed in January 2010.	January 2010
12	11 12 14	02/06/09 OS 30/06/09 OS 24/11/09 C	Market House To seek repainting of the roof and the gutters Council: to investigate use of MTIG funds for cleaning and repair of main fabric	To seek costings on repair Work to begin end of September Cleaning and repairs complete, painting to be finished before New Year, roof to be completed when Christmas Lights have been removed.	February 2010

13	12	30/10/07 OS	Repair of Cemetery wall. Repair of Cemetery wall along the bottom of the cemetery Upgrading of Canal bank, path and angler stages. Creation of one more entrance to the Recreation Ground from Canal Way	To ask local builders for advice on repair of the wall To contact neighbours again To seek tenders for the replacement of a 9m section of wall and to reduce the height to 1m To obtain agreement of neighbours for a wall 1m high Meeting with Sibleys to discuss arrangements for repair of wall Work to start in new year, legal advice given by District Council's solicitor.	March 2010
	8	16/09/08 OS			
	10	15/09/09 OS			
	17	01/12/09 OS			
	17	20/10/09 OS			
14	5	20/10/09 OS		Terms of covenant to be examined before solutions to the repair of the lower wall are discussed To be reviewed. Clerk to explore options and report back To introduce one entrance where unauthorised use way already evident. To be completed when bus shelter nearby installed	OS 26/01/20
15	7	03/06/08 OS		Waiting for a response from Chamber of Commerce. Reply received Committee requests loading bay to be provided. Highways and Police to be contacted. Following Highways comments committee confirm request. Formal request with Highways	Now
16	7	09/12/08 P	Re-designating the bus bay on Silver Street	Waiting for a response from Chamber of Commerce. Reply received Committee requests loading bay to be provided. Highways and Police to be contacted. Following Highways comments committee confirm request. Formal request with Highways	March 2010
	7	30/06/09 P			
	7	29/09/09 P			
17	9	12/05/09 P	Pedestrian crossing, Lord Nelson	Waiting SSDC and SCC Highways expect implementation in New Year Ask Highways to correct double yellow lines, request a review of parking in the area. Review to take place when Pedestrian crossing complete	March 2010
	8	09/12/09	Station Road Parking		
18	7	28/07/09 P	Improvement of pedestrian crossing at the Triangle	Waiting for safety audit from Highways	March 2010
	7	29/09/09 P		Comment waiting safety audit Committee agrees with recommendation of additional zig zag lines. Highways to implement	
	8	10/11/09 P			March 2010

19	8	15/09/09 OS	Assessment of play ground safety	Issues raised to be assessed at next Insurance audit	June 2010
20	8	17/11/09 Pers	Work Load and Prioritisation	Paper to be prepared	Sooner
21	14 8	30/10/07 OS 16/09/08 OS	Creation of new path in Cemetery	To explore possible areas for paths and various surfaces. To obtain tenders for new path from the Lodge down to the area of the new graves To discuss routes with Grave Digger and Funeral Directors	Long
22	14	18/12/07 P	Improving lighting in the town.	To report back when finances are available Seeking grants	Long
23	12	19/05/09 FP	Adoption of Station Road development	Seeking information on remedial list and target date for completion Target dates available	Long
24	5	13/10/09	Management Plan Review for Herne Hill	To be pursued during 2010.	Long
25	8	16/09/08 OS	Safer parking for funeral cars outside the Cemetery	To investigate provision of warning signs. Highways contacted – ongoing	N/S/L
26	7	10/02/09 P	Revision of town Traffic Flows	To contact Highways asking for a review to take place Reminded 21 st July	N/S/L
27	9	02/09/08 P	Provision of finger posts in the Tesco courtyard	To seek installation date Email sent to SSDC Costings to be sought. SSDC pursuing implementation Order to be placed end of July	N/S/L
28	5	22/09/09 FP	To locate an appropriate snow plough in the Ilminster area	To ask Somerset County Council to locate a snow plough in the Ilminster area for use by local organisations in heavy snow fall Highways asked to liaise with Highways Agency for ease of facilities at their new storage depot at Southfields roundabout	N/S/L
29	13	03/11/09 Pers	Quality Council/Power of Wellbeing	To be reconsidered following ISI and Strategic Vision completion	N/S/L

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday, 19 January, 2010 at 8.15 p.m.

Present

Chairman: Cllr D Miller

Vice-Chairman: Cllr A Kennedy

Councillors: Cllr R Beardon, Cllr E Beattie, Cllr C Cameron, Cllr M Davis, Cllr M M Excell, Cllr P Whaites and Cllr Vijeh

Officers: Mr S Fisher, Mrs R Hope

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Childs, Henly, Shepherd and Turner.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cameron and Excell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 5 as they were members of the Youth Club Management Committee.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 15 December 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

5 Grants

Cllr Cameron and Excell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 5 as they were members of the Youth Club Management Committee and left the room while the item was discussed.

The Committee was reminded that the Council had set a budget for 2010/2011 which retained the precept at its 2009/2010 level. As part of that debate, it had been agreed to reduce the grants budget from its 2009/2010 figure of £8400 to £4393 in 2010/2011. Accordingly the Clerk needed guidance on how the process was to be managed.

During discussion, two opposing views emerged. Some members felt that the available budget should be ring fenced for the two organisations – the Youth Club and Ilminster Tourism – that were traditionally funded subject to them making a bid in the normal way. Other members considered that the availability of grants should be advertised according to current practise and that all applicants should be treated on an equal basis and dealt with on

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the merits of their case. Applicants in all cases would be reminded that the grants budget was much reduced in order to retain the precept at its existing level.

There was also concern at the way in which grant allocations were to be debated, particularly when the amounts concerned were reduced.

A number of proposals, duly seconded were voted upon but failed to carry majority support.

Accordingly it was agreed to refer the issue to full Council for resolution.

6 School Organisation

It was noted that the County Council had recently issued proposals for School Organisation in the Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster areas. The proposals were to be discussed at SSDC Area West Committee on 20 January 2010 and the Town Council had been invited to express a comment if it wished.

Members received a copy of the proposals and a draft response prepared by the Clerk which was accepted subject to some clarification of the sections dealing with a re-build of Greenfylde School and the existing costs of school transportation to Wadham.

It was agreed that the Mayor should present the paper to Area West on behalf of the Town Council.

7 Strategic Vision

The Chair suggested that in order to complete the work on the Strategic Vision, it might be appropriate to prepare a summary document to be added as an Appendix to Ilminster by Design. Many of the agreed strategies had already been embraced in the recent Town Council response to the Local Development Framework Consultation which if supplemented by some other aspects of the draft Vision, notably the pedestrianisation and re-design of the Market Square, should enable the project to be brought to a conclusion.

Clearly there would need to be discussion with SSDC about the acceptability of an Appendix to Ilminster by Design which would be used as a supplementary planning document.

Members fully supported the proposal and asked the Clerk to pursue the preparation of the document as a matter of priority.

8 Outdoor Markets Deferred.

9 Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported

- (a) that Sgt Bazely had been scheduled to attend the next full Council Meeting on 16 February at 7pm to discuss speeding issues.

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- (b) Somerset Safety Camera Partnership had been approached by the police to help deal with the issues of speeding along Canal Way. The Committee were asked if they wished to support the request. They agreed with the proposals.
- (c) That he had received clarification of the legal position for residents who wish to clear the pavements in front of their houses after it had snowed and gave details. It was agreed that Council representatives to the Chamber of Commerce could report on an informal basis to their next meeting provided the originator of the advice agreed..

