

Iminster Town Council
Minutes of the **Planning, Highways and Transport Committee** held
on the **3rd August 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present:

Chair: Cllr A Shearman

Committee Members: Cllr L Taylor, Cllr M James, Cllr I MacKillop, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr M Gunn, Cllr L Wilcock

Officers: M Tredwin (Locum Town Clerk), J Earp (Deputy Clerk), V Freeman (Admin Officer)

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr P Burton, Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr V Keitch.

7 Members of the public

P457 Public Forum

Public Speaker 1

A resident spoke on behalf of 6 of his neighbours living on Butts. The resident is concerned that when the HGVs pass by the building shake. Some of the HGVs that use that route are not local and are using their Sat Navs to find the fastest route. The traffic induces vibrations and causes a lack of sleep that can lead to long term chronic health conditions. The resident was also concerned about the overhanging trees and bushes that make the pavement unusable.

Public Speaker 2

A resident advised that 2022 will be the 100th anniversary of Iminster Carnival. It's the towns biggest event and it raises money for local good causes. If the application for Carnival Park is approved the various carnival clubs will work alongside each other. The resident is the 3rd generation carnivalite and hopes his daughters will become the 4th generation.

Public Speaker 3

A resident spoke regarding the Carnival Park Application. The resident gave a timeline of events. He said he was not looking to ask why this has happened, this is the opportunity for a fresh start and asked the committee to agree to the application.

Public speaker 4

A resident spoke in support of the carnival club and regarding the Carnival Park application. She asked the committee to reaffirm their support of the application. The resident also advised that no signatures are required when you submit an online application.

Public speaker 5

A resident spoke in support of the Carnival Park application. She explained about the carnivals 100-year history. If the planning application is not approved Carnival clubs will face eviction in March 2022, one in June 2022 and another is on a short-term

lease. The resident explained that we can't let the Carnival clubs disband. She also explained the Carnival Clubs provide food and drink for other events in the town during the year and the fabric of the town will be much poorer without the carnival clubs.

P458 Apologies:
Cllr R Swann

P459 Declarations of interest:
Cllr Keitch declared an interest in Agenda item 6 The Clerks Update report re: Carnival Park application.

P460 Dispensations:
None declared

P461 Minutes:
The minutes for the meetings held on 4th May 2021, 1st June 2021 and the 6th July 2021 were unavailable and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

P462 Clerk's Update report
The original carnival application was discussed. Whilst it is lawful for anyone to put in a planning application on any land, the question has been asked is it lawful to help an organisation with a planning application to avoid paying part of the fees. No one at SSDC were able to provide an answer to that question.

There were 3 options when the Town Council became aware of the application: to reject the application, withdraw the application, or declare it invalid. Members debated the application, and it was suggested that it was more of a box filling exercise and a case of dotting the i's and crossing the t's. After reference to the Terms of Reference it confirmed that the application should have gone to a full Council meeting as the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee do not have the power to make that decision.

The Locum Town Clerk was aware of the history regarding the application and that we needed to move forward. Some Councillors had recollections of the application being discussed at a full Council Meeting but no evidence of that could be found in the minutes, along with a resolution, a proposer, or a seconder. In order to move forward it was suggested that the Carnival Park be an agenda item at the full Council Meeting on 17th August 2021.

The Locum Town Clerk was asked how/why he started looking into the matter and he read an email from an SCC councillor expressing concerns over the application.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to refer an item regarding the carnival planning application to be included on the agenda for Full Council meeting on 17th August 2021
PROPOSER Cllr Taylor SECONDED Cllr Gunn

P463 Highway Issues in Ilminster

Speed Indication Device (SID)



Members discussed the purchase of a new SID (Speed Indication Device). Several members commented that they felt that a device that either gave a red/green face or a slow down and thank you message would be more effective than a device that just gave a number. Quotes were to be obtained.

Speed

As discussed at a previous meeting there have been concerns regarding vehicles speeding through Sea, especially with cars coming around the S bend and being on the wrong side of the road. Whilst the data shows that accidents are declining the members are aware that speeding is still an issue, and they have a duty to support the residents of Sea and help to keep them safe. Donyatt Parish Council have indicated they would welcome a joint approach.

