

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on
19th March 2024 at 19.30hrs, in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices,
North Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DG**

Chair: Cllr L Taylor

Council: Cllr M Gunn, Cllr B Jenner-Hurford, Cllr J Karchud, Cllr I MacKillop, Cllr J Morris, Cllr S Osborne, Cllr P Sellers, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr N Tinson.

Officers: Mark Tredwin (Town Clerk), J Earp (Deputy Clerk), V Freeman (Administration Officer) Becky Maggs (Administration Officer)

In attendance: There were no members of the public present.

The Mayor introduced and welcomed our new administration office to Ilminster Town Council.

2023-0229-TC Public Forum

There were no members of public present.

2023-0230-TC Apologies for Absence

Cllr B Hamilton

Cllr A Shearman

Cllr M James

Cllr D Paul

Cllr V Keitch

The Clerk has confirmed that reasons have been provided.

2023-0231-TC Somerset Council Member's Reports

Members **NOTED** the Somerset Councillors report.

2023-0232-TC Declarations of Interest

Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in agenda item 14a as a family member is part of the group.

2023-0233-TC Dispensations

There were none requested or granted.

2023-0234-TC Minutes – Town Council

Members **RESOLVED** by 9 votes for that the Minutes from the meeting held on 20th February 2024 as a correct record.

Proposer Cllr Sellers **Seconded** Cllr Tinson

2023-0235-TC Minutes – Planning, Highways and Transport

Members **NOTED** the Minutes from the meeting held on 5th March 2024.



2023-0236-TC Mayor/Deputy Mayor Reports
Members **NOTED** the Mayor and Deputy Mayors reports.

2023-0237-TC Police Report
No police report provided.
Members were asked to report any queries directly to officers.
The Town Clerk has held an informative meeting with the Avon and Somerset Police events co-ordinator and will update Members at a future meeting.

2023-0238-TC Income and Expenditure report
Members **NOTED** the report.

2023-0239-TC Schedule of Payments
A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously by to approve the payments for February 2024.
Proposer Cllr Jenner-Hurford **Seconded** Cllr Shepherd

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the completion of the bank reconciliation for February 2024 and note the account balances as of 29 February 2024.
Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Sellers

2023-0240-TC Cemetery Water Supply
Members were updated on the progress. Officers are in the process of arranging for a survey to be completed by Wessex Water so they can advise on the costs and work involved in splitting the water supply.
Officers are investigating options regarding the replacement septic tank.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that Officers should organise and enact the separation of the water supply between the Cemetery Lodge and the Cemetery using funds held in unallocated general reserves.
Proposer Cllr Sellers **Seconded** Cllr Osborne

2023-0241-TC Market Stall holders conditions
Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept and approve the amendments for the Market Stallholder's Conditions for 2024-2025 as proposed in the Appendix 13A.
Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Osborne

2023-0242-TC Grant applications
Members discussed the grant applications and decided to review each application before awarding an amount to each applicant. Discussions included to consider changing the grant process to having 2 meetings a year when applications are discussed, do parents make a contribution, and whether the organisations are based in Ilminster.

There was a proposal from Cllr MacKillop and seconded by Cllr Sellers but rejected by 3 votes for and 5 against that application a receive £156, application b receive £250 and application c receive £250.

Members **RESOLVED** by 8 votes for and 1 against to award each organisation the equivalent of £15.61 per child according to the Grant application. Therefore, Application A CLOKS received £78.05, Application B, Illuminations Majorettes received £343.42 and Application C, Ilminster Diamonds Majorettes received £234.15 from the 2023-24 Grant budget.
Proposer Cllr Gunn **Seconded** Cllr Shepherd

The grant CLOKS was approved under the power of Local Government Act 1972 S145

The grant for Illuminations Majorettes was approved under the power of Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s 19

The grant for Ilminster Diamonds Majorettes was approved under the power of Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s 19

2023-0243-TC Food Bank Grant

Members thanked officers for completing the monthly Food Bank shop.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to continue to support the Food Bank by donating £125.00 of agreed products per month for the financial year 2024-2025.

Proposer Cllr Sellers **Seconded** Cllr Gunn

The grant was approved under the power of S137

2023-0244-TC Notification of receipt of grants

Members were updated that we have been accepted to take part in Tesco's Community Grant process (the blue tokens) from 1st April to 30th June to try and win money towards adding a springer to West Crescent playpark.

