



## Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall, Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

**Present:** Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish, Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Miss Kathryn Vellacott; and Mr Nick Thwaites (also representing Somerset West & Taunton Council (S.W.T.)), Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council (S.C.C.)) and two members of the public.

**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:**

The Chairman introduced to members Ms Ali Pegrum, Visitor and Tourism Promotion Contractor.

### **Presentation – Ms Ali Pegrum:**

A comprehensive report was prepared and distributed to Dulverton Town Council Members in advance of this meeting by Ms Pegrum.

Members were informed that the purpose of the appointed role has been to build the profile of Dulverton and to find a new audience of visitors to the town, in order to help reignite the visitor economy, particularly post the lockdowns.

This is being achieved via various means:

- 1) Branding
- 2) Website
- 3) Social Media
- 4) Events

Engagement with stakeholders has been continuous throughout the process and is ongoing.

### **Questions for County and District Councillors:**

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites S.W.T:

Kemps Way – White Lining: Concern was expressed that the re-painting of the road markings, particularly the arrows directing traffic around the roundabout, had not be carried out. Cllr Thwaites agreed to pursue the issue.

Local Government Reorganization: The results of the local poll undertaken have been published. There was a very low turnout, and the Minister will make a decision regardless of the result.

Cllr Thwaites commented that a considerable amount of costs had been accrued by both SWT and S.C.C. regarding marketing and consultancy and expressed concern at the continuing instability of local government as a result of the uncertainty and proposed reorganization.

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson S.C.C.

Highways: Cllr. Nicholson confirmed that it was acknowledged that the current contracts regarding the maintenance of highways etc. in rural areas was unsuitable. There has been considerable concern and criticism expressed by local parish councils as a result. In the event that single Unitary Status is granted it is proposed that prioritizing and decision making concerning these issues will be taken locally. Exmoor will be a pilot for a local community network which will have decision making powers. Senior officers are aware that they need to acquire a better understanding and regularly visit rural areas.

Boundary Commission: A review of constituency boundaries is being undertaken. Cllr Nicholson commented that there will be considerable discussion and argument before any proposals are approved. She does not consider that any changes will impact at a local level.

Education and Local Schools: It was reported that all schools are under pressure with regards underfunding and a decreasing number of pupils. The appointment of staff is proving difficult.

Road Closures: It was confirmed that access should always be maintained and clear signage in place to communicate this correctly.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as circulated:** were approved and signed with the following amendment.

6678: Exmoor Medical Centre Patient Group Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021: Medication reviews are currently being undertaken for all registered patients in their birth month.

Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Miss Vellacott and carried.

**6680 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:**

6670 Emergency Town Centre Grant:

A Dulverton Partnership Group meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The minutes will be circulated to members when completed. Cllr. Mr Gerry Lewis has resigned from the Dulverton Partnership Group.

Further applications for funding have been submitted.

6670 Somerset Emergency Community Fund:

The Climate Grant Award Agreement from S.C.C. has been received and signed as requested. The funding should follow shortly.

6670 All Saints Church – North Wall:

The report from Mr Brian Jones, Structural Surveyor, following the site meeting held on 1st June 2021 is still awaited.

**6681 Accounts:**

The Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

**6682 Receipts & Payments Summary & for the Year Ending 31/03/21:**

Members were presented with the Receipts & Payments Summary for Year Ending 31/03/21.

**6683 End of Year Bank Reconciliation:**

RESOLVED: To approve the Bank Reconciliation, Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

**6684 Annual Return - Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021:**

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Governance Statement, Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

**6685 Annual Return - Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Accounting Statement, Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

**6686 Committees:**

Grounds Committee Meeting – 8th June 2021:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mrs Parish and carried.

Town Management Committee Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021:

Monmouth Terrace: A slab near the entrance to Monmouth Terrace has become unstable. The Clerk to report the issue to E.N.P.A.

Lion Public Toilets: It was reported that two slates have come off the roof. The Clerk was requested to seek quotes regarding the inspection and any necessary repairs.

Flower Display: The Clerk was requested to send letters to volunteer waterer's

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

**6687: Business Continuity Motion:**

This Council resolves that:

(a) Should the council be unable to meet for whatever reason, the Clerk is given delegated authority to progress all ongoing matters and projects and authorise all regular payments and incur expenditure in line with the council's agreed budget.

(b) Any decisions taken under resolution (a) above will be taken, whenever possible, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of council and the relevant Committee Chairman (if appropriate). A record of all decisions and expenditure incurred under delegated authority will be kept and reported to members when the council next meets.

(c) The authority to decide the council's response to planning applications delegated to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Chairman and Vice Chairman of council. Whenever possible, members of the Planning Committee will be informed of applications out for consultation and will be invited to submit comments to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk.

(d) The provisions outlined in resolutions (a-c) above will override any requirements to the contrary in the council's standing orders, financial regulations or terms of reference.

Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Miss Vellacott and carried.

**6688: Dulverton Partnership:**

Clarification of the status of Dulverton Partnership (DP) in relation to Dulverton Town Council (DTC) as follows:

- I. DP is an official sub-group of DTC, subject to the rules and regulations governing DTC except where specific exceptions have been formalised.
- II. DP is autonomous in spending its agreed budget but such spending must have approval from a majority of DP members minuted at a properly constituted meeting. Such spending must not exceed the budget and may not be used for anything outside the agreed three projects as listed in the formal plan.
- III. DTC as a party to the ETCF agreement with Somerset West and Taunton Council, has the responsibility to ensure that DP activities and spending are within the terms of that agreement and that the plan as agreed is being adhered to.
- IV. Minutes of the DP meetings will be included in the documents made available to members of DTC at full council meetings."

RESOLVED: To elect Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle to represent the Council at the Dulverton Partnership. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

**6689 Co-option**

RESOLVED: To invite Mr Bill Gash to fill one of the existing vacancies on the Town Council. Proposed by Miss Vellacott, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

**6690 Co-option:**

RESOLVED: To invite Mrs Ann Van Pragg to fill one of the existing vacancies on the Town Council. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

**6691 Correspondence:**

Correspondence noted by members.

**6692 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:**

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle. Members were informed that SWT has withdrawn secretarial support for the Exmoor Panel Meetings (i.e. Becci Brown, who took minutes, sent out agendas and wrote to Authorities as requested by Parish Panel members). Mr Steven Pugsley (Chairman) has asked Parishes to write to SWT, (letters can be sent via him), supporting the value of the Exmoor Panel to the Parishes and highlighting the need for secretarial support provided by SWT.

**6693 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:**

Members agreed that summons are sent by email, in accordance with a 2015 amendment to the relevant Act which allows the use of e-mail rather than post to anyone who accepts that form of communications. Members acknowledged that it would save on postage and work in creating the packages to go to each individual in advance, and could be done from home as a printer would not be needed. That doesn't prevent a member requesting paper copies as an alternative.

**Chairman** .....