

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting  
held in the Council Chamber. The Council Offices, North Street, Ilminster,  
on Tuesday 23 October 2018 at 19.30hrs

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr J Fowler

**Councillors:** Cllr P Burton, Cllr J Dewick, Cllr J Fagan, Cllr M Gunn, Cllr M James,  
Cllr I Mackillop, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr R Swann, Cllr L Taylor  
Cllr T Walker and Cllr F White

**In Attendance**

Officers: Miss J Norris (Town Clerk)

1 member of the public attended the meeting.

**Speaker 1**

The speaker wished to know if the Town council had written to Somerset County Council yet about the Ilminster buses. Count Councillor Linda Vjeh has received a response saying that subsidies are not available as they have been used for the new routes S1-S3. It seems like the County Council just do not understand the needs of Ilminster and other local people to get to and from Taunton.

**513. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Keitch.

**514. Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were made in respect of any items on the agenda

**515. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 were considered.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

The Mayor, as a point of information regarding the minutes reported that, according to the Land Registry, South Somerset District Council own the youth centre buildings

**516. Mayor's Announcements/Engagements**

a) The Mayor made announcements relevant to Town Council and Mayoral activities and engagements

- Ilminster Library – the published recommendation is that Ilminster stays open; this will go to a meeting on 5 November for consideration
- Remembrance Service a reminder that the service will be held on 11 November 2018 at 3.00pm at the Minster
- West Crescent -the new rope climbers will be officially opened for use on 31 October at 10:30hrs; all Town Councillors should have received an invitation to attend.

Chair's Initials

**517. External Audit Report for 2017/18**

Consideration was given to the External Audit Report for 2017/18.

The only comment made by the auditors was that the Town Clerk had signed and dated the documents after consideration by the Town Council rather than before; this comment has been noted and the change implemented.

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk were thanked for keeping such good records and implementing good practices

**RESOLVED** to note and accept the External Auditor's report.

**518. Signatories for the Herne Hill Local Nature Reserve Declaration**

Consideration was given to the nomination of 2 Councillors to sign the Herne Hill Local Nature Reserve Declaration

**RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Chair of the Open Spaces Committee should sign the Herne Hill Local Nature Reserve designation.

**519. Housing Needs Survey Report**

Consideration was given to The Housing Needs Survey Report prepared by The Community Council for Somerset following analysis of the responses to the Housing Needs Survey.

Issues discussed included:

- The number of surveys forms issued
- Average response rate
- Affordable housing needs
- Growing needs for housing suitable for the elderly and disabled
- Definition of affordable housing
- The difference between affordable housing and social housing
- People want to downsize - this would assist in releasing family size homes
- The need for bungalows
- Self-build projects may help people to obtain a suitable home
- Part ownership projects by the Town Council - may be an investment for the Town Council
- The increasing population of Ilminster
- Young people wanting to stay in Ilminster find it very difficult to afford homes
- Some places e.g. St Ives, have building projects where housing on new developments are reserved for people with a local connection
- Many people may purchase houses in Ilminster but work elsewhere meaning that Ilminster becomes a dormitory town
- Concerns raised about future housing development in Ilminster; the Town Council need to take these concerns on board and remember them when planning applications are discussed and recommendations made to the District Council
- The need for an adequate infrastructure
- The possibility of the Town Council investing in land and property as a long term investment
- House prices in Ilminster are rising and are not commensurate with local wages

Chair's Initials

- Community Enterprises - local people working with local councils to build their own homes
- Converting existing buildings should also be considered as well as new build
- Nursing Home occupancy rates / availability would be useful
- Self build type projects may be able to use local companies for supplies and services
- Properties for rent are as important and maybe more so than properties to own

**RESOLVED**

- (i) to adopt the report
- (ii) to bring the report to the attention of South Somerset District Council and ask for it to be taken into account when planning applications are considered
- (iii) Publicise the report

**520. Gambling Act**

To consider the Town Council's response to the consultation on the draft statement of principles

Issues discussed during consideration of this agenda item included:

- The safeguarding of young people is commendable

**RESOLVED** to respond to South Somerset District Council supporting the suggested changes, especially those intended to safeguard young people.

The meeting closed at 20:40hrs

Chair's Signature & Date