



# Dulverton Town Council

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## The Clerk

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.00pm, in the Town Hall, Dulverton.

**Present:** Chairman/Mayor: Mr Nick Thwaites (D.T.C. & W.S.C.); Councillors: Mrs. Judy Ernest; Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Ian Fleming; Mr Steve Ford, Mr Gerry Lewis; Mr Malcolm Neale; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.C.C.), who arrived at 8.35pm, Mr Bruce Heywood (W.D.C.) and 3 members of the public.

### **Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:**

Mrs Jan Ross: A coffee morning in aid of Community Transport is to be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, in the Town Hall, from 9.30am until 12.30pm; when it is hoped that volunteer drivers will be recruited.

Brushford Community Car Scheme has been renamed 'TA22 Voluntary Lifts' and is considering offering short local trips. Volunteer drivers are being sought to carry out this service.

Mr Chris Nelder: Members were requested to consider a proposal to erect an Honours Board, naming those who held the position of Chairman of the Council over the past one hundred years. The location of the board is yet to be determined and funding amounting to approximately £400 is being sourced. The Town Hall Committee have stated that it is not appropriate to place it in the Town Hall, as the facility is not funded or managed by the Town Council but by a Registered Charity. The Heritage Centre will provide a space if all other alternatives have been dismissed. No definitive answer has been received from the P.C.C. regarding All Saints Church. Cllr. Dubery suggested that the library should be considered and an approach made to Councillor Nicholson accordingly. All members present expressed their support for the proposal.

### **Apologies:**

None.

### **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. Nick Thwaites with regards his position as District Councillor.

Cllr. Steve Ford with regard his position as Church Warden.

### **Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:**

Councillor Thwaites informed members that he did not intend to stand for Chairman at the Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held in May 2017.

**Presentation:** Ms Beccy Brown, Housing Initiative Officer, W.S.C.

Ms Brown has been appointed by W.S.C. to raise awareness in West Somerset, of housing initiatives and funds available as a result of the Hinkley development. Funds are available for all in West Somerset, not only those that are affected by the Hinkley development, and involve the following:

- Loans for first time buyers to help meet legal fees and deposits.
- To landlords to raise the standard of rented properties prior to being offered for rent.
- To property owners to help make disused properties habitable.
- Further information and contact details are available on the West Somerset Council website.

A Landlord and Housing Fair is to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 between 4.00pm and 8.00pm at the Beach Hotel, Minehead, involving various talks and presentations, of interest to landlords, property owners, first time buyers and tenants.

### **Questions for County and District Councillors:**

Cllrs Bruce Heywood & Nick Thwaites W.S.C.:

Car Parks: Members requested confirmation that the District Councillors will support DTC's objections to the proposals to be considered by members at the West Somerset Council meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. W.S.C. intend to raise the cost of annual parking permits in Dulverton from the current £90 to £210 by April 2018 an increase of over 230%. This is coupled with a limitation of permit use to two car parks only.

Cllr. Thwaites stated that he would oppose these proposals and probably request an amendment to the resolution suspending the issues that involve Dulverton car parks until further investigations have been undertaken.

It is believed that several letters supporting DTC's opposition to the proposals have been submitted to W.S.C. to be read out at the meeting. Members and residents are encouraged to attend the meeting if possible.

Lion Stables Toilet Facilities – Transfer of Assets: The necessary legal documents have been received by Risdon Hosegood Solicitors from W.S.C. It is not anticipated that the legalities will be completed before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, and the ownership transferred to DTC. However, the Town Management Committee has taken action to ensure that DTC can take over the management of the facilities and ensure that they remain open.

Cllr Frances Nicholson:

Jury Road/ The Rock Inn: Members expressed their concern that road repairs were not proposed to be carried out in front of the Rock Inn due to the surface dressing being sprayed with water by the landlord, to reduce the amount of dust accessing his property, and the Contractors therefore not accepting responsibility. Members clarified that the water spraying was done several weeks after the surface dressing was laid and would not have affected the road surface. Cllr. Nicholson agreed to pursue the issue.

