



Dulverton Town Council

www.dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk

The Clerk

P.O. Box 8
Dulverton
Somerset TA22 9BX

clerk@dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk
Telephone: 01398 324561

Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 11th December 2017 at 7.00pm, in the Town Hall, Dulverton.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis, Councilors: Mr Keith Coulman; Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Ian Fleming; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites (D.T.C. & W.S.C.); Mr Piers Wood and one member of the public.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

None.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Mrs. Judy Ernest, Miss Hattie Sloggett, Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.C.C.) and Mr Bruce Heywood (W.S.C.).

Declarations of Interest:

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

Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle regarding Battleton speeding issues.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:

None.

Presentation: Making our Roads Safer – Mrs Teresa Williams:

Mrs Williams informed members that the issue arose following an incident when residents were looking for a lost cat, however despite wearing high viz jackets felt extremely vulnerable due to the speeds accrued by passing vehicles. A Face Book page has been set up to raise the issue amongst residents. Many have shown support for the proposals made to resolve the problems of speeding vehicles, however little practical help has been forthcoming.

The police have been approached but have not suggested any further proposals. It was pointed out that considerable efforts were made to set up a speed watch campaign, but it had not been supported by the residents.

It is acknowledged that the speed indicators do not register high speeds however the concerns involve the vulnerability of children riding bikes and pedestrians, the use of the road by HGV's and the parking of vehicles on the virtual pavement.

Proposals to alleviate the problems include:

- Providing further signage to provide advance warning of the speed limit
- 20mph speed limit through Battleton
- Contacting the companies who own the vehicles that speed
- Creating rumble/vibration slips

Making our Roads Safer:

Members discussed the issues raised and agreed to fully support any initiatives introduced to reduce speed and create safer environment.

The Clerk was requested to write to Councillor Frances Nicholson (S.C.C.) expressing their support for the proposals submitted by Mrs Williams.

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Frances Nicholson (S.C.C.): Not present

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

Car Park Salt Bins: Following concerns raised that the bins in the car parks had not been filled W.S.C. responded by stating that W.S.C. do not supply rock salt. It was pointed out that historically this has not been the case. Cllr. Thwaites agreed to pursue the issue.

Leat Vegetation: Maintenance work is still to be undertaken.

Car Parks Fees: The fees to be imposed next year have been agreed by the Cabinet (W.S.C.), however are still to be presented to full Council. The cost of an annual permit for the use of the car parks in Dulverton will increase to £195.00

W.S.C. has set up a 'Task Group' to consider car park strategy, which will commence work in February 2018

Freedom of Information Requests. The Chairman commented on the proposal to implement charges. Cllr. Thwaites to investigate.

Minutes of the meetings held on 13th November 2017 as circulated:

Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6248 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

Minute 6236: Lorna Doone Festival:

Cllr. Coulman stated that there was nothing further to report. Members reiterated that they were prepared to be involved in the management of one or two events, details of which have still to be discussed. They are also willing to support any other groups wishing to use Council owned land.

6249Accounts:

The Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

Payments for Approval: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded, by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6250 Committees:

Minutes submitted for approval:

Planning Committee Meetings – 27th November 2017.

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 27th November 2017. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

Grounds Committee Meeting – 5th December 2017:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 5th December 2017. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

Town Management Committee Meeting – 7th December 2017:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 7th December 2017. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

The Clerk was requested to write to Councillor Frances Nicholson (S.C.C.) stating that members of D.T.C. had determined that they were unable to justify meeting the cost of sourcing, supplying or meeting the cost of re-laying the path as requested by S.C.C. bearing in mind that DTC has already undertaken other financial commitments which were once the responsibility of higher authorities.

6251 Dulverton Youth Club

Members considered the request for match funding but determined that they required further information concerning the current financial situation and funding.
To be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

6252 Society of local Council Clerks:

RESOLVED: To renew the annual subscription as from 1st January 2018 at £147.00. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6253 DTC Website:

Cllr. Thwaites informed members that although the website is not currently being upgraded or supported it continues to be operating efficiently.
However, members will need to consider alternative appropriate software, hosting site and domain as from December 2018 and so remain in control of content etc. Furthermore, members will need to determine as to what information the website will provide.
It was suggested that members seek sight of the websites of surrounding parishes before reconsidering the issue at the next meeting.

6254 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6255 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Chairman's Meeting – 23rd November 2017. Attended by Cllr. Lewis and the Clerk. A written report was circulated to members.

Members were informed that it had been agreed that Mrs Chris Fitzgerald, Clerk to Porlock Town Council compose a draft letter addressed to Ms Penny James, CEO (W.S.C.), on behalf of all the parishes expressing the concerns of members regarding the attitude of W.S.C. members and officers displayed when communicating with Town & Parish Councils and the difficult working relationships that exist as a result.

Exmoor Medical Practice Patient Group Meeting – 5th December 2017. Attended by Cllr. Rawle who circulated a written report. The Medical Practice now has a full complement of GP's.

Exeter University Flood Meeting – 22nd December 2017. Attended by Cllrs. Mrs Dubery and Mr Thwaites.

The meeting involved land owners and local authorities in an attempt to share ideas concerning land management techniques and farming practices. which can be implemented to reduce the risk of flooding

6256 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Church Yard: It has been confirmed that the removal of small stones is covered by the current Faculty.

Cllrs. Mrs Dubery and Mr Lewis have identified equipment for hire which will sieve and remove stone from the top soil. Details of costs are being obtained.

Exmoor Lawns: The proposal to transfer the asset will be presented to the Asset Group (W.S.C.) next Tuesday, after which the 'Heads of Terms' will be produced.

All Saints Church Bells: Several enquiries have been received concerning the lack of church bells . The Clerk was requested to enquire from the Reverend Thomas as to the current situation.

Christmas Office Closure – The Clerk informed members that that the office would be closed to the public on 26th & 28th December 2017 and 2nd January 2018. Members are welcome to open and use the office for public surgeries if they wish.

With regards the agenda for the meeting scheduled to be held on 8th January 2018 it will be published on 3rd January 2018. Members are advised to submit agenda items before the end of December at the latest.

Chairman