

# ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held at Swanmead Community School, Ditton Street, Iminster on Monday 6th January 2014 at 19:30hrs

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr E J Taylor

**Councillors:** Cllr S Austin, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr D Miller, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr S Storey, Cllr R Swann and Cllr L Vijeh.

**In Attendance:** Miss N McIntosh (Administrative Assistant), Miss J Norris (Town Clerk)  
Mrs M Shelley (Deputy Clerk)

**South Somerset District Council representatives:** Councillors T Carol & R Pallister.  
Officers: J Manley, D Norris. M Woods, P Wheatley

**Members of the Public:** 83 members of the public attended the meeting

The Mayor welcomed attendees to the meeting, informing them of the meeting procedures. 7 Members of the public spoke regarding the South Somerset District Councils Local Plan Proposals.

The formal meeting proceedings commenced at 20:00 hrs.

**94. Apologies for absence**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Burton, Higgins, Lawson and Sothern.

**95. Declarations of Interest**

Each Councillor was asked individually to state whether or not they had any declarations of interest to make in respect of any items on the agenda; the declarations detailed in the table below were made:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Interest	Nature of Interest
Cllr Goodall	South Somerset District Council Local Plan Proposals	96	Personal	District Councillor
Cllr A Shearman	South Somerset District Council Local Plan Proposals	96	Personal	Works for Somerset County Council
Cllr Taylor	South Somerset District Council Local Plan Proposals	96	Personal	Lives adjacent to the South West option contained in the proposal; This would not have any affect on the Councillor's financial circumstances or assets
Cllr L Vijeh	South Somerset District Council Local Plan Proposals	96	Personal	County Councillor and District Councillor for the neighbouring ward of Neroche

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All other Councillors present stated that they did not have any interests to declare.

## **96. South Somerset District Council Local Plan Proposals**

The Town Council considered its response to the South Somerset District Council's consultation on the Direction of Growth for Ilminster to be included in the Draft Local Plan. The Mayor set the context of the Town Council's existing position of supporting the Direction of Growth to the South East of Ilminster and outlined the work that the Town Council have undertaken to support and enhance the District Council's consultation process. The Town Council has also held a workshop for Councillors to assist their understanding of the issues and held an additional Council meeting at the beginning of December for local organisations to explain their views and suggestions to the Town Council.

The Town Council had received 11 letters and copies of SSDC response forms from concerned residents, 10 of those objected to the proposals for housing development on the Canal Way part of Ilminster.

The Mayor then requested that any vote taken on the preferred direction of Growth be recorded.

Each Councillor was given an opportunity to speak at least once on this agenda item.

The main topics raised for discussion included:

- That the Council must take a view about what is best for the whole town
- That Councillors do not represent a particular area
- The Shudrick Valley runs the breadth of Ilminster and does not refer to just 1 section of the town
- The future for Cold Harbour Farm if the proposed direction of growth is to the South West of Ilminster
- The impact of any new development to the South West upon the "Green Lung" of Ilminster and particularly to Herne Hill which are areas used extensively by both residents and visitors for recreational purposes
- The distance from the centre of the South East and South West options to the town centre – the measurements method in the sustainable appraisal are not consistent
- The likelihood of residents walking to and from the town centre from housing located in either the South East or the South West options
- The importance of maintaining a vibrant and accessible town centre
- The potential of any new housing development exacerbating the existing flooding problems
- The possibility and viability of new housing developments incorporating effective flood prevention measures in relation to their site
- Soundness of the sustainability reports produced by South Somerset District Council as part of the Local Plan process
- Future education requirements in Ilminster
- The viability is doubtful of future development on land that has previously been identified for employment use to the South West of Ilminster
- Traffic flows and speeds in Ilminster
- Road safety issues pertaining to any new housing development
- The potential to give pedestrians priority over vehicular traffic in some parts of the Town Centre if a new road serving the East of the town was available
- The common and uncommon flora and fauna of Herne Hill

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- Balance of the town and the potential negative effect if one part is developed more than another
- The very restricted timescale of the consultation period

Members and Officers of the District Council attended the meeting and clarified points when requested to do so, this included:

- The measurements to the Town Centre from the South East and the South West options
- Who undertook the sustainability appraisal with regard to the Ilminster options
- Why new planning applications do not contribute towards the 315 new houses required to be built by 2028 as part of the Local Plan.
- The Planning Inspector's recommendations and comments as they related to Ilminster and the draft Local Plan

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Town Council's preferred Direction of Growth for Ilminster is the South East option

NB this was a recorded vote:

Councillors voting for the motion: C Goodall, V Keitch, D Miller, S Storey, R Swann, E J Taylor

Councillors voting against the motion: J Pallister, S Shepherd, L Vjeh

Councillors abstaining: A Shearman

It was then further **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Town Council believes that the current proposal to include the Direction of Growth to the South West of Ilminster is unsound and the Sustainability Appraisal is flawed and omits pertinent information which has resulted in misleading scores.
- (ii) That delegated authority is given to the Town Clerk, following consultation with a group of Members, comprising Councillors Keitch, Miller, Swann and Taylor, to compose the Town Council's response to the District Council's consultation on the preferred Direction of Growth for Ilminster

The Mayor reminded members of the public that all comments should be submitted by Friday 10th January 2014 at 4:45 pm.

The meeting closed at 21:40 hrs.

Chair's Signature & Date