10 Members Questions

- (a) Cllr Beattie invited Councillors to Greenfylde on 22 January at 3.30pm as part of a fund raising event for Haiti.
- (b) Cllr Excell reported that the Environment Agency were working on the Balancing Pond..

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

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Signature

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Date

Action Plan

Council Meeting 15 February 2010

Action Number	Minute number	Date raised	Action	Comments	Proposed date
1	9	07/10/08 P	Incorporation of Ilminster by Design into Local Development Framework Incorporate response into Strategic Vision Document	Discussion to take place Meeting arranged for May 2009 with Clerk and District Officer Workshops in November Report sent to SSDC December 2009 In preparation	Now
2	10 9 12	21/04/09 OS 15/09/09 OS 26/01/10 OS	To produce new Herne Hill leaflets	To update the content and research reprinting costs Further quotes required. Quotes obtained 1000 leaflets to be ordered on recycled paper.	Now
3	8	13/07/10 Personnel	Appeal Committee	Proposed structure to be prepared Report to F&P 14.12.10	Now
4	8	15/07/08 FP	Creation of website	To create a website Quotes to be obtained	Now
5	8 9	08/06/10 P 30/11/10 OS	Bus shelter provision	To investigate provision of a bus shelter at the Stonemasons Costs obtained, further investigation as to whether Town Council could install a shelter Following report, further investigation requested for a small shelter on Highways Land	Now

6	17	20/10/09 OS	Repair of Cemetery wall along the bottom of the cemetery	Terms of covenant to be examined before solutions to the repair of the lower wall are discussed	OS 16/03/10
		26/01/10 OS		To asses solutions with local builder to include all possible strategies, and assess drainage solutions.	
	8	25/05/10		Builder reviewing options	
	7	06/07/10		Long term plan to be developed for the maintenance of the lower wall.	
	7	19/10/10 OS		Initial works on the lower wall to be implemented.	
	14	30/11/10 OS		Programme of action and funding to be agreed for future works	
	12	14/12/10 F&P		Lower wall, spoil to be excavated, gate to created to ease removal of the spoil. Tenders received Tender agreed	
7	7	20/04/10 OS	Skate park repair.	To replace damaged skate board ramp.	Now
		06/07/10 OS		To explore provision of a more up to date skate park.	
	7	30/11/10 OS		Meeting arranged with SSDC Play Officer, open to Councillors	
	6	14/12/10 F&P		Finance agreed using matched funding from SSDC	
				To set up a group to investigate location, skate park and MUGA provision with SSDC Play Officer.	
8	6	06/07/10 OS	Basketball Court	To investigate replacement with integrated structure. Single hoop reinstalled. Awaiting SSDC Play Officer	Now

9	9	07/07/09 OS	Provision of seats on Canal Way and Shudrick stream footpath	To ask SSDC if they would provide seats. Report prepared – location/costs to be decided Deferred to next OS	June 2010
	8	26/01/10 OS		To investigate installation of seats outside of Swanmead, Shudrick Stream path and Herne Hill.	
	9	20/04/10 OS		To locate a seat/picnic bench in the south west corner of the Hill in abeyance following vandalism. To be installed winter 2010/11	
	19	25/05/10 OS		To dedicate one of the seats to Jim Olds. Discussion Open Spaces 30.11.10	
		27/07/10 P		New litter bin agreed by the new opening to the Recreation Ground, permission to install a new seat outside granted.	
10	5	21/06/10 F&P	Tripartite Meetings	Mayor to convene a meeting with the other two Mayors to seek a way forward.	Sooner
11	8	17/11/09 Pers	Work Load and Prioritisation	Paper to be prepared	Sooner
12	14	30/10/07 OS	Creation of new path in Cemetery	To explore possible areas for paths and various surfaces.	Long
	8	16/09/08 OS		To obtain tenders for new path from the Lodge down to the area of the new graves. To discuss routes with Grave Digger and Funeral Directors	
13	14	18/12/07 P	Improving lighting in the town.	To report back when finances are available Seeking grants	Long
14	5	13/10/09	Management Plan Review for Herne Hill	To be pursued during 2010.	Long
15	13	03/11/09 Pers	Quality Council/Power of Wellbeing	Initial work completed. Refer to Herne Hill Committee spring 2011	Long
16	8	19/10/10 OS	Provision of a Natural Keep Fit Course	To be reconsidered following ISI and Strategic Vision completion	Long
17		OS	Bye Laws	Costs and siting to be investigated. Cllr Davis to prepare report	Sooner
				Submitted	Now

Actions completed by Ilminster Town Council waiting response from other agencies.

Action Number	Minute number	Date raised	Action	Comments	Proposed date
18	8	09/12/09	Station Road Parking	Ask Highways to correct double yellow lines, request a review of parking in the area. Review to take place when Pedestrian crossing complete Awaiting proposals from Highways and site meeting Waiting pedestrian crossing Site meeting, awaiting Highways decision	March 2010
19	12	19/05/09 FP	Adoption of Station Road development	Seeking information on remedial list and target date for completion Target dates available	Long
20	8	16/09/08 OS	Safer parking for funeral cars outside the Cemetery	To investigate provision of warning signs. Highways contacted – ongoing	Long
21	7	10/02/09 P	Revision of town Traffic Flows	To contact Highways asking for a review to take place Reminded 21 st July 2009	Long
22	9	02/09/08 P	Provision of finger posts in the Tesco courtyard	To seek installation date Email sent to SSDC Costings to be sought. SSDC pursuing implementation Order to be placed end of July No progress	Long
23	5	22/09/09 FP	To locate an appropriate snow plough in the Ilminster area	To ask Somerset County Council to locate a snow plough in the Ilminster area for use by local organisations in heavy snow fall Highways asked to liaise with Highways Agency for ease of facilities at their new storage depot at Southfields roundabout	Long
24	8 10	05/01/10 P 29/06/10	Provision of Car Park in Silver Street	To informally discuss with SSDC an appropriate way of proceeding Further discussion proceeding	Long

Action Plan

Council Meeting 16 February 2010

Action Number	Minute number	Date raised	Action	Comments	Proposed date
1	9	07/10/08 P	Incorporation of Ilminster by Design into Local Development Framework	Discussion to take place Meeting arranged for May with Clerk and District Officer Workshops in November Report sent to SSDC December 2009	Now
2	7	20/01/09 FP	Provision of notice boards	To replace Triangular notice board To secure cost of new board and seek additional funding from SSDC Cllr Davis, Shepherd, Turner and Town Clerk to agree notice board design Design agreed Quotes received – on order	Now
3	8	15/07/08 FP	Creation of website	To create a website Quotes to be obtained	Now
4	6	17/03/09 OS	Ilminster Scarecrow Competition	To discuss format in the new Year	Now
	6	26/01/10 OS		Provisional format agreed	Now
5	10	21/04/09 OS	To produce new Herne Hill leaflets	To update the content and research reprinting costs	
	9	15/09/09 OS		Further quotes required. Quotes obtained	
	12	26/01/10 OS		1000 leaflets to be ordered on recycled paper.	Now

