



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 15th June 2020 at 7.00pm, using remote video conferencing.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish, Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Miss Katheryn Vellacott; Mr Piers Wood; Mr Nick Thwaites (Somerset West & Taunton Council (S.W.&T.)), and Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council (S.C.C.)) who both left the meeting at 8.06 pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

None

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

Cllr. Mrs Judy Ernest who is unwell.

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery with regards the Sports Field.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:

None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson S.C.C.

Small Business Grant Funding: Cllr. Nicholson agreed to confirm the closing date and ascertain what funding provision still remains.

Unitary Authority Consultation: Members were informed that prior to the coronavirus pandemic the five councils involved issued a joint report which concluded that the existing arrangements were not working well and needed to change. There exists however different views' concerning the way forward and the conversation is now in the public domain. Somerset County Council proposes that all councils are scrapped and replaced with a new unitary authority. District Council's however propose that there should be greater co-operation between authorities.

The Government require a comprehensive business case in order to consider the S.C.C. proposal, which, in Cllr. Nicholson's opinion, will need to be appropriate for Dulverton & Exmoor. A draft Business Case will be presented in July to Full Council. Engagement from the Town Council with regards consultation and the shaping of the business case is requested.

Fore Street – White Lines: No further developments.

20mph Speed Limit: Members were informed that the issue is slowly creeping to the top of the list.

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

Government 'Reopening High Street Safety Fund': S.W.&T. is tasked to allocate the fund as deemed appropriate. Some signage has been provided and has been erected by Cllrs. Mr Alan Ottey and Mrs Christine Dubery. The funding does not include the provision of sanitiser dispensers.

Discretionary Business Grants: The application time has been extended as there still exists funding available. Cllr. Thwaites agreed to ascertain how much funding remains.

Caravan Site: Members were informed that the Caravan Club was to re-open as from 4th July 2020. An influx of visitors is to be expected.

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2020 as circulated:

Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Wood, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6556 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6542 Councillor Vacancy: No further developments

6551 Public Highways – Dogs on Leads: A positive response has been received from residents concerning the posters/signage, erected as agreed.

6557 Accounts:

The Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

Payments for Approval: See Appendix B

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

6558 Committees:

Town Management Committee Meeting:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 4th June 2020. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

Grounds Committee Meeting:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 4th June 2020. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

6559: S.C.C. Unitary Body Consultation:

The Chairman suggested that members submit any thoughts/ responses concerning the issue to the Clerk in anticipation of discussing a formal response from this Council at the next meeting.

The Clerk advised members to examine the report commissioned by SALC and the Somerset Branch of SLCC as a contribution to the debate. It does not favour any particular type of unitary arrangement but proposes seven recommendations that any new arrangement in Somerset should adopt.

6560 Dulverton Promotion Contractor:

Members were asked to consider the proposal to recruit a Dulverton Area Promotional Representative. The initial three month contract (to be reviewed monthly) is to be funded by the Town Council. Other grant funding initiatives are to be explored with regards funding this role after the initial three month period.

A draft job description is to be circulated to members. Cllr, Miss Vellacott suggested that measurable objectives should be included within the job description.

It was further suggested that the post should be advertised on Facebook.

RESOLVED: To ring-fence £3,000.00 to meet the cost of recruiting a Dulverton Area Promotional Representative. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6561 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6562 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

None

6563 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Church Walk: It was reported that there had been some improvement with regards the weeds.

Chairman