



# Dulverton Town Council

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## The Clerk

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 14th December 2020 at 7.00pm, using remote video conferencing.

**Present:** Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Miss Kathryn Vellacott; Mr Piers Wood; Mr Nick Thwaites, DTC & Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.A.T.) Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.).

**Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:** None

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

Cllr. Mr John Preston, who is to attend an emergency School Governor's meeting, of which he is Chairman.

**Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. 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.

Somerset Memorial Wood: Cllr Rawle sought clarification concerning the recent press report that there existed a legal dispute regarding the land in question. Members were informed that a further 5,000 trees were to be planted and that changes were being proposed. However, neither Cllrs. Mrs Nicholson nor Mr Thwaites were aware of any current legal disputes. Both will investigate further.

Covid Vaccinations: The vaccination of elderly age groups has commenced. The location of vaccination centres has not been published. Initially large venues, such as hospitals and sports centres were to be utilized, however the intension is to roll the service out into smaller, more accessible community settings as everything is open to change. Members were advised that expectations need to be managed.

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

Covid Safety Awareness: The requirement to socially distance was reiterated. It is anticipated that meetings will continue to be held using remote video conferencing.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 circulated:** were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Wood, seconded by Mr Parrish and carried.

**6613 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:**

6603 Emergency Town Centre Grant:

A grant has been allocated to the Dulverton Starlight Committee for the purchase of Christmas tree lights.

The proposal regarding the erection of a bandstand on Exmoor Lawns is progressing. The anticipated costs should soon be known.

Logo and branding issues require resolving. A Dulverton Area Promotional Representative has been appointed to carry out some of the required duties. It is anticipated that the job specification will be split into two roles.

Somerset Emergency Community Fund:

An application has been submitted with regards funding for two projects:

- 1) Plastic Free Dulverton
- 2) Installation of PV panels on publically owned buildings

A response is not expected until the New Year.

The proposal to install electric vehicle points is to be pursued by Cllr. Thwaites.

**6614 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.

**6615 Committees:**

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

Planning Committee Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Wood and carried.

Legal & Finance Committee Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Legal & Finance Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 are approved. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

## Policy & Procedure Committee Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Procedure Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

### **6616 Setting of the Precept:**

Members having considered the recommendation from the Legal & Finance Committee and acknowledging the very difficult and uncertain economic future:

RESOLVED: That the precept for the Financial Year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 is set at £79,000. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

### **6617 Committee Member Appointments:**

RESOLVED: To invite Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites to become a member of the Policy & Procedure Committee and the Legal & Finance Committee. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

### **6618 Royal British Legion – Annual Grant award:**

RESOLVED: As per custom and tradition to award a grant amounting £50.00. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

### **6619 Census 2021:**

To be deferred until the meeting scheduled for 8th February 2021.

### **6620 Somerset Playing Fields Association: Annual Affiliation**

RESOLVED: To re-subscribe to the SPFA at a cost of £25.00. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

### **6621 Society of Local Council Clerks:**

RESOLVED: To renew the membership of the Clerk at £180.00. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

### **6622 Correspondence:**

Correspondence noted by members.

### **6623 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:**

Exmoor Patient Group – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Attended by Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle. Members were informed that vaccinations for local people are likely to be available in Minehead.

Dr Colley will be leaving the practice. A locum will cover the post in anticipation of it being filled next year.

Members were requested to forward any feedback concerning the Medical Centre to Cllr. Mrs Rawle.

Town Hall Committee AGM & Meeting – 11/12/20: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish who circulated a written report.

A proposal is being considered to change the charitable status of the Town Hall to that of a C.I.O. (Charitable Incorporated Organization), which will provide more security for this community asset.

E.N.P.A. Planning Event – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle. Members were informed that those present were provided with several indicators as to the responses that Parish & Town Councils should consider when commenting on planning applications. They were advised to take a look at the power point presentation, which has been circulated, and to listen to the recording of the meeting when available.

E.N.P.A. Recovery Group Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020: Attended by Mrs Christine Dubery.

Members were informed that consumer confidence remains very low, which has impacted greatly on the hospitality sector. Smaller B&B's and holiday rentals have not been affected as much. Generally however, trade is not picking up since the second lockdown. Efforts continue to be made to promote and advertise Exmoor as a place to visit, with the target being those living within a travelling time of two and a half hours. Support continues to be given to local events and businesses.

Members were disappointed to learn that there have been incidences of local people expressing their resistance to the presence of visitors.

**6624 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:**

Dulverton by Starlight - Councillors expressed their appreciation of the thought and effort that has gone into the Christmas lights. Whilst being understated and tasteful they are as attractive as they are festive. Councillors requested to convey their thanks to the Starlight Committee.

**Dulverton Good Neighbours/Corona Virus Support Group:**

Members were informed of the many ways in which these groups were continuing to support Dulverton residents including:

- 1) All primary school children, including those home tutored who live in the catchment area will receive a book for Christmas
- 2) Sixteen food hampers will be given to families who access the food bank.
- 3) Forty Christmas lunches will be provided at Hanover on Christmas Day.
- 4) Fifty bags of Christmas food items will be given to couples and single people already identified.

Members were assured that no further funding is required at the present time.

Members expressed their very grateful thanks to all those involved, working voluntarily, to support residents during this festive time.

**Chairman .....**

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