



Dulverton Town Council

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The Clerk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 12th June 2017 at 7.00pm, in the Town Hall, Dulverton.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis; Councillors: Mrs Judy Ernest; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites (D.T.C. & W.S.C.); Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.C.C.) and Mr Bruce Heywood.

Deferral of Business for Comment by the Public:

None.

Apologies:

Cllr. Christine Dubery and Mr Ian Fleming.

Declarations of Interest:

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

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:

None.

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Francis Nicholson (S.C.C.):

Historic Signposts Refurbishment: Cllr. Thwaites expressed his concern regarding the increasing numbers of parishes involved in the project and the resulting allocation of limited funds. With regards the necessity for volunteers to be trained, Cllr. Nicholson stated that further training would be available.

High Street – Damaged Bollard: Cllr. Heywood confirmed that the land situated at the entrance to the Lion Car Park was owned by W.S.C. However, the bollards in front of the public toilets were the responsibility of S.C.C. Cllr. Nicholson agreed to pursue the issue.

Signpost Vandalism: Cllr. Rawle reported that the signpost situated at the top of Andrews Hill has been vandalised. She expressed her concern that it may be an indication of antisocial behaviour throughout Exmoor. Cllr. Nicholson although acknowledging her concerns stated that S.C.C. did not have the funds to restore the signposts affected.

Knotweed: Members were informed that knotweed had been identified on the side of the highway, adjacent to Kings Corner Recreation Ground. The issue has been reported to E.N.P.A. and S.C.C.

Cllr. Heywood and Cllr. Thwaites (W.S.C.):

Fly-Tipping Asbestos: Cllr Heywood continues to pursue the issue with W.S.C.

Kemps Way – TRO: West Somerset County Highways are pursuing the application for a TRO including the introduction of new yellow lines. Cllr. Thwaites will obtain an update regarding the current situation.

Minutes of the meetings held on 8th May 2017 as circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Ernest, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6183 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

Minute 6178: Historic Signposts Refurbishment:

It was suggested that an advertisement requesting volunteers was placed in the Dulverton Voice. The Clerk was requested to write to Charlotte Thomas (ENPA), and enquire what further action is to be taken.

6184 Accounts:

Financial Statement:

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statement as per Appendix A is approved. Proposed by Mrs Ernest, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

Payments for Approval

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Ernest and carried.

6185 Annual Insurance Renewal:

RESOLVED: That the annual premium of £862.51 is accepted. Proposed by Mrs Ernest, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6186 Committees:

Minutes submitted for approval:

1. Planning Committee Meeting- 6th June 2017:
2. Grounds Committee Meeting – 30th May 2017.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th June 2017 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 30th May 2017 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Ernest, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

6187: Councillor Resignation:

The Clerk read members the letter of resignation received from Mr Steve Ford and stated the vacancy had been advertised and an invite extended to the electorate to request that an election is held. In the absence of more than ten requests being received by W.S.C. by 21st June 2017, members of this Council will be able to co-opt to fill the three existing vacancies at their next meeting.

6188 Co-Option:

RESOLVED: That Mr Piers Wood is invited to fill one of the current vacancies and become a member of Dulverton Town Council. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6189 Car Parks - Proposed Off – Street Parking Places Order:

Cllr. Thwaites informed members that W.S.C. is currently working on a response to Cllr Lewis's email regarding issues concerning the car parks, and a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The legal situation also is to be ascertained with reference to a change in the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

Members considered a draft letter to W.S.C. composed by the Chairman, in response to the consultation exercise concerning the TRO.

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RESOLVED: That the proposed draft letter, as presented, is sent from this Council. Furthermore a copy is to be forwarded to the editor of the Dulverton Voice for inclusion. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

A second draft letter of complaint to W.S.C. was presented to members for consideration. It was agreed that it is withheld until 19th June 2017 in anticipation of a response from W.S.C. to the previous correspondence and Freedom of Information request. Furthermore members would appreciate the opportunity to discuss, with a member of W.S.C. at a future DTC meeting, W.S.C's Charter with Parish & Town Councils and future consultation.

6190 Public Relations/Awareness:

Cllr. Thwaites proposed that the work of this Council should receive greater publicity in an attempt to inform the public as to the projects undertaken and issues dealt with by members on a volunteer basis.

The Clerk was requested to produce a leaflet advertising the existing vacancies and detailing some of the projects and work undertaken over the past 12 months.

6191 TS5C: Grant request:

Members considered the request for funding, however concluded that there did not exist evidence to confirm that any of the residents in Dulverton benefited from the Charity.

6192 E.N.P.A – Knotweed Control Project:

RESOLVED: To make a donation of £50.00 towards the cost of running the project. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6193 Late Correspondence:

Noted by members.

Mr L. Silverlock – Youth Club Funding & Policy: Members have reviewed the amounts awarded to the DDYPP and are satisfied that the £19,500 awarded was 'within the gift' of this Council.

6194 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

None.

6195 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

All Saints Church Wall Refurbishment: Cllr. Thwaites reported that the work to refurbish the wall had commenced and arrangements made with regards the re-siting of the soil and stones within the church yard. Any human remains found are to be placed under the alter. The Coroner does not have to be informed.

The structural engineer Mr Simon Bastone is to make three inspections throughout the process.

Sports Field Lease Agreement: The Agreement has been completed and is to be signed by the Sports Field Management Committee.

A copy is available from the Clerk. Members were advised to have sight of the document prior to considering approval at the next meeting.

Planning Application 6/9/15/120: Proposed erection of 18 dwellings at Barns Close Mead. Cllr. Ernest is to meet the Managing Director of Devonshire Homes on Wednesday 14th June 2017 and attempt to obtain answers to various questions made by residents.

Rat Infestation: The Clerk was requested to obtain an update of the situation.

Caravan Park Signage: Members commented that a sign situated at the Barle Bridge, directing caravans to the caravan site, would elevate congestion problems in the centre of Dulverton. Cllr. Ernest agreed to discuss the issue with the proprietors of The Bridge Inn.

Farmers Market: Members were informed that two events have taken place and have been successful. There is considerably less input from CultureLine; members of the Committee feel confident that they are able to carry out all the necessary advertising and administrative duties.

The Chairman suggested to members that issues that come to their attention, which are not the responsibility of this Council, should be immediately forwarded onto the appropriate authority.

Cllr. Rawle informed members that she would be unable to attend the next three Council meetings due to family commitments.

Cllr. Ernest apologized in advance for the meeting scheduled for 10th July 2017, as she will be on holiday.

Chairman