

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on
**16th July 2024 at 19:30hrs, at Ilminster Arts Centre,
35 East Street, Ilminster, TA19 0AN**

Chair: Cllr B Hamilton

Council: Cllr M Gunn, Cllr M James, Cllr B Jenner-Hurford, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr I MacKillop, Cllr J Morris, Cllr S Osborne, Cllr D Paul, Cllr P Sellers, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr L Taylor, Cllr N Tinson.

Officers: J Earp (Deputy Town Clerk), V Freeman (Administration Officer)

In attendance: There were 2 members of the public present.

2024-0084-TC Public Forum

Cllr McKenzie advised Members that she was happy to provide clarification/answer any questions regarding agenda item 6 Sea Speed Limit.

2024-0085-TC Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Shearman

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that reasons have been provided.

2024-0086-TC Somerset Council Member's Reports

Cllr Keitch updated Members on the progress of the Gravity site. The project will create many jobs and will have a positive effect on the whole county.

19:33 Cllr Osborne arrived

Cllr Osborne sent her best wishes to our new MP, Adam Dance, in his new role and is looking forward to working with him.

2024-0087 -TC Declarations of Interest

Cllr B Hamilton declared an interest in Agenda item 18 Remembrance Sunday as a Member of the Royal British Legion.

2024-0088-TC Dispensations

There were no dispensations requested or granted.

2024-0089-TC Minutes – Town Council

Members **RESOLVED** by 12 votes for that the Minutes from the meeting held on 18th June 2024 as a correct record.

Proposer Cllr Tinson **Seconded** Cllr Keitch

2024-0090-TC Minutes – Planning, Highways and Transport

Members **NOTED** the Minutes from the meeting held on 2nd July 2024.

Members discussed the Sea speed limit resolution.

Discussions included: Members were disappointed with the locations of the speed monitoring devices as the data from the radar locations did not cover Sea, if the data was captured from the wrong place then the data is unreliable. Nothing from Highways has recommended to lower the speed limit, if the speed limit is reduced will people abide by it and reduce their speed. The current signage has reduced accidents, the road will get busier when the new Persimmon development is built, the Town Council is legally obliged to provide value for money for residents, some areas of Sea are within the Ilminster boundary, this issue is of importance and should not be dismissed too quickly/lightly. This is an ongoing problem, there is an advisory speed limit in place, there are other junctions on the road as well as the Sustrans route 33 crossing. Donyatt PC and local residents will contribute 50% of the cost (up to £5k), the information provided by Donyatt was helpful. If the Sea speed limit is reduced it will provide parity with the other roads in Ilminster.

24-024-PHT Sea Speed Limit

A. Members **RESOLVED** by 4 votes for 1 against to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that a transfer of £3,000 to the SID budget from unallocated reserves so that there are sufficient funds available to cover Ilminster Town Council's share of the cost of the speed reduction at Sea.

A Members **RESOLVED** by 10 votes for and 3 against that a transfer of £3,000 to the SID budget from unallocated reserves so that there are sufficient funds available to cover Ilminster Town Council's share of the cost of the speed reduction at Sea.

Proposer Cllr Sellers **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

24-024-PHT Sea Speed Limit

C. Members **RESOLVED** by 3 votes for 2 against to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that officers contact Somerset Highways (Traffic Management) to complete the reduction of the National Speed Limit to 40MPH along the Greenway/Old A3037 from the A358 to the Ilminster boundary subject to Donyatt PC agreeing to meet half of the costs.

B Members **RESOLVED** by 8 votes for 4 against that officers contact Somerset Highways (Traffic Management) to complete the reduction of the National Speed Limit to 40MPH along the Greenway/Old A3037 from the A358 to the Ilminster boundary subject to Donyatt PC agreeing to meet half of the costs.

Proposer Cllr Sellers **Seconded** Cllr Taylor



2024-0091-TC Minutes – Resources

Members **NOTED** the Minutes from the meeting held on 2nd July 2024.

R24-019 Media and Social Media Policies

A. Media Policy

Members **RESOLVED** by 7 votes for 1 against to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the adoption of the draft Media Policy with amendments to 3.6 and 4.1.

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to the adoption of the draft Media Policy.

Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

B. Social Media Policy

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the adoption of the draft Social Media Policy with those amendments.

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the presented updated draft of the Social Media Policy with those amendments.

Proposer Cllr Sellers **Seconded** Cllr Jenner-Hurford

2024-0092-TC Mayor/Deputy Mayor Reports

Members **NOTED** the Mayors report.

2024-0093-TC Police Report

Members discussed inviting the Police and Crime Commissioner to a Town Council meeting or a LCN meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** by 10 votes for to invite the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner to a future Town Council meeting.