Barle Industrial Units – Lighting: Assurance has been given that the sensor lights and operating system will be serviced as soon as possible so ensure that the stadium lights are not constantly on but switched off between 6pm and 8am. A movement sensor is to be used during these hours for security reasons. A tenant meeting will be held to review these arrangements for next winter.

Library: Cllr. Nicholson agreed to obtain clarification regarding the opening hours of the library. Furthermore she agreed to enquire as to whether the proposed Honours Board could be placed in the library.

Somerset County Council Elections: Elections will take place on Thursday 4 May 2017. Cllr. Nicholson stated her intention to stand as a Conservative candidate. She anticipated that will be as many as four other candidates.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 as circulated:** were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

**6157 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:**

6146 All Saints Church - East Wall: No further developments.

**6158 Accounts:**

Request for approval:

Post Office Counters Ltd	Flood Defence Project - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class stamps x 42	£23.10
Exe Pest	Pest control – Grounds	£120.00
W.S.C.	Temporary Market Application	£300.00
Travis Perkins	Padlocks for silt traps	£32.87
Mr A. Takel	Grounds maintenance – Feb 2017	£494.50
Salaries & Expenses	February 2017	£1,525.94
Mr J. Kenwood	Churchyard maintenance & weed spraying	£861.68
Parish Lengthsman	February 2017 Wages & Expenses	£528.93

RESOLVED: That the accounts are approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried

Financial Statement:

The Financial Statement was also presented and approved. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mrs Ernest and carried.

**6159 Committees:**

Minutes submitted for approval:

1. Planning Committee meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017:
2. Town Management Committee Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017:
3. Legal & Finance Committee Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 are approved. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 are approved. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

W.S.C. has been requested to issue a Lease Agreement with regards the management of the public toilets as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 in anticipation that the legalities would not be completed. The Clerk informed members that public liability would be covered. She was requested to write to Mr Warner stating that DTC are ready to accept responsibility for the facilities as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 providing a Lease Agreement is in place which will authorise DTC to carry out any repairs or re-decoration.

Cllr. Fleming informed members that the survey is to be carried out on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017. A second quote concerning the electrical work required will be received in the near future.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 are approved. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

**6160 Internal Auditor – Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017:**

**RESOLVED:** To appoint Mrs Alison Marshall as the Internal Auditor for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Proposed by Mr Ford, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

**6161 DTC Legal Representation:**

Members agreed that the use of the same legal representation should be reviewed on a regular basis.

The Clerk was requested to write to Risdon Hosegood to convey member’s disappointment at the length of time taken to resolve various issues over the past few years.

S.A.L.C. is to be requested for contact details of Legal Representatives who specialize in Local Government Legislation.

**6162 Late Correspondence:**

Correspondence noted by members.

**6163 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:**

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017: Attended by Cllrs. Mr Nick Thwaites and Mrs Margaret Rawle. A report of the meeting was circulated to members of the which the following was particularly relevant to Dulverton.

Police Issues: Illegal deer shooting is an increasing problem in the surrounding area.

Highways: The roadworks to be carried out in Jury Road are provisionally booked for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Somerset West Lottery: Providing the Gambling Commission approves the application the lottery will be launched on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The aim is to create a new income stream for local voluntary and community organisations, enabling them to continue to develop new services which assist residents.

Members requested clarification as to the actual role W.S.C. will have with regards the administration of the lottery.

Town Hall Committee Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017: Attended by Cllr. Parrish who informed members that:

The storeroom has been refurbished to accommodate a new meeting room which will be available for hire.

The Thrift Shop will be closing for one week as from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 for refurbishment.

**6164 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:**

Dulverton & District Young Peoples Project: Cllr. Judy Ernest, who has accepted the position of Chairman of the Trustees, informed members that an Assistant Youth Worker has been appointed. It is anticipated that a further two Trustees will be appointed in the near future, however volunteers are still urgently required.

The number of club members has increased.

**Chairman .....**