



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 8th February 2021 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 and Mr Nick Thwaites (also representing Somerset West & Taunton Council (S.W.T.)), and 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: None

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. Mr Nick Thwaites S.W.T:

Kemps Way: There still exist blocked drains, causing the threat of flooding to Hanover Court. SWT have apparently accepted responsibility but have failed to determine when the issue will be resolved. Cllr. Thwaites continues to pursue the issue.

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson S.C.C.

Covid 19 – Cllr Nicholson took the opportunity to remind those present that once having been vaccinated it was imperative that everyone still adhered to Government safety guidelines concerning the transmission of the virus.

Members were informed that the vaccination program is progressing better than expected and it is anticipated that all those over 70 years of age will have received their first vaccination before the 15th February 2021.

The programme may slow down thereafter as other parts of the country catch up.

Drainage: Members expressed their concern that at a recent Exmoor Panel meeting it was suggested that the existing infrastructure concerning drainage was too small to cope with the amount of rainwater etc. and that often pipes were broken. Yet despite this, unless reports of problems were received, they were only scheduled to be cleared by S.C.C. once every four years.

It was further commented upon that having reported problems online as required, rarely are responses received or reference numbers allocated to be used when chasing up issues.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2021 as circulated: Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Wood, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

Minutes of the meetings held on 22nd January 2021 as circulated: Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6636 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6625 Emergency Town Centre Grant:

The Dulverton Partnership, in the absence of being able to appoint a Dulverton Area Promotional Representative, have entered into a contract with a company who will develop a brand/logo design that can be used by local businesses, the local council and others for letterhead, social media, websites and posters etc. Three quotes have been obtained concerning the supply and construction of a 'bandstand'. Planning issues are now being investigated and environmental issues considered.

6625 Somerset Emergency Community Fund:

Due to the need to prioritize the support to the Covid-19 response, and as a result of the large number of bids received to the Fund, the final decision-making on the grant awards will be delayed until all submissions have been received across the two windows and sufficient time and resource has been made available to consider and score all applications submitted.

In the meantime additional information has been requested by S.C.C. to support the applications for solar panel/battery installations in Dulverton Town Centre and EV charging points on Council owned land.

6628 Community Flood Group:

The details of residents who fail to respond to the letters sent by the Flood Defense Project, regarding their requirements and seeking necessary permissions, will have to be removed from the Community Flood Plan as per GDPR regulations.

Cllr. Mr Alan Ottey has volunteered to act as Deputy Co-coordinator for the project and Cllr, Mrs Christine Dubery was pleased to be able to inform members that several more volunteers had come forward.

6634 All Saints Church:

North Wall: Members were informed that a solicitor has been appointed to review the documentation relating to the existing boundary wall between the church site and the old school to determine whether any evidence exists to establish the ownership and responsibility for the wall. If this is not evidenced then to advise on whether it is a party wall and the courses of action available to the Town Council.

Wall Adjacent to 1, Lady Street: Members were informed that the damage to the wall on the left of the church yard, going north from Lady Street, had been

urgently assessed by a contractor who advised that the remainder of the wall was stable and did not pose a threat to pedestrians or vehicles. He was however requested to carry out the necessary repairs as soon as the weather permits.

6637 Accounts:

The Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

6638 Committees:

Planning Committee Meeting – 1st February 2021:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1st February 2021. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

Grounds Committee Meeting – 20th February 2021:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 20th February 2021. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

A Town Management Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 16th February 2021 commencing at 2pm.

6639: Planning Applications:

Exmoor National Park Planning Authority:

6/9/21/104: Proposed installation of 2 no. rapid electric vehicle charging stations. Together with associated equipment. FULL
Exmoor House Car Park, Kemps Way, Dulverton TA22 9HL

Observations: Members support the proposals although expressed their disappointment at the loss of three parking spaces.

6/9/21/101: Amended application under Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for the proposed erection of a second car parking machine. FULL
Tarr Steps Car Park. Tarr Steps, Dulverton TA22 9QA

Observations: Members assume that the proposal will aid the general management of the car park so have no objections.

6640: Barnsclose – Play Equipment:

RESOLVED: To accept the quote from Greenfields to replace and fit the damaged log roll section like for like with fresh mechanisms either end, amounting to £597 + VAT. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

6641 The Exmoor Society:

RESOLVED: To renew the annual affiliation at £20.00. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Wood and carried.

6642 Youth Club:

Cllr. Mr John Preston informed members of his intension to resign from his role as Chairman of the Trustees. Furthermore, a second Trustee is expected to retire in the near future. In the event that a replacement cannot be found it is likely that the Youth Club will close.

Young Somerset is involved in the running of the club and is willing to accept full responsibility for the service. However funding would need to be sourced to secure the employment of youth workers and maintain the premises. The responsibility of which has been undertaken to date by the Trustees.

At present there exists funding to cover the next two years.

Members suggested that an article is written, to be published locally, informing residents of the situation.

6643 Census 2021:

The aim of the census is to ensure that local government and charities can place services, e.g. doctor's surgeries, schools, transport routes, and funding, in the places where they are most needed

Census day will be on 21st March 2021 but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

Members agreed that the census should be promoted through the website, Facebook and notice boards.

6644 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6645 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 14th January 2021: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle, who raised various concerns including:

- 1) The gullies along Jury Rd near the Rock Inn and blocked drains and gullies down Rock Lane
- 2) The issue of cars parked on both sides of roads, reducing access for fire vehicles. Mr Richard Bulled, Operational Readiness Manager, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service stated that when cars are parked inappropriately the Fire Service will take whatever action is needed to gain access in an emergency. There are leaflets available asking people to take into consideration access when parking. He suggested that some should be distributed in Dulverton.

6646 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Pound Walk: It was reported that the Environment Agency has undertaken maintenance work along the riverbank and as a result a considerable amount of wood debris has been left, presumably to be collected at a later date.
Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery agreed to pursue the issue.

Chairman