6	9	07/07/09 OS 26/01/10 OS	Provision of seats on Canal Way and Shudrick stream footpath	To ask SSDC if they would provide seats. Report prepared – location/costs to be decided Deferred to next OS	OS 16/03/10
7	8	01/12/09 OS	Planting Strategy for Roundabouts	Highways Authority to be contacted. Report prepared Resolution at Council	C 16/02/10
8	11	26/02/08 Council	Purchase of land in the area of Brittens Field for recreational purposes	To report back on availability and costings. Preliminary meeting on 9 October 2008 – Agreed in principle Waiting decision on ISI	
	19	17/06/08 Council	To build a Sports building on Brittens Field	To take a lead in the development of the project Business plans to be prepared Management Structure being discussed, draft structure to be brought to Council Meeting scheduled with SSDC to discuss business plan Revised business plan for incremental approach commissioned	January 2010
	8	09/09/08 14/10/08 Council			
9	9	12/05/09 29/09/09 P	Canal Way parking restrictions	Due to be advertised in June, revised to August Advertised with a closing date of 13 October Implementation promised within 12 weeks	January 2010
10	9	12/05/09 P	Town signage	Waiting response from Highways. First proposals reported 28 July response sent to highways Signs for Ditton Street/Orchard Vale on order. Signs arrived and due to be installed Proposals discussed Planning 09/02/10	January 2010
	7	29/09/09 P			
11	6	23/09/08 FP	Provision of Street Furniture To purchase and install two bus shelters on Canal Way and Riec sur Belon Way To repair Listers Hill bus shelter	Local transport plan team approached Design and location confirmed To clarify maintenance responsibilities of bus shelter Shelter repaired, complete Quote received for repair of bus shelter New shelters and repair to Listers Hill due to be completed in January 2010.	January 2010
	10	03/11/09 FP			

				New shelter in Canal Way and repair to Listers Hill complete Riec sur Belon way shelter awaited.	
12	11	02/06/09 OS	Market House To seek repainting of the roof and the gutters	To seek costings on repair	
	12	30/06/09 OS	Council: to investigate use of MTIG funds for cleaning and repair of main fabric	Work to begin end of September Cleaning and repairs complete, painting to be finished before New Year, roof to be completed when Christmas Lights have been removed.	
	14	24/11/09 C		Complete	
13	12	30/10/07 OS	Repair of Cemetery wall.	To ask local builders for advice on repair of the wall To contact neighbours again To seek tenders for the replacement of a 9m section of wall and to reduce the height to 1m To obtain agreement of neighbours for a wall 1m high Meeting with Sibleys to discuss arrangements for repair of wall	
	8	16/09/08 OS		Work to start in new year, legal advice given by District Council's solicitor.	March 2010
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14	17	20/10/09 OS	Repair of Cemetery wall along the bottom of the cemetery	Terms of covenant to be examined before solutions to the repair of the lower wall are discussed To asses solutions with local builder to include all possible strategies, and assess drainage solutions.	
		26/01/10 OS		To be reviewed.	OS 16/03/10
15	5	20/10/09 OS	Upgrading of Canal bank, path and angler stages.	Clerk to explore options and report back	Now
16	7	03/06/08 OS	Creation of one more entrance to the Recreation Ground from Canal Way	To introduce one entrance where unauthorised use way already evident. To be completed when bus shelter nearby installed	
17	7	09/12/08 P	Re-designating the bus bay on Silver Street	Waiting for a response from Chamber of Commerce. Reply received Committee requests loading bay to be provided. Highways and Police to be contacted. Following Highways comments committee confirm	March 2010
	7	30/06/09 P			
	7	29/09/09			

		P		request. Formal request with Highways	March 2010
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19	7	28/07/09 P	Improvement of pedestrian crossing at the Triangle	Awaiting proposals from Highways and site meeting Waiting for safety audit from Highways	
	7 8	29/09/09 10/11/09 P		Comment waiting safety audit Committee agrees with recommendation of additional zig zag lines. Highways to implement	
20	8	15/09/09 OS	Assessment of play ground safety	Issues raised to be assessed at next insurance audit	March 2010 June 2010
21	8	17/11/09 Pers	Work load and Prioritisation	Paper to be prepared	Sooner
22	14 8	30/10/07 OS 16/09/08 OS	Creation of new path in Cemetery	To explore possible areas for paths and various surfaces. To obtain tenders for new path from the Lodge down to the area of the new graves To discuss routes with Grave Digger and Funeral Directors	Long
23	14	18/12/07 P	Improving lighting in the town.	To report back when finances are available Seeking grants	Long
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28	9	02/09/08 P	Provision of finger posts in the Tesco courtyard	To seek installation date Email sent to SSDC Costings to be sought. SSDC pursuing implementation Order to be placed end of July	Long
29	5	22/09/09 FP	To locate an appropriate snow plough in the Ilminster area	To ask Somerset County Council to locate a snow plough in the Ilminster area for use by local organisations in heavy snow fall Highways asked to liaise with Highways Agency for ease of facilities at their new storage depot at Southfields roundabout	Long
30	13	03/11/09 Pers	Quality Council/Power of Wellbeing	To be reconsidered following ISI and Strategic Vision completion	Long
31	8	05/01/10 P	Provision of Car Park in Silver Street	To informally discuss with SSDC an appropriate way of proceeding	Long
32	8	05/01/10 P	Provision of grit bin	To ask Highways Authority to provide another grit bin on Herne Rise.	Sooner
33	8	26/01/10 OS	Treatment of Poplar Tree on West Crescent	Resolution at Council meeting	16/02/10 C
34	14	26/01/10	Provision of salt/grit spreader for pavements in the town	Issues raised to be assessed and report given to future meeting	16/03/10 OS

Action Plan

Council Meeting 22 March 2010

Action Number	Minute number	Date raised	Action	Comments	Proposed date
1	9	07/10/08 P	Incorporation of Ilminster by Design into Local Development Framework Incorporate response into Strategic Vision Document	Discussion to take place Meeting arranged for May 2009 with Clerk and District Officer Workshops in November Report sent to SSDC December 2009 In preparation	Now
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3	8	13/07/10 Personnel	Appeal Committee	Proposed structure to be prepared Report to F&P 14.12.10	Now
4	8	15/07/08 FP	Creation of website	To create a website Quotes to be obtained	Now
5	8 9	08/06/10 P 30/11/10 OS	Bus shelter provision	To investigate provision of a bus shelter at the Stonemasons Costs obtained, further investigation as to whether Town Council could install a shelter Following report, further investigation requested for a small shelter on Highways Land	Now

6	17	20/10/09 OS 26/01/10 OS	Repair of Cemetery wall along the bottom of the cemetery	<p>Terms of covenant to be examined before solutions to the repair of the lower wall are discussed</p> <p>To asses solutions with local builder to include all possible strategies, and assess drainage solutions.</p> <p>Builder reviewing options</p> <p>Long term plan to be developed for the maintenance of the lower wall.</p> <p>Initial works on the lower wall to be implemented.</p> <p>Programme of action and funding to be agreed for future works</p> <p>Lower wall, spoil to be excavated, gate to created to ease removal of the spoil.</p> <p>Tenders received</p> <p>Tender agreed</p> <p>10ft entrance to be created at the bottom of the cemetery wall.</p>	OS 16/03/10
	8	25/05/10			
	7	06/07/10			
	7	19/10/10 OS			
	14	30/11/10 OS			
	12	14/12/10 F&P			
	9	15/03/11			
7	7	20/04/10 OS	Skate park repair.	<p>To replace damaged skate board ramp.</p> <p>To explore provision of a more up to date skate park.</p> <p>Meeting arranged with SSDC Play Officer, open to Councillors</p> <p>Finance agreed using matched funding from SSDC</p> <p>To set up a group to investigate location, skate park and MUGA provision with SSDC Play Officer.</p> <p>Working party Cllrs, Beardson, Excell, Swann, Turner and Whaites to meet with SSDC Play Officer</p> <p>Preferred location to be on the existing tennis court further away from the Canal.</p>	Now
		06/07/10 OS			
	7	30/11/10 OS			
	6	14/12/10 F&P			
	8	25/01/11 OS			
	7	15/03/11 OS			