Proposer Cllr Osborne **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

2024-0094-TC Co-option and Casual Vacancy

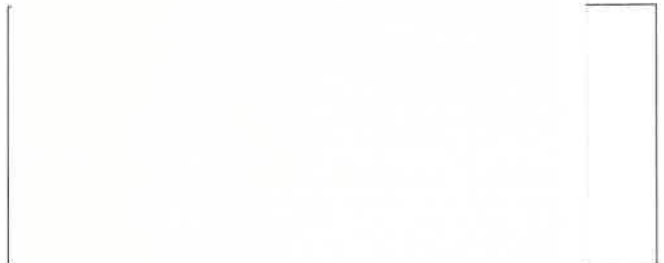
Members were informed that Cllr Karchud had resigned as a Councillor. Cllr Hamilton thanked Cllr Karchud for everything he has done whilst a Councillor.

Members discussed the cost of holding an election and will consider the need for budgeting for any future election at Members Day.

20:19 Cllr Morris left the meeting

20:20 Cllr Morris returned to the meeting

Members **NOTED** the report.



2024-0095-TC Publication Scheme

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Publication Scheme as presented to the Full Council.

Proposer Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr James

2024-0096-TC Schedule of Payments

A number of Members have taken advantage of refresher training recently.

a. Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the payments for June 2024

Proposer Cllr Tinson **Seconded** Cllr Keitch

b. Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to note the account balances as of 30 June 2024.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Sellers

2024-0097-TC Disposal of Assets

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to Officers to dispose of the assets through a sale or removal.

Proposer Cllr Tinson **Seconded** Cllr Paul

2024-0098-TC Disposal of Chemicals

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to officers to dispose of the chemicals in the Wardens Building using a safe and certified company.

Proposer Cllr Gunn **Seconded** Cllr Tinson

2024-0099-TC Calendar of Meetings

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously Members to agree to the movement of the September 2024 Town Council meeting to 24th September 2024.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to the addition of the Annual Community Assembly on 25th March 2025 to the 2024/25 calendar of meetings.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Paul

2024-0100-TC Rights of Way

Members **NOTED** the report.

Members discussed the report.

Discussions included concerns regarding recruiting volunteers. The effect on the wildlife habitat if a volunteer/member of the public trims a hedge during the nesting season as there are strict legal rules about when some work can be done. At what point does the volunteer become more like an employee. Who will cover the training costs and monitor Health and Safety. Most local rights of way are on private land. How will the online reporting work.

2024-0101-TC **Remembrance Sunday**

Cllr James declared an interest in this Agenda item.

Members discussed Remembrance Sunday.

Discussions included do we need to hold a parade, we are no longer able to have a rolling roadblock we have to apply for a TTRO road closure, the majority of the costs will be in the first year, the parade is made up of 2 parts could the route be shortened, the amount of work and training involved in arranging the parade and on the day, the impact of Martins Law, all houses on the parade route will need to be letter dropped, no vehicles are allowed to be parked along the parade route, the staff on the day have to be Chapter 8 trained. Staff will need to undertake anti-terrorism training and DBS checks

If we do not hold a parade, it will be an insult to our veterans from all conflicts and a massive disservice to the town, we owe it to the people who have served/still serving our country, veterans watch the parade even if they are not taking part, it is an important part of the annual calendar.

Could the carnival marshals assist.

Officers will arrange a meeting with the police, RBL, and cadet leaders to discuss the event. Cllr Paul has agreed to be the liaison with the RBL.

- A** Members **RESOLVED** by 12 votes for to accept the responsibility of the organisation and coordination of the Remembrance Sunday parade.
Proposer Cllr James **Seconded** Cllr Keitch
- B** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to officers to apply for a TTRO for the Remembrance Sunday parade on Sunday 10th November 2024.
Proposer Cllr Paul **Seconded** Cllr James

Cllr Hamilton reminded Members that whilst officers will apply for the TTRO the parade is subject to staff availability on the day and that all legal/logistical requirements can be met.

2024-0102-TC **Resilience in the Community**

The sluice gate at Chard Reservoir is manned by volunteers and if be there was to be a future flooding event the gate won't necessarily manned and the flood water from Chard will flood Ilminster.

- A** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to write to Somerset Council to enquire about the planned changes for operating the gates to Chard reservoir, especially in event of a Section 114 declaration.
Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Tinson

The Council are currently looking for 2 more suitable locations to place resilience stores.

- B** Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to officers the authority to use allocated funding from the budget to commence the stocking of resilience stores once the process of securing all 3 sites has been completed.
Proposer Cllr Paul **Seconded** Cllr Tinson

2024-0103-TC Exempt Business

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded while members consider this item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Proposer Cllr Hamilton **Seconded** Cllr Tinson

21:25 The Deputy Clerk left the meeting.

2024-0104-TC Staffing

The Chair of Resources will provide feedback to the unsuccessful candidates.

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint Julie Earp as the Town Clerk from Sunday 1st September 2024

Proposer Cllr Tinson **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint to appoint the new Town Clerk SCP Range Scale Point 40 whilst the RFO role is retained.

Proposer Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Paul

Meeting ended 21:35

