



Dulverton Town Council

www.dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk

The Clerk

The Council Office
2A Lady Street, Dulverton
Somerset TA22 9BZ

clerk@dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk
Telephone: 01398 324561

Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 13th July 2020 at 7.00pm, using remote video conferencing.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mrs Judy Ernest; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Miss Kathryn Vellacott; Mr Piers Wood and Mr Nick Thwaites Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.A.T.).

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

None

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

Cllr Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.).

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. Frances Nicholson - S.C.C.

In her absence members were informed that Cllr. Nicholson had nothing to report. Members were welcome to contact her in the event that they wished to raise issues of concern.

Cllr. Nick Thwaites - S.W.A.T:

Discretionary Business Grant:

The previously extended Covid-19 Discretionary Business Grant Scheme closed on 30 June. Of the £2,128,250 available, circa £500k remained.

Following a review of the unsuccessful applicants and comments from businesses who had asked to be included, a further and final widening of the scheme has been agreed to include additional business types. These are broadly retail and tourism related. The scheme went live on the website at 9am on Friday 10 July.

SWT Car Parking Charges:

It was agreed at the full council meeting (SWAT) on 7 July to extend the suspension of parking charges in all SWT car parks until 30 August 2020. The decision was agreed by members to support independent businesses and encourage shoppers to return to the high streets.

Local Government Re-organisation:

Cllr. Thwaites commented that he considered the proposal to be driven by the Leader of Somerset County Council. The report produced by the five District Councils concerned stated that in their opinion the decision should be delayed. However, S.C.C. has pursued the proposal to create a Unitary Council. Several Parish and Town Council have responded negatively. Most District Council's prefer the option of sharing services and closer working relationships.

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2020 circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

6564 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6556 Public Highways – Dogs on Leads: It was reported that some of the posters have been removed. They are to be replaced.

6565 Accounts:

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 Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6566 Committees:

Minutes to be approved by the relative Committee members and be adopted as part of this meeting:

Grounds Committee Meeting – 3rd July 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 3rd July 2020 are approved. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

Members were asked to consider not only the Grounds Committee recommendation to purchase three seats @ £331.60 each (£994.80) and one heavy duty picnic bench @ £407.06, but a further picnic bench to replace another, which has subsequently been deemed as unsafe for public use.

RESOLVED: To support the recommendation of the Grounds Committee to purchase Witton Three Seat in Black X 3 @ £331.60 each (£994.80) and two heavy duty picnic benches with extended tops in black X 1 @ £407.06 (£814.12). Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Ernest and carried.

6567 S.C.C. Unitary Body Consultation:

Cllr. Mrs Rawle expressed her concern at the probable redundancies likely to be imposed as a result of the reorganisation. Experience of past local government re-organisation has seen redundancies, and the subsequent employment of consultants, resulting in considerable over spending.

The Chairman commented that in his view the imposition of a Unitary Authority would make little difference to the wellbeing of the residents in Dulverton or the work of the Town Council.

6568 Dulverton Promotion Contractor:

Members were informed that ten responses/applications had been received from interested parties. One interview has been undertaken, another is scheduled for tomorrow, 14th July 2020.

The start date is likely to be delayed, depending on which funding application proves successful.

6569 Royal British Legion Representative:

RESOLVED: To appoint Mr Peter Donnelly as the Town Council representative with regards the Royal British Legion and be responsible for managing the events held at the War Memorial in consultation with the Town Management Committee. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6570 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6571 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Patient Group Meeting – 2nd July 2020. Attended remotely by Mrs Rawle, who circulated a written report.

Members were informed that the move to Symphony had gone smoothly and took place before lockdown. Patients were receiving mostly telephone consultations. Car parks appointments are being undertaken but should be phased out by the end of July 2020.

Patients are being encouraged to register online on the Medical Centre’s website where there exists a fast track system to speak to a GP. A phone call to reception will enable a patient to make an appointment.

A Senior Nurse has been appointed as have two part time Doctors.

6572 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Social Housing: Cllr. Mrs Ernest informed members that twelve rental properties were to be made available as from October 2020. Applications are to be made through Home Finder.

Dulverton Good Neighbours: Food boxes have been provided to six residents. These will cease once the school holidays commence as the Government will be providing vouchers for families. However, there is an expectation that demand may increase as the furlough scheme is reduced.

Cllr Mrs Ernest expressed her concern that there existed families who are struggling, but failing to request help.

Chairman

DRAFT