8	6	06/07/10 OS	Basketball Court	To investigate replacement with integrated structure. Single hoop reinstalled. Awaiting SSDC Play Officer	Now
9	9	07/07/09 OS 26/01/10 OS 20/04/10 OS 25/05/10 OS 27/07/10 P 30/11/10	Provision of seats on Canal Way and Shudrick stream footpath	To ask SSDC if they would provide seats. Report prepared – location/costs to be decided Deferred to next OS To investigate installation of seats outside of Swanmead, Shudrick Stream path and Herne Hill. To locate a seat/picnic bench in the south west corner of the Hill in abeyance following vandalism. To be installed winter 2010/11 To dedicate one of the seats to Jim Olds. Discussion Open Spaces 30.11.10 New litter bin agreed by the new opening to the Recreation Ground, permission to install a new seat outside granted.	June 2010
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17		OS	Bye Laws	Submitted	Now
18	18	15/02/11 C	Provision of notice board in Cemetery	Funding agreed On order	Now

Actions completed by Ilminster Town Council waiting response from other agencies.

Action Number	Minute number	Date raised	Action	Comments	Proposed date
19	8	09/12/09	Station Road Parking	Ask Highways to correct double yellow lines, request a review of parking in the area. Review to take place when Pedestrian crossing complete Awaiting proposals from Highways and site meeting Waiting pedestrian crossing Site meeting, awaiting Highways decision Site meeting with Colin Fletcher 17 March 2011	March 2010
20	9	25/01/11	Provision of grit bins	To be reassessed following Highways review of the service	Sooner
21	12	19/05/09 FP	Adoption of Station Road development	Seeking information on remedial list and target date for completion Target dates available	Long
22	8	16/09/08 OS	Safer parking for funeral cars outside the Cemetery	To investigate provision of warning signs. Highways contacted – ongoing	Long
23	7	10/02/09 P	Revision of town Traffic Flows	To contact Highways asking for a review to take place Reminded 21 st July 2009	Long

24	9	02/09/08 P	Provision of finger posts in the Tesco courtyard	To seek installation date Email sent to SSDC Costings to be sought. SSDC pursuing implementation Order to be placed end of July No progress	Long
25	5	22/09/09 FP	To locate an appropriate snow plough in the Ilminster area	To ask Somerset County Council to locate a snow plough in the Ilminster area for use by local organisations in heavy snow fall Highways asked to liaise with Highways Agency for ease of facilities at their new storage depot at Southfields roundabout	Long
26	8 10	05/01/10 P 29/06/10	Provision of Car Park in Silver Street	To informally discuss with SSDC an appropriate way of proceeding Further discussion proceeding	Long

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 23 March 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Chairman: Cllr M M Excell

Vice-Chairman: Cllr R Beardon

Councillors: Cllr E Beattie, Cllr C Cameron, Cllr G Childs, Cllr A Kennedy, Cllr D Miller, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr R Swann, Cllr K Turner, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr P Whaites, Cllr L Yeoell

Officer: Mr S Fisher

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Davis, Henly and District Cllr Goodall.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16 February 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute 9 – Silver Street Parking

The Clerk reported that he had had an informal meeting with the Highways Authority and after further discussions with colleagues at SSDC would report back to the Planning Committee.

5. Police Report

In the absence of PC Louise Wright, the Clerk presented her report.

In late February there had been a joint operation with neighbouring forces to address crimes in rural areas. The operation had seen a reduction in offences and would be repeated throughout the year.

A group of males who had been engaging in vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the town had been identified, required to put right the damage caused and apologise to the victims.

During a session of licensing checks, two arrests had been made in connection with possession of a controlled substance.

Copies of the Ilminster/Chard/Crewkerne Newsletter were made available along with information on the recent Scam Wise events.

Members expressed their appreciation at the effectiveness of the Beat Officer and her team in Ilminster.

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

6. Report from Somerset County Councillor

Cllr Turner reported that following the severe winter, the number of potholes on county roads had increased by 530%; to date 4610 had been repaired.

The 2010 Tour of Britain Cycle Race will have a stage running through Somerset starting at Minehead and finishing at Teignmouth. Arrangements are in place for individuals to ride the whole stage, or parts of it, a week before the main race with proceeds going to The Prostate Cancer Charity.

The County Council is making grants available to support projects which improve rural services – community shops, post offices for example.

In response to a question asked at the last meeting, about the proportion of County and District Council income attributable to the rates, Cllr Turner reported that the detailed information was available in the 2010/11 Council Tax Guide which accompanied rate bills. For the County Council the figure was 24.3% and for the District Council 11%.

7. Report from District Councillors

Cllr Goodall had presented her apologies. Cllr Turner reported on the following.

A partnership agreement with East Devon was now operational under a new joint Chief Executive, Mark Williams from East Devon.

The Neighbourhood Visits organised by Yarlinton Homes had taken place and any concerns relevant to the District Council were being addressed.

The Area West Committee was reducing grants to various organisations, including the Ile Youth Club, on a phased basis. Grants would still be available for one-off projects and District Council Officers would offer advice on different sources of income.

Enforcement patrols to identify dog mess offenders were being increased with the help of local PCSOs.

Following discussions with the owners of Trafalgar Court, a timetable for the works on the crossing and pavement has now been established. Following technical approval and the tendering process, works were due to be completed by the end of July 2010. If works are not finished by that date, then SSDC will begin enforcement procedures.

8. Minutes of Open Spaces Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 16 March 2010 be received.

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that, in pursuit of a proposed coppicing rotation for hazel on Herne Hill, Mr & Mrs Wells had asked for permission to monitor the presence of dormice on the Hill. The Council agreed.

9. Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2 March 2010 be received.

10. Minutes of Finance & Policy Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 9 March 2010 be received.

11. Mayor's Communications

The Mayor reported that she had attended the following events:

26 February	Meeting to discuss Rotary Young Citizen of the Year
3 March	Town Council Civic Evening
4 March	Local Development Framework meeting
8 March	Panel of judges for Rotary Young Citizen of the Year
15 March	AGM of U3A in Chard
20 March	Rotary President's Evening
22 March	Rotary Young Citizen of the Year Awards

The Deputy Mayor reported his attendance at the following:

6 March	Dinner and presentation for Ilminster Air Cadets
21 March	Legal Service and Induction of High Sheriff at Wells Cathedral

12. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Clerk reported that there was no difficulty in the Council appointing an additional representative to serve on the Local Action Group.

It was agreed that Cllr Beattie undertake this function when she was available.

(a) Chamber of Commerce

Cllr Beardon reported on a meeting held on 17 March.

Plans for planting the Triangle were now complete and work should take place in the Spring.

The Chamber were seeking advice from their national organisation about action to clear snow and ice.

Anyone interested in sponsorship of roundabouts would contact the Clerk.

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

(b) Local Action Group

Swanmead School in association with the Police and Yarlington Homes were establishing a Street Dance programme to mirror the Youth Football programme which had operated from some time. The Pensioners Forum had raised the possibility of establishing a 'No Cold Calling' Zone which would be raised at a Council meeting once a detailed proposal had been prepared.

