

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of the **ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday, 1 May, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Public Question: Mrs Seeley spoke about her concerns regarding the changes to the No 30 and No 38 bus routes. She felt there would now be a need to bring more cars into the town, elderly residents from outlying villages were struggling to get into the town and businesses were experiencing a loss in trade. In 2006 Colin Baley had assured the town that the bus service would not be removed from the town centre. Mrs Seeley said that as a resident of Riec sur Belon Way she now had buses parked outside her house. She had no privacy from her bedroom window and the diesel fumes meant she could not open her windows. She had been visited by a customer care representative from First Buses who said they had instigated a meeting in Taunton to review bus scheduling but no Town Councillor had attended. It was not clear as to which Council was responsible for these issues. The Mayor replied that she wasn't aware of a meeting being held in Taunton, however at a meeting held in Yeovil County officers had been called to account by District Councillors. The Mayor also informed Mrs Seeley of the last item on the County Councillor's report.

Those Present

Chairman: Cllr C Goodall

Councillors: Cllr Burton, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr S Sainsbury, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr R Swann and Cllr L Vijeh

Officers: Mrs M Shelley, Mrs R Hope

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20 March 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Austin, Maylor, Shepherd, Sothern, Taylor, and Whaites.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Pallister declared a personal interest in Minute 12 – Club rent review

4. Mayor's Announcements/ Engagements

The Mayor had no announcements to make and asked that the engagements be noted.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

Minute 12 – Prayer

The Mayor reported that after the last meeting when a decision was taken to hold prayers fifteen minutes before the start of full council meeting, there was another announcement from Mr Pickles. He had decided to reverse the High Court decision stating that the 'general power of competence' contained in the Localism Act enables councils to do anything an

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individual can do that is not illegal. The Mayor asked if Councillors wished to reinstate prayer to its original place, which was before the meeting proper commences. The Council agreed the proposal.

6. Police Report

No Police report had been received.

7. Report from Somerset County Councillor

The following report was received from County Councillor Turner prior to the meeting.

Report for Ilminster County Division

Despite a great deal of opposition the Administration at County Hall have now sold The Great Wood on the Quantock Hills to the Forestry Commission.

- (a) The Service Reviews – we are looking at every one of the 170 services provided by Somerset County Council and this is going ahead quite slowly. At Full council on 15th February the Conservative Administration voted down our proposal to keep good and excellent services in-house, offering services across the region. They prefer to see everything outsourced or commissioned from elsewhere. The budget for this work – which will be done a lot by consultants - is £3 million for 2012-2013!
- (b) During February there was a series of Local Choice Events – which Somerset County Council organised. Fronted by the SCC Chief Executive. The purpose of the events was to explore what Parish/Town Councils and local communities may be able to do for themselves due to SCC being no longer able to afford to provide its current level of services! The feed back has been received from the County Council and is attached.
- (c) There has been a **staff survey** at County Hall and the results have been appalling. Morale is at rock bottom, and although officers enjoy the work, they are frustrated at the lack of leadership at the top. To look at the results click on:-
<http://change.somerset.gov.uk/home/say/>
- (d) **£13m investment for schools** - Somerset County Council is set to invest millions in building new classrooms, and repairing and maintaining the county's schools and autism units. A £13m capital investment funding programme given by the Government to support children and young people comes into force this month for the 2012/13 financial year. Nearly £6m has been allocated to repair and maintain 172 schools across the county; £3.5m has been set aside for the replacement of Penrose School in Bridgwater, while £1.4m will go to providing more school places and up to £1.2m to replace temporary buildings. Four new classrooms will be built at St. Mary's School in Bridgwater, an additional temporary classroom will be provided at St Nicholas's School in Henstridge, along with two additional temporary classrooms at Westover Green

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School. In addition, £450K has been set aside to maintain and repair Somerset's Autism units and accommodation for children in care. In past years the County Council had to borrow money for school repairs and building new classrooms. We are really lucky that the Government sees this as a high priority.

- (e) **Somerset's museums, historic castles and ancient monuments** have entered cyberspace, with the launch of a new website and social media platforms. Somerset Routes, a scheme that celebrates Somerset's heritage in one touring map, has this week launched its website - www.somersetroutes.co.uk - making it even easier for the public to explore the county's historic attractions. Originally created in 2009 by Somerset County Council and the Museums in Somerset group, the 'tube map' style design breaks the county into seven different travel lines, taking in over 120 of the counties best heritage attractions. The new website allows you to search for places to visit via the 'tube map' or by criteria, such as historic period or collection type. It also contains information on each attraction, events, itineraries and volunteering opportunities, as well as links to social media platforms Facebook, Twitter and You Tube. I hope that the new website can take the project to an even wider audience, encouraging yet more people to explore the county's hidden gems. Bakelite coffins, the oldest manmade road in Britain and early Victorian prosthetic limbs are just some of the treasures that can be found in Somerset. It boasts an amazing number of museums and heritage attractions, and the website celebrates the fascinating, quirky, important and often intriguing heritage locations in the county. Highlights from the Somerset Routes map include the recently opened Museum of Somerset, Coleridge Cottage, Glastonbury Abbey, Ham Hill Country Park, Montacute House, Hestercombe Gardens and the site of the Battle of Sedgemoor. To find out more visit www.somersetroutes.co.uk
- (f) A warning for the 15th November 2012. There will be elections across the UK on that day for the posts of Police Commissioner in each policing area. Discussions are underway about the sad demise of the Police Authority on 20th November and the setting up of Police and Crime Panel to scrutinise the Police Commissioner. You will no doubt be hearing more about this very soon.
- (g) Ken Maddock Leader of the County Council is stepping down. He is hoping to be selective as the candidate for the Conservative for the post of Avon and Somerset Police Commissioner. The new leader in May will be John Osman. He was the cabinet member for Children and Young People.
- (h) I have been contacting officers at District and County with my concerns of the First bus changes in Ilminster. I am worried that the Town has been split into two. You cannot pick First Bus outside the Market house anymore. You have to use the bus stops in Canal Way. Which I feel is wrong. I have asked that a meeting can be arranged with officers from both District and County, Also member from the Town Council to have talks to sort these urgent issues out.

