



Dulverton Town Council

www.dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk

The Clerk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Tuesday 26th May 2020 at 7.00pm, using remote video conferencing.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mrs Judy Ernest; Mr Allan Ottey; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Miss Kathryn Vellacott and Mr Piers Wood.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

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

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites, Somerset West & Taunton Council (S.W.A.T.).

Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish.

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Mrs Chris Dubery with regards the Sports Field Management Committee.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Nick Thwaites S.W.A.T. Council: Not present.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2020 and 20th March 2020 as circulated:

Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

6542 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6530 Councillor Vacancy:

The Clerk informed members that two residents had expressed an interest; however neither had subsequently submitted an application.

6543 Accounts:

The Financial Statement – March 2020: Appendix A

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statement as per Appendix A is approved. Proposed by Miss Vellacott, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

Payments for Approval – March 2020: Appendix B

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

The Financial Statement – April 2020: Appendix A

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

Payments for Approval – April 2020: Appendix B

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

6544 Committees:

Minutes submitted for approval:

Planning Committee Meeting:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13th May 2020. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Miss Vellacott and carried.

Legal & Finance Committee Meeting:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Legal & Finance Committee meeting held on 13th May 2020. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Miss Vellacott and carried.

6545 Internal Auditors Report:

The contents of the report were noted by members, as where the responses made by the members of the Legal & Finance Committee at their meeting held on 13th May 2020; including clarification from the Chairman that steps were being taken to ensure that there exists back-up concerning the maintenance of the website.

The Clerk proceeded to answer various queries raised by members.

6546 Annual Return - Year Ending 31st March 2020:

Annual Governance Statement as recommended by the Legal & Finance Committee:

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Governance Statement, Year Ending 31st March 2020. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6547 Annual Return - Year Ending 31st March 2020

Annual Accounting Statement as recommended by the Legal & Finance Committee:

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Accounting Statement, Year Ending 31st March 2020. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Miss Vellacott and carried.

6548 Annual Return - Year Ending 31st March 2020:

Receipts & Payments Summary & Reconciliation as recommended by the Legal & Finance Committee:

RESOLVED: To approve the Bank Reconciliation, Year Ending 31st March 2020. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

6549 Chairman's Annual Allowance:

RESOLVED: To retain the Chairman's annual allowance of £250.00. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Ernest and carried.

6551 Marie Curie Emergency Appeal:

Members considered a request for a grant but determined not to award a grant on this occasion. The request did not specify on the service being required in Dulverton at this time, and members commented that any funds available should be targeted locally.

6552 Public Highways – Dogs on Leads:

Incidents have been reported to members concerning dogs allowed to stray on to and to defecate on private property while being walked off-lead. It is not the property owners' obligation to keep gates closed but dog owners to maintain control. The Chairman informed members that this issue is covered under the Road Traffic Act , which stipulates that all dogs should be kept under control and if necessary kept on a lead if dog walkers are unable to keep them 'to heel'.

6550 Pest Control Service Agreement:

RESOLVED: That the Agreement as presented by the Clerk is signed and implemented. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Wood and carried.

6552 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6553 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

E.N.P.A. - Exmoor Tourism Response and Recovery Plan: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery, who circulated a written report to members.

Cllr. Dubery expressed concern regarding the ability for people to abide by the '2 meter distancing rule' when in the centre of Town, particularly when queues form to enter shops etc. It was noted also that the placing of chairs and tables on the pavement will force pedestrians into the road. It is hoped that both the District and County Council will provide guidance in the near future.

6554 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Covid19 Issues:

- Sports Field: Members were informed that the Sports Field has re-opened for cricket and tennis practice only. The Governing bodies concerned have implemented rules and procedures which must be adhered to by all who use the facilities and that comply with the demands of the Insurers.
- Members were requested to consider what safe guards need to be in place in the event that the sports field can be re-opened to the general public in the near future.

- Lion Public Toilets: Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that the facilities should remain closed for the foreseeable but the situation continue to be monitored closely with regard to current and future Government guidelines.
- It was reported that there has been two confirmed cases of COvid19 in Dulverton.

Town Leat: The Leat is currently running dry, apparently due to holes in the weir. The issue has been reported to S.W.A.T. and the Leat Conservation Group is aware. It is anticipated that there will be increase of rat activity as a result.

Marsh Brook/Entrance in Church Lane: It has been reported that rubbish is being thrown into the stream on a regular basis, possibly blocking the culvert which may have resulted in the flooding which occurred earlier in the year. Posters are to be published on both the website and Facebook, highlighting the problem.

Woods Wine Bar- Flower Display: Members agreed that the Clerk write to the owners of Woods on behalf of members thanking them for continuing to maintain their display of flowers and shrubs at a time when there was little to be gained by doing so. Their contribution to keeping the town looking cheerful at a time when there is considerable anxiety is much appreciated.

Chairman.....