Dates were available for the introduction of Speed Indicator Devices in the town.

A Community Safety Day was arranged for 7 May.

The Community Justice Panel had secured funding for a further 18 months.

(c) Ile Valley Children's Centre

Cllr Whaites reported that he had attended a meeting. The centre was well used and had received a good report at a recent inspection.

(d) Ile Youth Centre

The Mayor reported that the fencing round the area was being replaced.

(e) Ilminster Experience

Cllr Beardon reported that arrangements were on track and that some funding had been received from Cllr Turner.

(f) Ilminster Forum

Cllr Beattie reported on forthcoming events including a Somerset Market Towns Forum meeting on 24 March and a session on Regeneration of Historical Sites on 20 April. A Swapshop would be held on 1 May.

Projects being considered included welcome packs for new residents in the town, a revised plan for the Library garden to take account of the well and the monthly market on the first Saturday.

Efforts were also being made to raise funds to secure the lease for the Bookshop in Silver Street with a view to creating a community bookshop facility.

(g) Ilminster Tourism

Cllr Vijeh reported on the AGM held on 22 March.

Efforts were being made to generate income by increasing charges for advertising bed and breakfast sites and also charging for Walks leaflets.

It was agreed that Ilminster Forum at their Saturday Market could use Ilminster Tourism as an associated charity which would give them the opportunity to raise funds.

(h) Twinning Association

Cllr Cameron and the Clerk reported that an invitation had been issued to all Councillors to join the trip to Riec sur Belon over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Anyone interested was asked to contact the Clerk who would put them in touch with the Chair of the Twinning Association.

13. Authorisation of Accounts

It was RESOLVED that the accounts listed in the schedule, totalling £9253.31 be approved for payment.

14. Action Plan

The Clerk apologised for the omission of 'Byelaws' from the schedule which would be added to future lists.

The Action Plan was received and members asked for further information on a number of entries.

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

It was agreed that a paper on 'Workload and Prioritisation' should be expedited and that the entry 'Quality Council/Power of Wellbeing' be removed.

15. Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence

(a) Monks Yard Youth Group

It was reported that Monks Yard Youth Group wished to use the Recreation Ground for an event for young people and families on Saturday 5 June 2010. The event would involve skateboard and street dance demonstrations, music running until 9 pm and a five-a-side football competition. Members were content in principle with such an event subject to agreement with the Clerk about the detail and in particular that damage would not be done to existing sports facilities and that cricket teams would not be disrupted.

(b) It was agreed that the Mayor should determine two representatives to attend the Parish/Town Council meeting with SSDC Area West on Thursday 15 April at Horton Village Hall.

(c) The Clerk reported that the SSDC Standards Committee had agreed that one of their members should attend parish and town council meetings to explain the work of the Committee.

Before agreeing, members were anxious to establish the content of the input and the likely time of the session so that they could be assured of its benefit to Councillors.

(d) It was agreed that any increase in Cemetery fees be referred to the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee when details of fees charged elsewhere in the district could be compared.

16. Members Questions

(a) Cllr Beattie asked about the implementation of new Dog Control Orders.

(b) Cllr Yeoell asked about damage to signs on the footpath beside the Balancing Pond and whether an increase in vandalism was occurring.

17. Meetings

Next cycle of Meetings

30 March	Planning Committee
13 April	Finance & Policy Committee
20 April	Open Spaces Committee
22 April	Annual Town Meeting – Swanmead School at 7 pm
27 April	Planning Committee
11 May	Annual Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

.....
Signature

.....
Date

Action Plan

Council Meeting 23 March 2010

Action Number	Minute number	Date raised	Action	Comments	Proposed date
1	9	07/10/08 P	Incorporation of Ilminster by Design into Local Development Framework	Discussion to take place Meeting arranged for May 2009 with Clerk and District Officer Workshops in November Report sent to SSDC December 2009	Now
2	7 5 6	20/01/09 FP 28/04/09 FP 14/07/09 FP	Incorporate response into Strategic Vision Document Provision of notice boards	To replace Triangular notice board To secure cost of new board and seek additional funding from SSDC Cllr Davis, Shepherd, Turner and Town Clerk to agree notice board design Design agreed Quotes received – on order	Now
3	8	15/07/08 FP	Creation of website	To create a website Quotes to be obtained	Now
4	6 6	17/03/09 OS 26/01/10 OS	Ilminster Scarecrow Competition	To discuss format in the new Year Provisional format agreed	Now
5	10 9 12	21/04/09 OS 15/09/09 OS 26/01/10 OS	To produce new Herne Hill leaflets	To update the content and research reprinting costs Further quotes required. Quotes obtained 1000 leaflets to be ordered on recycled paper.	Now

6	9	07/07/09 OS 26/01/10 OS	Provision of seats on Canal Way and Shudrick stream footpath	To ask SSDC if they would provide seats. Report prepared – location/costs to be decided Deferred to next OS	OS 16/03/10
7	8	01/12/09 OS	Planting Strategy for Roundabouts	Highways Authority to be contacted. Report prepared Resolution agreed at Council SSDC preparing quotes	C 16/02/10
8	11 19 8	26/02/08 Council 17/06/08 Council 09/09/08 14/10/08 Council	Purchase of land in the area of Brittens Field for recreational purposes To build a Sports building on Brittens Field	To report back on availability and costings. Preliminary meeting on 9 October 2008 – Agreed in principle Waiting decision on ISI To take a lead in the development of the project Business plans to be prepared Management Structure being discussed, draft structure to be brought to Council Meeting scheduled with SSDC to discuss business plan Revised business plan for incremental approach commissioned	January 2010
9	9 7	12/05/09 29/09/09 P	Canal Way parking restrictions	Due to be advertised in June, revised to August Advertised with a closing date of 13 October Implementation promised within 12 weeks, revised to the end of March	January 2010
10	9 7	12/05/09 P 29/09/09 P	Town signage	Waiting response from Highways. First proposals reported 28 July response sent to highways Signs for Ditton Street/Orchard Vale on order. Signs arrived and due to be installed Proposals discussed Planning 09/02/10 Revised plans to Planning 30/03/10	January 2010

11	6	23/09/08 FP	Provision of Street Furniture To purchase and install two bus shelters on Canal Way and Riec sur Belon Way	Local transport plan team approached Design and location confirmed New shelters and repair to Listers Hill due to be completed in January 2010. Riec sur Belon way shelter awaited. County Council unable to provide second shelter	January 2010 F&P 09.03.10
12	11 12 14	02/06/09 OS 30/06/09 OS 24/11/09 C	Market House To seek repainting of the roof and the gutters Council: to investigate use of MTIG funds for cleaning and repair of main fabric	To seek costings on repair Work to begin end of September Cleaning and repairs complete, painting to be finished before New Year, roof to be completed when Christmas Lights have been removed. Roof and painting complete	
13	12 8 10 17	30/10/07 OS 16/09/08 OS 15/09/09 OS 01/12/09 OS	Repair of Cemetery wall.	To ask local builders for advice on repair of the wall To contact neighbours again To seek tenders for the replacement of a 9m section of wall and to reduce the height to 1m To obtain agreement of neighbours for a wall 1m high Meeting with Sibleys to discuss arrangements for repair of wall Work to start in new year, legal advice given by District Council's solicitor. Work due to start April 2010	March 2010
14	17	20/10/09 OS 26/01/10 OS	Repair of Cemetery wall along the bottom of the cemetery	Terms of covenant to be examined before solutions to the repair of the lower wall are discussed To assess solutions with local builder to include all possible strategies, and assess drainage solutions. Builder reviewing options	OS 16/03/10
15	5	20/10/09 OS	Upgrading of Canal bank, path and angler stages.	To be reviewed. Clerk to explore options and report back	Now