A. Members **NOTED** the receipt of a £1,000 grant from Persimmon Homes to purchase replacement dog bins for Herne Hill.

B. Members **NOTED** the receipt of a £3,285 grant from The National Lottery Awards For All to purchase a Lowther Bench and a wheelchair accessible picnic bench for both West Crescent and Winterhay playparks

2023-0245-TC Councillor Surgeries

Members discussed the success of the surgeries, 10 residents have been helped at a surgery. The Annexe might not be the correct location, is there a more suitable location within the town. Councillors expressed safeguarding concerns. Having a stand at outdoor events like IMEX seem to be more successful. Consider having a stall at the weekly market on an ad hoc basis and a stall at outside events, maybe 4 times a year, during the summer months. If a resident has an issue, do they attend a surgery or do they prefer to contact/visit the Town Council office where staff are available to help. Councillors meet residents when they are out and about in the community and residents will ask for help/advice then.

Part of the role of a Councillor is to meet members of the public. Would a Meet the Councillor evening work better, members of the public could also find out more about the role of a Councillor and what the Town Council are responsible for. Officers could add a bio of a different Councillor to our social media on a monthly basis so residents get to know who the Councillors are and find out some information about them.

Officers to investigate the above suggestions and bring this item back to the May meeting for further discussion.

Councillors decided to end to current format of the surgeries.

Members **NOTED** the report.

2023-0246-TC Youth Working Group

Members **RESOLVED** to the creation of a youth working group made up of Cllr Taylor, Cllr Karchud and Cllr Morris.

Proposer Cllr Sellers **Seconded** Cllr Osborne

2023-0247-TC Community Plan Update

Members **NOTED** the report.

2023-0248-TC Ilminster Town Council 50th Anniversary

Members discussed ideas to commemorate Ilminster Town Councils 50th anniversary. Ideas included a 70's night at a local venue, a find 50 things competition, an all-faiths church service with refreshments in the Minster Rooms afterwards, a newsletter charting the last 50 years of Ilminster Town council, planting a tree, and arranging a history display in the Emporium window.

Members noted that any event should be self-funding, be of interest to the whole community and be an opportunity for the community to be involved.

Members will need to be available to help officers to arrange any events.

A Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to plant a tree on the recreation ground in the area of the Queens Platinum Jubilee bench and existing memorial oak tree, and to organise a history display in the window of The Emporium.

Proposer Cllr Taylor **Seconded** Cllr Tinson

B Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that other ideas relating to the 50th anniversary commemorations will be considered if put forward within the next 6 months.

Proposer Cllr Gunn **Seconded** Cllr Osborne

Members **NOTED** the report.

2023-0249-TC Somerset Council Update

This item was moved to exempt business.

2023-0250-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 Osborne **Seconded** Cllr Shepherd

2023-0251-TC Somerset Council Update

Members were updated on the current situation regarding the negotiations on the transfer of Assets and Services. The possibility of the council entering into a Service Level Agreement that would allow for additional maintenance of areas that the Town Council currently has no powers to maintain was raised. Discussions are also taking place over the Town Council taking over ownership of Blackdown and Greenfylde playparks.

The possibility of taking over the Public Toilet block was discussed along with the contents of the current lease that is in place between Somerset Council and Tesco was discussed. Members agreed that for the Financial Year 2024-25 it would pay £6,000 in order to cover the cleaning costs for the toilets during their normal hours. Any additional costs would be the responsibility of Somerset Council. If there were requests for the toilets to be opened beyond their usual times, then the costs associated by this would need to be met by the organisations making the request.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to pay £6,000 to Somerset Council in respect of the cleaning of the toilets opposite Tesco Ilminster for the financial year 2024-25.

Proposer Cllr Osborne **Seconded** Cllr Sellers

2023-0252-TC Banking Hub

At the end of the meeting the members had a general discussion over the proposed closure of Lloyds Bank. It was agreed that officers would add an agenda item to the Full Council meeting in April. In the report for this meeting information would be given detailing the steps that officers were taking to try and get a Banking Hub located in the Town.

Meeting ended at 21.27



