



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors: Mr Nick Thwaites, (also representing Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.)); Mr Alan Ottey; Mr Bill Gash; Mr John Preston; Mrs Ann Van Praag; Mrs Margaret Rawle who arrived at 8.20pm and Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.), who left at 8.15pm and one member of the public.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

Mr Rob Hanrahan, Specialist Technical Fibre Manager - Openreach.

Openreach are working in partnership with Connecting Devon and Somerset to build fibre to the homes of Dulverton, which will require a large amount of road closures. Around two thirds of the road closures are scheduled, the scheduling of the remaining third should be completed by 19/4/22.

Openreach want to ensure that the work is carried out with as little disruption as possible to the residents of Dulverton, particularly by not working on specific, busy roads during the holiday season, when the schools are on holiday.

Although welcoming a more efficient broadband service to 208 properties situated in and around Dulverton, member's main concerns involve the proposed road closures and associated diversions. They requested that:

- a) Access is available over night.
- b) Only one of the three roads accessing Dulverton is closed at any one time.
- c) Ensure emergency vehicle access is maintained.
- d) Signage clearly states that Dulverton is open for business.
- e) Signage clearly states where the road is closed to ensure drivers don't make unnecessary long diversions.
- f) Signage is taken down immediately after the work is completed.
- g) Enough workmen are employed to carry out the works as quickly as possible.

Mr Hanrahan agreed to send members detailed maps showing the proposed diversion and details of the signage to be displayed for their consideration. Furthermore, all the households affected will be informed of the proposed works prior to them commencing.

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:

Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish who is unwell.

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery with regards the Sports Field Management Committee.
Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites with regards the Sports Field Management Committee.
Cllr. Mr Bill Gash with regards the P.C.C. & Parish Rooms.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites - S.W.T:

A dead ash tree situated by the rear entrance to Abbeyfield still requires felling.

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson - S.C.C.

Local Community Networks - Highways Parish Pilot – Highway Steward

Currently in the recruitment phase for the Highway Steward, and depending on a suitable candidate stepping forward, the pilot will be operational in May 2022. The Steward will be tasked to tackle 'low tech' minor maintenance activities, for example, grass cutting, highway hedge trimming, minor sign maintenance, weed control and so on. Parishes can submit a highway maintenance request at <https://forms.office.com/r/QzJUkn62Qu>, at any time but an initial programme of work has been requested by the end of April 2022. All highway maintenance requests will be added to a rolling programme of activities. The Clerk was requested to compile a list of the work currently undertaken by DTC on behalf of S.C.C. as well as identify other highways maintenance issues to be undertaken.

Members expressed various concerns and suggested that a further LCN Working Group meeting should be scheduled to clarify issues raised.

Monmouth Terrace – There still exist raised slaps which are trip hazards and have caused further accidents. Cllr. Nicholas is to pursue the issue.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2022 as circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Vann Praag, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6786 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6785 Emergency Planning

Cllr. Mr Bill Gash agreed to compose a document offering advice to residents as to precautionary measures which can be taken to mitigate problems in the event of further power cuts.

6787 Accounts:

Financial Statement – March 2022: See Appendix A

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statement as per Appendix A is approved. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

Payments for approval – March 2022: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mr Gash, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

Review of Committed Expenditure:

RESOLVED: That the committed expenditure as at 01/04/22 as per Appendix C are approved. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6788 Committees:

Minutes to be approved by the relative Committee members and be adopted as part of this meeting:

a) Dulverton Partnership Group – 16th March 2022

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Dulverton Partnership Group Meeting held on 16th March 2022. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

b) Queens Jubilee Committee – 28th March 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Jubilee Committee held on 28th March 2022 are approved and adopted as part of this meeting. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

Members were informed that Streamcombe Allotments Trust have granted a donation of £300 towards the event.

Meetings were scheduled for 28th Thursday April 2022 for both the Grounds Committee and Town Management Committee.

6789 Planning Applications

To approve comments as per Appendix C

RESOLVED: To adopt the comments as per Appendix C as part of this meeting. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

6790 Marketing - LGA 1976 Sec.19 & LGA 1972 Sec.144 / 145:

RESOLVED: To ring fence £2,000 as an addition to the £4,000 already included in the budget specifically for marketing and events. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6791 Staff Annual Leave:

RESOLVED: To approve that the equivalent of one week's annual leave entitlement, for both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, is carried over to the year 2022/23. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

6792 Highways Issues – Parking Restrictions:

Various issues of concern were raised:

- 1) Union Street - Kerb blips at the junction with the High Street so that there is no loading or unloading and blue badge holders do not park on the corners.
- 2) Amory Road/ Jury Road Junction – Extension of yellow lines.
- 3) Fore Street – Review of the size of parking spaces.

It is hoped that a site visit can be scheduled with Kate Brown (Traffic Engineer S.C.C.) to pursue these issues.

6793 Town Weed Control:

RESOLVED: To accept the quotation as supplied by Complete Weed Control at £110.40 per application and request three treatments annually. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6794 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6795 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Rural Housing Network- 16th March 2022: Attended by Cllrs Mrs Ann Van Praag and Mr Bill Gash who reported that a considerable number of applicants are still waiting to be offered suitable housing.

6796 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Grounds Maintenance – Annual Vehicle Insurance Renewal – due 04/05/22: A renewal quote has been received from BH&S Insurance Services amounting to £382.64. Members agreed that no further quotes are to be sought and that a proposal to accept the quote can be resolved at the next Grounds Committee Meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting – 9th May 2022 – The Chairman suggested that representatives from other organisations currently active in Dulverton are formally invited to attend the Parish Meeting and report on the activities etc. of their respective clubs/organisations.

South West Energy Hub: Cllr. Mr Bill Gash suggested that a representative is invited to a future meeting to proffer advice when choosing and using sustainable forms of energy, as well as possible funding sources.

Chairman