16	7	03/06/08 OS	Creation of one more entrance to the Recreation Ground from Canal Way	To introduce one entrance where unauthorised use way already evident. To be completed when bus shelter nearby installed	March 2010
17	7 7 7 7	09/12/08 P 30/06/09 P 29/09/09 P 02/03/10 P	Re-designating the bus bay on Silver Street	Waiting for a response from Chamber of Commerce. Reply received Committee requests loading bay to be provided. Highways and Police to be contacted. Following Highways comments committee confirm request. Formal request with Highways Waiting for the new financial year and if funds are available	March 2010
18	9 8	12/05/09 P 09/12/09	Pedestrian crossing, Lord Nelson Station Road Parking	Waiting SSDC and SCC Highways expect Implementation in New Year SSDC pursuing enforcement Ask Highways to correct double yellow lines, request a review of parking in the area. Review to take place when Pedestrian crossing complete Awaiting proposals from Highways and site meeting Waiting pedestrian crossing	March 2010
19	7 7 8	28/07/09 P 29/09/09 10/11/09 P	Improvement of pedestrian crossing at the Triangle	Waiting for safety audit from Highways Comment waiting safety audit Committee agrees with recommendation of additional zig zag lines. Highways to implement. Works on order	March 2010
20	8	15/09/09 OS	Assessment of play ground safety	Issues raised to be assessed at next insurance audit	June 2010
21	8	17/11/09 Pers	Work Load and Prioritisation	Paper to be prepared	Sooner
22	14 8	30/10/07 OS 16/09/08 OS	Creation of new path in Cemetery	To explore possible areas for paths and various surfaces. To obtain tenders for new path from the Lodge down to the area of the new graves. To discuss routes with Grave Digger and Funeral Directors	Long

23	14	18/12/07 P	Improving lighting in the town.		To report back when finances are available Seeking grants	Long
24	12	19/05/09 FP	Adoption of Station Road development		Seeking information on remedial list and target date for completion Target dates available	Long
25	5	13/10/09	Management Plan Review for Herne Hill		To be pursued during 2010.	Long
26	8	16/09/08 OS	Safer parking for funeral cars outside the Cemetery		To investigate provision of warning signs. Highways contacted – ongoing	Long
27	7	10/02/09 P	Revision of town Traffic Flows		To contact Highways asking for a review to take place Reminded 21 st July	Long
28	9	02/09/08 P	Provision of finger posts in the Tesco courtyard		To seek installation date Email sent to SSDC Costings to be sought. SSDC pursuing Implementation Order to be placed end of July No progress	Long
29	5	22/09/09 FP	To locate an appropriate snow plough in the Ilminster area		To ask Somerset County Council to locate a snow plough in the Ilminster area for use by local organisations in heavy snow fall Highways asked to liaise with Highways Agency for ease of facilities at their new storage depot at Southfields roundabout	Long
30	13	03/11/09 Pers	Quality Council/Power of Wellbeing		To be reconsidered following ISI and Strategic Vision completion	Long
31	8	05/01/10 P	Provision of Car Park in Silver Street		To informally discuss with SSDC an appropriate way of proceeding	Long
32	8	05/01/10 P	Provision of grit bin		To ask Highways Authority to provide another grit bin on Herne Rise.	Sooner
33	8	26/01/10 OS	Treatment of Poplar Tree on West Crescent		Resolution agreed at Council meeting Completed 15.03.10	16/02/10 C
34	14	26/01/10 OS	Provision of salt/grit spreader for pavements in the town		Issues raised to be assessed and report given to future meeting Members agreed not to pursue the issue	09/03/10 F&P
35	14	16/02/10 C	To increase the representation of the Town Council on Ilminster Local Action Group		To investigate if an extra representative is acceptable.	

Ilminster Town Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT SWANMEAD SCHOOL, ILMINSTER ON THURSDAY 22 April 2010 AT 7.00PM

1 Those Present:

Chairman: Cllr M M Excell (Mayor)

The following Town Councillors were present:-

R Beardon, D. Miller, R Swann, K Turner, P Whaites (Electors). C Cameron, L Vjeh (non elector)

District Councillor: C Goodall

PCSO: A Searle

S.Fisher: Town Clerk

13 members of the public the majority of whom were recorded as Electors.

2 Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed people to the meeting. The Town Clerk then went on to explain the requirements for the Annual Town Meeting viz: it is not a Council meeting; it is a statutory meeting where, once a year, the Mayor is charged with reporting to the electors of the town on the activities of the Town Council over the last year. Also it is an opportunity for the electors to ask questions for clarification or to solicit further information. He emphasized that it is a statutory meeting for citizens who are on the electoral roll for Ilminster; other members of the public are entitled to attend but as observers only.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 7 May 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising

None

5 Financial Statement

Mr. S. Fisher gave a presentation on Ilminster Town Council's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year to 31st March 2008.

6 Mayor's Report

Cllr M M Excell gave a report on the activities of the Town Council for the year 2009/2010 (copy attached).

8 Public Question Time

A number of questions were raised which were responded to by County and District Councillors and the Police according to the subject matter.

Speeding traffic on Listers Hill and Canal Way was highlighted. There was particular concern at the narrowness of the pavement on the west side of Listers Hill and the proximity of Swanmead

School. It was emphasized that the Safety Camera Partnership was intending to place cameras in Canal Way, an area where speed watch had been effective in recording vehicles travelling at an excessive speed. Speed cushions were due to be provided at the Ditton Street end of Listers Hill. There was some more general discussion on the effectiveness of "sleeping policemen" as a traffic calming measure.

Parking in Canal Way was raised with the point made that restrictions were to be introduced to avoid blocking traffic but still allowing for elements of parking as a governor of speed.

Flooding in Ditton Street was raised which residents remained anxious about despite improvements along the culvert at the Shuddrick Lane junction. Clearing of gullies and drains remained a priority.

Some discussion was pursued on the allocation of Police Community Support Officers to policing the town.

9

Herne Hill

Mr T Goverd gave a presentation on Herne Hill, outlining its historical background and subsequent developments which had led to its present day appearance. He also talked about the flora and fauna which were present on the Hill and how the various species had flourished or dwindled over time as conditions of soil, light and climate changed. Questions were asked by members of the public, particularly on the potential effects of global warming.

The Mayor thanked Mr Goverd for his presentation which those present had found most illuminating.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Mayor's Report 2010

1. The responsibility of the Mayor at the annual Town Meeting is to re-capitulate on the things the Town Council had been involved in over the past year, its achievements, and frustrations and to give a "state of the nation" analysis of Ilminster as a town.

Well I think that my overall impression is that we are in good shape. Despite the severity of the depression, the town centre continues to give the feel of a place that is doing well. We do not have too many empty shops. Our Recreation Ground is as beautiful as ever and awash with youngsters and walkers alike. The whole area is clean and we seem to be making some progress with the eyesores and irritations that beset most communities. I am confident and upbeat about the future.

What has been achieved is a combination of the day to day work, the out of the ordinary project and the equally important behind the scenes activity.

