

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday, 7 February, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

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 J Sothern, Cllr R Swann, Cllr EJ Taylor and Cllr L Vijeh

County Councillor: Cllr K Turner

Officers: Mrs J Thorne, Mrs R Hope

Opening Prayer

It was agreed that in the absence of an Anglican minister, each denomination should be invited to participate in rotation.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Maylor, Shepherd and Whaites

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17 January 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None

5. Police Report

Cllrs were presented with a written report in which PC Stuart commented that the amount of reported incidents was the same as last year. The cold snap had seen heating oil thefts from commercial premises in the town. There had been some incidents of damage to motor vehicles and one theft. Officers were keen to remind people not to leave valuables in cars.

Parking continued to be a problem within the town; Colin Fletcher has been involved in discussions regarding New Rd and East St. A moped had been seized following a section 59 warning. There had been two driving convictions of local residents.

Robust policing of the Recreation Ground had seen a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

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6. Report from Somerset County Councillor

County Councillor Turner reported that savings in excess £500,000 were to be made with a restructuring of senior management. A new streamlined structure would be in place from 1st April.

On Friday 3rd February Somerset's Twitter Gritter reached 500 followers. The Children's Centre had received excellent reviews with the staff being particularly praised. Financial decisions regarding the youth service had been delayed following concern from members of the public. John Osborne was seeking further information before making a decision.

Petitions were available around the town protesting against the proposed bus cuts. It was hoped that 5000 signatures could be achieved by 14 February which would mean that County would debate the issue.

The full Council was due to meet in two weeks when the budget would be discussed.

Councillor Turner had spoken to Colin Fletcher from Somerset Highways about The Mead, a site meeting had been arranged to discuss the issue of traffic entering the system the wrong way. Cllr Pallister asked if he would also be able to attend the meeting.

7. Reports from District Councillor

Cllr Goodall reported that the new corporate plan for SSDC would go to full Council. As part of the cost cutting process, the structure of the four districts was being reassessed.

Community grants were available in each area, with £107,000 grant funding available in Area West. There was still an opportunity for local community to groups to apply for a grant.

8. Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Open Spaces and Herne Hill Committee meeting held on 24 January 2012 be received.

(a) Flail

It was RESOLVED that a Muthing MUE 2.00m flail should be purchased

(b) Safety surfacing under zip wire

It was RESOLVED that £1150 grass matting should be purchased

(c) Cemetery

It was RESOLVED that a quote of £2825.50 for the removal of earth, grading to a gentle slope, removing the tree stump, putting in a drain and backfilling and spreading soil on adjacent field.

9. Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 31 January 2012 be received.

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10. Minutes of Finance and Policy Committee Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting held on 31 January 2012 be received

11. Reports from Representative on Outside Bodies

(a) Children's Centre

Cllr Sainsbury reported that the Centre was extremely successful with a high take up for a rural area. She was hoping to have a zip wire challenge for children on the Recreation Ground on the same day as Councillors were taking on their zip wire challenge

(b) Youth Club

Cllr Sainsbury reported that as the decision for Youth Service funding had been delayed the committee had been uncertain as to how to move forward. One possibility was to close Mega Mondays and concentrate on Funtime Fridays. Should funding be removed then the provision for older children was under threat as it requires paid youth workers to supervise the session.

Cllr Vijeh asked what the costs of the session were.

Cllr Sainsbury replied the cost was £17,000 for a 39 week year with an income from subs and the tuck shop of £8,500

(c) SCC Change programme

Cllr Shearman reported on a briefing he had attended regarding future funding of services from County. The theme has focused on how communities could help themselves. He had handed out questions he had been given at the session. If councillors wished to respond, the response would be forwarded to County.

(d) Swanmead School

Cllr Swann on behalf of the school thanked the Council for allowing the school to use the open spaces for their cross country run, it was hoped an orienteering session could be planned in the same way. The budget was once again in the black and if anyone knew of willing volunteers there were vacancies on the governing body.

(e) Ilminster Forum

Cllr Lawson reported that Marketing Ilminster Group grant application was due to be processed the following week. The Forum had purchased litter picking equipment and had received a donation of fluorescent jackets.

(f) Chamber of Commerce

Cllr Taylor reported that she had attended the AGM followed by a committee meeting. The new president was Sarah Calhaem. It was suggested that they apply for a Community Grant for funding towards a new Town Criers uniform. They were aware of two people who might be interested in the role. They were unsure as to whether the Town Crier should report to the Council or to the Chamber of Commerce; they were not expecting to pay an honorarium.

The Chamber of Commerce had agreed to match the funding of £500 from the Town Council for the funding of Marketing Ilminster Group. They were looking to revamp first Tuesday and to go virtual.

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Cllr Turner left at 8.10pm

12. Authorisation of Payments

It was RESOLVED that the accounts listed in the schedule, totalling £14,553.43 be approved for payment.

13. Action Plan

The following items were discussed

- (a) Item 8, Cllr Goodall reported that a meeting had taken place with the land agents of SCC, evidence of need was required to be produced.
- (b) Item 9, It was agreed that Cllr Shepherd should be asked to resolve this issue. If no further progress could be made it was to be removed from the action list.
- (c) Item 14, It was agreed to confirm that Cllr Turner had given a grant to this project before a decision on this item was made
- (d) Item 15, Cllr Goodall informed the Council that she was due to have a meeting with PCSO John Martin and a resident in the area to resolve the issue.
- (e) Item 16, the Clerk had spoken again to highways
- (f) Item 17, Cllr Goodall reported that the Strategic Vision would go on public display at the Annual Town meeting May 3rd.
- (g) Item 20, the Clerk was asked to speak again to Peter Lacey

It was agreed that the action plan needed to be updated from the minutes sooner.

14. Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported

- (a) That there is to be a SALC meeting on Monday March 12th at Curry Rivel
- (b) She was in the process of drawing up a training schedule for staff that was due to be discussed with the personnel working party. She requested that the proposed Finance and Policy meeting on March 6th be rescheduled so that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk could attend cemetery training. The Council asked that the personnel working party should review this request.
- (c) She wished to have a meeting with the Olympic Torch working party and then report the decisions to the Council.
- (d) The Annual Town meeting will be held on May 3rd the venue will be confirmed in due course.
- (e) The Clerk reported that Sweet Surprise had confirmed that they wished to use the Market House on a week day, twice a month. Councillors agreed to allow this booking and to review the situation in three months.

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15. Programme of Meetings

Next cycle of meetings
21 February – Open Spaces
6 March – Finance and Policy
20 March – Council

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

Signed.....

Date.....