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Cllr Vijeh expressed her concerns over the political tone of the report. The Mayor asked Councillors to forward any questions they had to County Councillor Turner either directly or through the office.

8. Reports from District Councillor

The written report was noted.

Cllr Miller asked what did the Inspector reviewing the South Somerset Local Plan do? The Mayor replied he would consult with those bodies that SSDC had consulted with and in addition he would consult developers. He could reject the report and ask for it to be reconsidered.

Cllr Miller asked how long would this process take? Cllr Vijeh replied 12 to 18 months.

9. Update from queens Jubilee Committee

Having considered the report Councillors were raised the following questions.

Cllr Miller asked if the Jubilee Committee were expecting to pay for the 50 litres of diesel and the response was yes.

Cllr Vijeh asked who had donated the £500?

Cllr Miller asked if the Jubilee celebrations make a loss would the Council be expected to fund the loss? Cllr Lawson replied that the Committee were making every effort to break even.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that vehicles would be allowed onto the Recreation Ground for the purposes of staging the Jubilee Celebrations

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the Jubilee Committee could use 50 litres of diesel from the Council's supplies to use the generator they had been offered.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the Jubilee Committee could reimburse the Deputy Open Spaces Warden for lighting the Beacon as they see fit.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that hot food could be served in the Market House on the evening of June 4th prior to the lighting of the Beacon

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the Jubilee Committee could use the metal fencing owned by the Council prior to and during the Jubilee weekend.

10. Open Spaces Committee Meeting

There were no recommendations from the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 27th March 2012

11. Planning Committee Meeting

There were no recommendations from the Planning Committee Meetings held on 3rd and 17th April 2012.

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12. Finance and Policy Committee Meeting

Minute 9 Club rent review

It was RESOLVED that the rents for the Cricket Club, Football Club, Youth Football and sports Club be increased by 5.2% in line with inflation

13. Accounts

Cllr Miller presented the accounts and associated paperwork that had been distributed prior to the meeting. He commented that due to the nature of accounting whereby the Toilet Block and Market House had a value, in reality the fixed assets were less than they appeared. Cllr Shearman asked if the Council charged for the use Market House. The Deputy Clerk replied they charged for the use of electricity.

Cllr Shearman asked if it would be possible to show both rental and purchase of the Christmas lights. Cllr Miller commented that the purchases were refunded by the Christmas Lights Committee.

The Mayor asked why Ilminster Sports Initiative money was shown. The Deputy Clerk replied that it was in a Bonus saver account.

The Mayor asked that at the next Council meeting an item on the agenda should be overtime payments for staff and that the Mayor should be delegated to authorise these.

Cllr Miller proposed, seconded by Cllr Lawson that after the Annual Town meeting on May 3rd, the accounts should be signed off by the Mayor and the Town Clerk as a true record and that the Council had dealt with its financial affairs accordingly. This was RESOLVED unanimously.

14. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

(a) Tripartite Meeting

The written report was noted

(b) Ilminster Forum

The written report was noted

(c) Ilminster Youth Council

The written report was noted

It was RESOLVED that the Youth Council had permission to use the Market House on the evening of June 4th 2012.

15. Authorisation of Payments

It was RESOLVED that the accounts listed in the schedule, totalling £18,552.31 be approved for payment.

16. Action Plan

The written report was noted.

(a) Item 13. Cllr Miller commented that it had been agreed that the tree stumps be cut back to two inches to allow for decent sprouting, he was concerned that the stumps had not yet been cut back. Cllr Miller and Swann agreed to cut back the stumps themselves.

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- (b) Item 9. Cllr Shearman asked if the Hammerhead land had been sold to the developer. Cllr Pallister agreed to ask the developer whether he was intending to use both entrances to the site.
- (c) Item 6 Cllr Miller asked if the target date was realistic for the installation of the MUGA and it was agreed to delete the word September.
- (d) Item 8 Cllr Pallister asked if there had been any progress on the acquisition of land to the west of Brittens Field. The Mayor replied that there was no progress at this time.
- (e) Item 23. Cllr Swann asked if he could expect to see double yellow lines on Canal Way and Greendale in the near future. No information had been received to that effect.

17. Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence

- (a) The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that a request had been received from the Scouts to use Herne Hill. The Council agreed to the request.
- (b) The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Forestry Commission were to conduct a survey sometime during the next three years. The Deputy Clerk was asked to write to the Forestry Commission asking for advanced warning of the survey, a copy of the report and a request that the survey should be undertaken after the Jubilee trees had been planted.

18. Programme of Meetings

Next cycle of meetings

15 May – Annual Council Meeting

29 May – Open Spaces Committee Meeting

12 June – Finance and Policy Committee Meeting

19 June – Council/grants

19. Olympic Torch (confidential)

The Mayor gave a brief update on confidential matters concerning arrangements for the Olympic Torch Event

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed.....

Date.....