2. Before I go through those elements, I need to pay tribute to the contribution of my colleagues on the Town Council who give unstintingly of their time not only via weekly Tuesday meetings but in all sorts of different ways in supporting and reflecting the concerns of the community. This year we said goodbye to two long standing servants and ex-Mayors – Norman Campbell who moved out of the area and Carol Goodall who we now see with her different District Councillor hat. Both contributed enormously to the Council and the town and we much appreciate their time and efforts. Their replacements, Mike Henly and Roger Swann have both been here before and are already making their voice and wise counsel part of the scene.

We also said farewell to our long serving Open Spaces Warden, Ernie Kemp whose commitment to the maintenance of our land and holdings over 15 years was so much valued. His replacement, Tony Jones is already making his mark and becoming a highly valued member of our staff team.

3. There have been some difficult periods over the last 12 months, none more than the effects of the most prolonged and sometimes severe winter for many years. Snow and ice, impassable roads and pavements are clearly an issue and it is not difficult to appreciate the frustration of us all that more cannot be done in the 21st century to keep our town accessible.

The Town Council does what it can, we have provided grit bins at key locations for example as well as exploring every avenue to encourage those authorities with a responsibility for the highways to improve their response. However not only do we not have the resources to contribute ourselves but more importantly we do not have the power in law not the support of our insurers if things are not done properly across the whole town.

What we can do of course is to make our town as attractive and user friendly for the other 50 weeks of the year! This is our general strategy.

(a) Firstly it has long been a bone of contention with the Council that the road signage for visitors to the town is largely not fit for purpose – either out of date, poorly positioned or simply lacking in the information that should be there. We do understand that the highways budget is not limitless but there is a determination to press for what we believe the town deserves.

Following a photographic survey by two of our Councillors the junction where Canal Way meets Ditton Street has finally been sorted out and we have moved attention now to the signage at the roundabout at the bottom of Station Road. That will be followed by the stretch along High Street, Strawberry Bank and Bay Hill as well as the distributor road round past the Recreation Ground. Our colleagues in highways have been supportive but we have to be patient at the rate of progress.

(b) We are increasing our efforts to enhance the town's floral display over the summer. The Council has always provided the eye catching signs and troughs at the town entries as well as decorating the Market House and troughs along Strawberry Bank. The Chamber of Commerce with the financial support of the traders has provided and managed the hanging baskets which offer such a colourful appearance to the main streets in the centre. Additionally individual gardeners continue to tend their frontages with care and imagination.

It is perhaps easy to underestimate the contribution that all of this makes to the feel of the town and the Council is particularly keen to encourage us all to play our part.

Now that the two roundabouts at the Riec sur Belon Way end of the town have been adopted by public authorities, they will be planted up and maintained by the Town Council. As part of the process we will be looking to sponsorship deals but the overall impact to traffic approaching from the west will be much enhanced.

(c) That brings me to the Garden Competition which the Council has run for many years embracing not only private residences but shops, offices etc. This year we had a new judge – Sydney Painter – who not only bravely judged on the two wettest days of the year but more poignantly observed that he was passing a number of gardens who would be serious contenders had they entered.

We are therefore making a special effort to encourage people to participate this year as part of a general encouragement to the whole community to recognise the part that an attractive display can play in the general appearance of Ilminster. There will be a repeat of the Scarecrow Competition this year so get out your old clothes, straw and your imagination

(d) In addition, the Chamber of Commerce have agreed to plant up and maintain the Triangle at the corner of West Street and High Street – a contribution that is much welcomed.

(e) It is of course important in promoting Ilminster as a Market Town worth visiting and living in, to insure that the streets are clean and the general ethos is one of a tidy and caring community. That cannot be forced on people but the Council can provide seats in key areas, provide litter bins and arrange their regular emptying by the District Council so that untidiness becomes noticeable. Peer and moral pressure on individuals and land owners can be effective and ensure we have pride in our town.

4. Part of the attractiveness can also be enhanced by the planning system which governs much of the appearance of the town and its surrounding area.

This year has involved much unseen work going into the town's contribution to what is described as the Local Development Framework, governing the development of South Somerset over the next 20 years.

The Town Council has made forthright and effective inputs to the discussions so that we can fight the corner for Ilminster in the expansion of the district as a whole. We have been successful firstly in moving the concept of Ilminster from a large village to that of a vibrant Market Town ideally placed to develop and play its part in the economic prosperity of South Somerset.

What we have been at pains to stress is that the town has experienced considerable population expansion in the last 8 to 10 years but that the infra structure has totally failed to keep pace. Our community enjoys few of the facilities of our neighbours – no sports centre, no swimming pool, no secondary school for example – which it richly deserves. Our focus therefore has been on the development of industrial land to the west to improve local job opportunities, the enhancement of our facilities and a real attempt to manage our traffic flows so that those wishing to visit can be accommodated.

Fortunately the Council has put an enormous amount of work over the past few years into preparing a strategic vision which has placed us in good stead for making the case for a refreshed Ilminster in the new Framework.

5. We are continuing with plans to develop a new Sports Centre on Brittens Field to serve not only the interests of our local clubs but also the community as a whole. The project is not without its difficulties as the acquisition of grants from external sources becomes increasingly difficult but we are still positive that things can be achieved even if at a slower and more phased approach that we would ideally like.
6. The appearance of a town can of course be much influenced by the planning system within which the Town Council has an important role. The recession has clearly affected the number of applications that have been considered – possibly not much more than

50% of our normal through put but they continue to be dealt with in a thorough manner. This year the major players have been housing to the west of the pedestrian/cycle way between Frog Lane and the Tesco Car Park, the conversion of the Methodist Rooms to housing and a new Highways storage depot off Southfields Roundabout. The Horlicks site is also still high on the agenda once some of the issues surrounding the site itself are resolved.

At the same time, it is important that other applications are carefully scrutinised. In appropriate signage for example can have a significant impact and sometimes detrimental effect on a town landscape if not carefully monitored.

7. Highways issues are always surrounded by some sort of controversy. Those 'running' at present include Canal Way parking restrictions and speeding, the Pedestrian crossing at the Triangle, Silver Street loading bays, Listers Hill to Sea speeding and parking in Winterhay Lane. Not difficult to see how busy our members are kept.

At least we have got a new bus shelter in Canal Way and have repaired the vandalised facility on Listers Hill. It is disappointing that the Highways Authority were not able to complete the picture with a shelter outside the Stonemasons on Riec sur Belon Way but we will keep pressing.

8. Projects achieved include, with the support of a grant from SSDC, a wholesale re clean and tidy up of the Market House including cleaning, pointing, painting and roof repairs. The Cemetery Walls are being addressed with the rebuild of a collapsed section almost complete. There is to be a new Notice Board in the Market Square.

The Parish Paths Group have installed a new footpath from Shudrick Lane to Kingstone and mostly by volunteers help have maintained our footpath network in such splendid condition. Thanks to Mike Holtom and his team.

9. From a personal point of view I have enjoyed enormously my year as Mayor and have certainly striven to represent the town to the best of my ability. We haven't achieved everything but I'm afraid that is the way of local government and at least we have been able to make progress in some key areas.

I wish my successor well and hope that the new Mayor will continue to work with a set of Councillors and staff that in my view are second to none.

Mayor's Report 2010

1. The responsibility of the Mayor at the annual Town Meeting is to re-capitulate on the things the Town Council had been involved in over the past year, its achievements, and frustrations and to give a "state of the nation" analysis of Ilminster as a town.

Well I think that my overall impression is that we are in good shape. Despite the severity of the depression, the town centre continues to give the feel of a place that is doing well. We do not have too many empty shops. Our Recreation Ground is as beautiful as ever and awash with youngsters and walkers alike. The whole area is clean and we seem to be making some progress with the eyesores and irritations that beset most communities. I am confident and upbeat about the future.

