

Minutes of a meeting of the **Town Council Meeting** held at Greenfylde C of E First School, Silver Street Ilminster on Tuesday 14th October 2014 at 20:00hrs

Present:

Chairman: Cllr E Taylor

Councillors: Cllr P Burton, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr V Higgins, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr R Neave, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr J Sothern, Cllr S Storey and Cllr R Swann

In Attendance

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

County Councillor: Linda Vjeh

141 members of the public attended the meeting.

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and reminded anyone wishing to speak that they needed to have indicated their intention on the attendance sheet.

The Chair said that she was aware of misinformation circulating about the meeting and clarified the purpose of the meeting, especially with regards to the football and community facility item, ensuring attendees were aware of the background of the application, including the Town Council's previously agreed resolutions.

Speaker 1

- A member of the Football Club Committee had organised children and young people from the youth football club to say to Council why they wished to have new facilities. The majority of the children reported that the current facilities were in a poor condition and were an embarrassment to all the teams. They wished that they had better facilities that were clean, bigger and that they could be truly proud of.

Speaker 2

- A member of the Football Club and a former Football Committee's Chair, agreed that the club was in need of new facilities but opposed to the proposal of moving to Britten's Field, as he believed and reported, 'many of the town's people also felt it was unnecessary'.

Speaker 3

- A member of the public asked the Council whether the Recreation Grounds and Britten's Field were 'assets of community value,' under the Localism Act 2011, and if they were protecting the facilities, for the use of all the town. The speaker reported, he believed the previous Resolution regarding the location of buildings was 'in principle.' Speaker 3 urged the Council to represent the town, not only the football club.

Speaker 4

- A member of the public reported that he had seen no figures with regards to the cost of the proposal and asked the Council 'Who would be expected to pay for the project? Would the cost be coming out of Council Tax Payers pockets?'

Speaker 5

- The Captain of the ladies football team, expressed her opinion of how awful the changing facilities which they are required to use really are and reported that she felt the current facilities were a complete embarrassment and misrepresented the team to their rivals. Speaker 5 believed new facilities would support the town and the development of the youth and clubs and give the town potential and focus.

Speaker 6

- Speaker 6 also wished to make attendees aware of the appalling conditions of the facilities.

Speaker 7

- A resident of the town for more than 30 years reported that he had seen no improvement to the facilities and felt that now was the time for the town to move forward, he said it was time to 'stop talking and move forward'.

Chair's Initials

Ilminster Town Council, Minutes 19 August 2014

Speaker 8

- Speaker.8 asked how much S106 money would be going towards the development on Britten's Field. Speaker 8 believed that if the Cricket Club and the Football Club shared facilities and funding it would be far more beneficial to the town. Speaker 8 asked the Council 'why members of the public had not been issued with any documents which included cost comparisons for the proposed building on Britten's Field?' and 'why no business plan had been published?'

Speaker 8 expressed her feelings to the proposal, reporting that if planning permission was granted she expected that it would limit the activity on Britten's Field and therefore would reduce the opportunities for other sports groups.

Speaker 9

- The Secretary for the Football Club believed that the current facilities were inadequate for the current number of users. He reported 'the number of teams has grown and therefore the Club has outgrown the facilities'. Speaker 9 informed the Council of the steps the football club had taken to succeed in their quest to acquire a new facility that they could be proud of, and would be beneficial to the town, informing attendees the development would be open to all, with a function and storage room the former being available for use by the community and in particular community groups.

When all the members of the public who had indicated a wish to speak had done so the Chair and the Town Clerk responded to questions raised e.g use of S106 money, community assets

273. Suspension of Standing Orders

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 1m which relates to photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the meeting.

274. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

275. Declarations of Interest

The declarations of interest outlined in the table below were made:

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Cllr Pallister	Item 10 Football Club Plans -	282	Personal	Volunteer for the Cricket Club – undertaking grounds and general maintenance	Spoke and Voted on the Item
Cllr Shepherd	Item 10 Football Club Plans -	282	Personal	President of Ilminster Cricket Club	Spoke and Voted on the Item
Cllr Storey	Item 10 Football Club Plans	282	Personal	Children attend Clubs	Spoke and Voted on the Item
Cllr Lawson	Item 10 Football Club Plans	282	Personal	Son attends Football Club	Spoke and Voted on the Item

Chair's Initials

Iminster Town Council, Minutes 19 August 2014

276. Minutes

RESOLVED

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2014 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to Cllr Swann's apologies being noted.
- (ii) to note the office action list relating to Town Council meetings.

Points raised during consideration of the office action list included:

- Item 6, Open Spaces Review – when will the soil analysis be undertaken
- Item 8, Licence and Lease Review
- Item 11, Action on Rural Planning Chaos – Timescale of when the letter will be sent
- Item 14, Project Plan – Timescale of when the letter will be sent to the developer
- Item 14, Project Plan – Update on the maintenance of the path

277. Mayor's Announcements/Engagements

- a) The Mayor made the following announcements relevant to Town Council and Mayoral activities and engagements.
 - The Mayor attended a radio interview with BBC Somerset on Friday 10th October 2014.
 - The Mayor had met with Iminster Brownies at Herne Hill on Saturday 11th October 2014 to bury a time capsule.
- b) The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements between 23rd September 2014 and 14th October 2014 were circulated with the agenda.