To progress this matter further the members will need a letter from a resident of Sea, this was requested at the last meeting but has not yet been received. After checking in the Terms of Reference it was decided that this item can be dealt with by the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee without the need to go to full Council.

There have been concerns raised about speeding in Ilminster Town. Members discussed various concerns including traffic seen going the wrong way up North Street, a member of the public has requested that the whole of East Street is set at 20MPH. Highways are coming to check that the 20MPH painted road signs are still visible.

Previously the speed watch along Station Road, Canal Way and Listers Hill was very effective. There was a discussion around who can issue speeding tickets. Members agreed that enforcement is an issue. Members have previously been advised that parked cars, for example, on Canal Way act as traffic calming.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approach highways to extend the 20MPH limit along East Street and North Street
PROPOSER Cllr Shearman SECONDED Cllr Taylor

Weight Limit

There has been increasing concern regarding the disregard of the weight limit along Butts. Members appreciated that sometimes an emergency diversion was necessary due to a major incident on the A303 bypass. Members discussed when the A303 was recently closed at night to allow surveying work to be done the official diversion was through Ilminster and along Butts. It was also discussed that lorry drivers now follow their Sat Navs that will often direct them through Ilminster. Members had previously been advised that the weight limit on Butts is in place due to noise levels. Members also discussed when the bank/wall at Butts was last surveyed as the wall is holding back a lot of weight. The members would like to be able to reassure residents that the wall/bank is safe as cracks have appeared.

It was also asked how is the weight limit enforced? Overweight vehicles should not be using the road along Butts unless it is an official diversion, agricultural vehicles are exempt from the weight limit restrictions. There was a discussion whether anyone contacted SSDC to check they will accept responsibility for part of the wall/bank.

There is also part of the wall bank that does not appear to be owned by anyone. It was suggested that Highways/SSDC are contacted to confirm ownership.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to ask Highways to attend a meeting with Ilminster Town Council to implement a survey of the embankment along Butts to confirm weight limit concerns over planned diverted traffic.

PROPOSER Cllr Shearman SECONDED Cllr Wilcock

Planning Applications

Members considered the following applications:

P464 21/01151/HOU 3 New Buildings - Dowlish Wake, Ilminster, TA19 0PE The erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling.

Issues discussed during consideration were that the extension will be at the back of the property. The property has high walls and will not be seen from outside the property.

Members **Recommended** officers to approve the application.

P465 21/01195/LBC Ashleigh House, 45 Silver Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DW To replace and repair roof covering tiles.

Issues discussed during consideration were that the property is a listed building and in a conservation area.

Members **Recommended** officers to approve the application subject to the roof tiles being acceptable and approved by the Conservation Officer.

P466 21/00151/LBC 5 Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU to replace concrete mortar with lime mortar pointing surrounding neighbours greenhouse on the external side wall of the house

Issues discussed during consideration were that the property is in a conservation area. The work should improve the look of the building.

Members **Recommended** officers to approve the application subject to the materials used are acceptable and approved by the Conservation Officer.

P467 21/01554/HOU 28 The Beacon, Ilminster, TA19 9AH Enlarge two existing first floor front windows. Add an additional Velux type window to the rear roof extension.

Issues discussed during consideration were that the dwelling already has Velux type windows. The property is not overlooking neighbours. The property can't be seen from the road. The property already has slightly different windows.

Members **Recommended** officers to approve the application

P468 Due to an administration error this item should be under the correct reference of 21/0124/S73A and not 19/00103 Full which was on the agenda.

21/0124/S73A Plot at 6 The Heights, Ilminster, Somerset



S73A application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) and condition 7 (garage use) of approval 19/00103/FUL, the erection of 1 No. detached dwelling with associated access and parking; to allow for internal re-arrangement of accommodation, new parking provision, and associated fenestration changes
Issues discussed during consideration were that the new floor plan is the same size. The 3 new Velux windows are in a similar place as on the original application

Members **Recommended** unanimously to defer the application until after the SSDC Planning Officers site visit has been made and further information is available.

P469 Planning appeals

No planning appeals were brought to the attention of the committee.

P470 Planning decisions made by SSDC

Members noted the information that decisions were made by South Somerset District Council and are reported for information

Meeting ended 21:06hrs