What has been achieved is a combination of the day to day work, the out of the ordinary project and the equally important behind the scenes activity.

2. Before I go through those elements, I need to pay tribute to the contribution of my colleagues on the Town Council who give unstintingly of their time not only via weekly Tuesday meetings but in all sorts of different ways in supporting and reflecting the concerns of the community. This year we said goodbye to two long standing servants and ex-Mayors – Norman Campbell who moved out of the area and Carol Goodall who we now see with her different District Councillor hat. Both contributed enormously to the Council and the town and we much appreciate their time and efforts. Their replacements, Mike Henly and Roger Swann have both been here before and are already making their voice and wise counsel part of the scene.

We also said farewell to our long serving Open Spaces Warden, Ernie Kemp whose commitment to the maintenance of our land and holdings over 15 years was so much valued. His replacement, Tony Jones is already making his mark and becoming a highly valued member of our staff team.

3. There have been some difficult periods over the last 12 months, none more than the effects of the most prolonged and sometimes severe winter for many years. Snow and ice, impassable roads and pavements are clearly an issue and it is not difficult to appreciate the frustration of us all that more cannot be done in the 21st century to keep our town accessible.

The Town Council does what it can, we have provided grit bins at key locations for example as well as exploring every avenue to encourage those authorities with a responsibility for the highways to improve their response. However not only do we not have the resources to contribute ourselves but more importantly we do not have the power in law not the support of our insurers if things are not done properly across the whole town.

What we can do of course is to make our town as attractive and user friendly for the other 50 weeks of the year! This is our general strategy.

(a) Firstly it has long been a bone of contention with the Council that the road signage for visitors to the town is largely not fit for purpose – either out of date, poorly positioned or simply lacking in the information that should be there. We do understand that the highways budget is not limitless but there is a determination to press for what we believe the town deserves.

Following a photographic survey by two of our Councillors the junction where Canal Way meets Ditton Street has finally been sorted out and we have moved attention now to the signage at the roundabout at the bottom of Station Road. That will be followed by the stretch along High Street, Strawberry Bank and Bay Hill as well as the distributor road round past the Recreation Ground. Our colleagues in highways have been supportive but we have to be patient at the rate of progress.

(b) We are increasing our efforts to enhance the town's floral display over the summer. The Council has always provided the eye catching signs and troughs at the town entries as well as decorating the Market House and troughs along Strawberry Bank. The Chamber of Commerce with the financial support of the traders has provided and managed the hanging baskets which offer such a colourful appearance to the main streets in the centre. Additionally individual gardeners continue to tend their frontages with care and imagination.

It is perhaps easy to underestimate the contribution that all of this makes to the feel of the town and the Council is particularly keen to encourage us all to play our part.

Now that the two roundabouts at the Riec sur Belon Way end of the town have been adopted by public authorities, they will be planted up and maintained by the Town Council. As part of the process we will be looking to sponsorship deals but the overall impact to traffic approaching from the west will be much enhanced.

(c) That brings me to the Garden Competition which the Council has run for many years embracing not only private residences but shops, offices etc. This year we had a new judge – Sydney Painter – who not only bravely judged on the two wettest days of the year but more poignantly observed that he was passing a number of gardens who would be serious contenders had they entered.

We are therefore making a special effort to encourage people to participate this year as part of a general encouragement to the whole community to recognise the part that an attractive display can play in the general appearance of Ilminster.

There will be a repeat of the Scarecrow Competition this year so get out your old clothes, straw and your imagination

(d) In addition, the Chamber of Commerce have agreed to plant up and maintain the Triangle at the corner of West Street and High Street – a contribution that is much welcomed.

(e) It is of course important in promoting Ilminster as a Market Town worth visiting and living in, to insure that the streets are clean and the general ethos is one of a tidy and caring community. That cannot be forced on people but the Council can provide seats in key areas, provide litter bins and arrange their regular emptying by the District Council so that untidiness becomes noticeable. Peer and moral pressure on individuals and land owners can be effective and ensure we have pride in our town.

4. Part of the attractiveness can also be enhanced by the planning system which governs much of the appearance of the town and its surrounding area.
This year has involved much unseen work going into the town's contribution to what is described as the Local Development Framework, governing the development of South Somerset over the next 20 years.
The Town Council has made forthright and effective inputs to the discussions so that we can fight the corner for Ilminster in the expansion of the district as a whole. We have been successful firstly in moving the concept of Ilminster from a large village to that of a vibrant Market Town ideally placed to develop and play its part in the economic prosperity of South Somerset.

What we have been at pains to stress is that the town has experienced considerable population expansion in the last 8 to 10 years but that the infra structure has totally failed to keep pace. Our community enjoys few of the facilities of our neighbours – no sports centre, no swimming pool, no secondary school for example – which it richly deserves. Our focus therefore has been on the development of industrial land to the west to improve local job opportunities, the enhancement of our facilities and a real attempt to manage our traffic flows so that those wishing to visit can be accommodated.

Fortunately the Council has put an enormous amount of work over the past few years into preparing a strategic vision which has placed us in good stead for making the case for a refreshed Ilminster in the new Framework.

5. We are continuing with plans to develop a new Sports Centre on Brittons Field to serve not only the interests of our local clubs but also the community as a whole.
The project is not without its difficulties as the acquisition of grants from external sources becomes increasingly difficult but we are still positive that things can be achieved even if at a slower and more phased approach that we would ideally like.
6. The appearance of a form can of course be much influenced by the planning system within which the Town Council has an important role. The recession has clearly affected the number of applications that have been considered – possibly not much more than

50% of our normal through put but they continue to be dealt with in a thorough manner. This year the major players have been housing to the west of the pedestrian/cycle way between Frog Lane and the Tesco Car Park, the conversion of the Methodist Rooms to housing and a new Highways storage depot off Southfields Roundabout. The Horlicks site is also still high on the agenda once some of the issues surrounding the site itself are resolved.

At the same time, it is important that other applications are carefully scrutinised. In appropriate signage for example can have a significant impact and sometimes detrimental effect on a town landscape if not carefully monitored.

7. Highways issues are always surrounded by some sort of controversy. Those 'running' at present include Canal Way parking restrictions and speeding, the Pedestrian crossing at the Triangle, Silver Street loading bays, Listers Hill to Sea speeding and parking in Winterhay Lane. Not difficult to see how busy our members are kept.
At least we have got a new bus shelter in Canal Way and have repaired the vandalised facility on Listers Hill. It is disappointing that the Highways Authority were not able to complete the picture with a shelter outside the Stonemasons on Riec sur Belon Way but we will keep pressing.
8. Projects achieved include, with the support of a grant from SSDC, a wholesale re clean and tidy up of the Market House including cleaning, pointing, painting and roof repairs. The Cemetery Walls are being addressed with the rebuild of a collapsed section almost complete. There is to be a new Notice Board in the Market Square.
The Parish Paths Group have installed a new footpath from Shudrick Lane to Kingstone and mostly by volunteers help have maintained our footpath network in such splendid condition. Thanks to Mike Holtom and his team.
9. From a personal point of view I have enjoyed enormously my year as Mayor and have certainly striven to represent the town to the best of my ability. We haven't achieved everything but I'm afraid that is the way of local government and at least we have been able to make progress in some key areas.
I wish my successor well and hope that the new Mayor will continue to work with a set of Councillors and staff that in my view are second to none.