278. Police Report

The Iminster Beat Report for October 2014 was circulated prior to the meeting.

Issues discussed included:

- disappointed was expressed that there police representatives were not able to attend the meeting, as an update regarding the recent increase in burglaries would have been useful,
- Councillor Keitch suggested that as the Partners And Communities Together (PACT) representative, she would meet and discuss the issue with PC Stuart and report back to Council.

279. Reports from District Councillors

The District Councillor's report was circulated immediately prior to the meeting.

280. Report from County Councillor for Iminster

County Councillor Vijeh had submitted a written report for September 2014 which was circulated with the agenda.

Issues discussed included:

- The painting of yellow lines at Listers Hill and the junction of Springfield
- Work at The Beacon / New Road was scheduled to commence next week, with hopes the road would be open before Christmas
- Free First aid qualification for Iminster residents, £5000 had been allocated to provide at least 15 training courses, , anyone interested should contact the Town Clerk, Council Offices, more information would soon be available and anyone interested in attending could contact the Town Clerk who will be able to provide further details.
- Meeting between Somerset County Council Highways and the Town Council regarding parking and gully maintenance is scheduled for 17 October 2014
- The Winterhay Lane footpath Order has not yet been submitted to the relevant Inspectorate

Chair's Initials

Iminster Town Council, Minutes 19 August 2014

281. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Council received reports from the following Representatives on Outside Bodies:

- **SALC** – Councillor Miller had provided a written report, which was circulated with the agenda.
- **Iminster Fairtrade** - Councillor Keitch reported the Fairtrade meetings had been progressing and is looking promising. The next meeting will be held in two weeks, which Councillor Storey would be attending and will report at the next Council meeting
- **Arts Centre** – Councillor Keitch attended the Arts Centre meeting on behalf of Councillor Sothern, reporting that the Committee was running very well
- **Youth Club** – Councillor Burton informed the Council he would be submitting a report at the next Council meeting.
- **Chamber of Commerce** - Councillor Goodall reported the idea of providing a loyalty card for Iminster was under consideration.

282. Football Club Plans

The Council considered the reports and plans for a new football and community facility and were asked to make a decision as to whether a Planning Application should be submitted to South Somerset District Council. An explanation of need was received from a Football Club Representative; the Architect then gave an oral presentation, informing the Council that they had worked with Planning Officers and undertaken several pre-application discussions and followed advice to produce the plan being presented to the Town Council which the Football Club believed met all requirements.

Issues discussed included:

- The need for a new facility
- The provision for a portable skittle alley
- Lighting for pitches
- Security lighting
- Public access to Britten's Field
- Parking provision
- The development of an additional bar on the Recreation Ground and the possibility of it leading to an increase in underage drinking
- History of previous discussions regarding project costs
- Business plan and viability of the building and its upkeep
- Ownership of the building
- Anticipated licence tenure (25 year period)

A recorded vote was taken and is attached to these minutes as Appendix A

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Town Council makes an application to South Somerset District Council for Planning Permission for a football and community facility as detailed on the plans attached to these minutes as Appendix B,
- (i) that to any minor amendments (as defined by Planning officers at South Somerset District Council) may be agreed by the Town Clerk.

283. Open Spaces Recommendations

The Council considered the recommendation from the Open spaces committee meeting held on 30th September 2014, regarding a Multi-Use games Area.

Issues discussed included:

RESOLVED that due to the restraints resulting from ongoing Open Spaces Review projects no further action is taken at the present time regarding the provision of a MUGA on the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground and that SSDC is informed accordingly.

Chair's Initials

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Ilminster Town Council, Minutes 19 August 2014

284. Project Plan

The Council considered the progress on the project plan and no changes were identified as necessary.

Issues discussed included:

- Item 6 Canal Banks – Clearance of weeds and other undergrowth will take place in the autumn. There is a possibility of S106 monies being allocated for the enhancement of the Canal
- Item 9 Drain Clearance and Gullies – A meeting with Somerset County Council Highways had been arranged for the 17.10.14.

285. Authorisation of Payments and Notification of Virements

The Schedule of Payments for authorisation was circulated with the agenda for Council's approval.

Issues discussed included:

- Expenditure from Kiosk at the Recreation Ground
RESOLVED that the accounts listed in the schedules presented to the Council totalling £ 11,209.80 be approved.

286. Clerk's Updates

The Updates sent by email since the last Council agenda was published were listed on the agenda.

287. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public whilst agenda items 16, 17 and 18 was discussed due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

288. Market House Quotations

The Council considered the quotations received for maintenance work to the Market House but agreed that the work should be postponed until early spring/summer.

RESOLVED that Contractor C be appointed for the sum of £5,092, provided the quotation could be fixed, until next Spring/Summer when the works could commence.

NB: At 21:55 the Council agreed to extend the meeting until 22:15 hrs.

289. Hammerhead Land

The Town Clerk updated the Council on the progress regarding the Hammerhead Land.

290. The Cemetery – Legal Action

The Town Clerk reported the court date has been set for the 18th November 2014 and she has been asked to prepare a witness statement.

The meeting closed at 22:00 hrs.

Chair's signature & date