

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting  
held in the Council Chamber, The Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster,  
on Tuesday 3 December 2019 starting at 19.45hrs

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr P Burton

**Councillors:** Cllr M Gunn, Cllr P Hamilton, Cllr V Higgins, Cllr M James, Cllr I Mackillop,  
Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr R Swann, Cllr L Taylor, Cllr F White and  
Cllr L Wilcock.

**In Attendance**

Officers: Miss J Norris (Town Clerk)

5 members of the public attended the meeting

**Speaker 1**

The speaker is a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Development Group. The Group have spent a long time discussing issues relating to the future of Ilminster and collecting relevant evidence to develop a robust plan. There is still work to be done including the development of a communication strategy, consultation and incorporating feedback into the draft plan but work is ongoing and progressing.

**Speaker 2**

The speaker is a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Development Group – which has been very interesting and it has been good to be involved; of particular interest is the allocation of sites for development and these have been independently assessed by the Group's consultant using criteria sanctioned by South Somerset District Council. There have been heated discussions within the group on some matters, including the sites to be allocated and perhaps the community need to be given the opportunity to give more consideration and provide feedback on a number of potential development sites not all of which are included in the draft plan.

**729 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Keitch.

**730 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made regarding any items on the Agenda.

**731 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on **26 November 2019** were not available and will be presented at the next Town Council meeting.

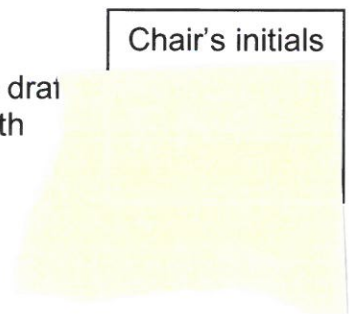
**732 Office Action Plan**

The Office Action Plan relating to Town Council Meetings was not available and will be presented at the next Town Council meeting.

**733 Neighbourhood Plan –First Draft**

(a) A first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was considered; the draft is intended for initial consultation and to be provided to South

Chair's initials



Somerset District Council to inform the revisions to the Local Plan.  
Cllr Shepherd, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Development Group, introduced the agenda item explaining that the members of the Group had done lots of work to collect evidence and consult the community; there were many differing points of view to be collated and compromise was necessary in order to move forwards. The document as presented had not been proof read – this would be done after the meeting when any Town Council comments would be considered for inclusion. Issues raised during consideration of this agenda item included:

- the map of the Ilminster Conservation Area is incorrect – the current boundary extends up to Swanmead School
- there needs to be clear policies regarding the provision of social housing and how much is needed
- the Group will be asking the Town Council for approval to spend £5,000 on the Consultation Strategy

**RESOLVED** that the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan is approved for initial consultation and to be provided to South Somerset District Council to inform the revisions to the Local Plan.

(b) The Technical Report regarding site assessments, which forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base, was presented for information.

Issues raised during consideration of this agenda item included:

- the top option for housing development following the site assessment – The Swan – has previously been the subject of planning applications for which the town Council has recommended refusal

**RESOLVED** to note the Technical Report regarding Site Assessments

The meeting closed at 20:05hrs.

