



DULVERTON
GATEWAY TO EXMOOR

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 10th October 2022 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Deputy Chairman: Mr Nick Thwaites (DTC & Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.)). Councillors: Mr Alan Ottey; Mr Bill Gash; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mrs Ann Van Praag; Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.), who left at 7.40pm; Mr Steven Pugsley (S.C.C.) and one member of the public.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:
Cllrs. Mrs Christine Dubery who has tested positive for Covid.

Declarations of Interest: None

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllrs. Mrs Frances Nicholson & Mr Steven Pugsley - S.C.C.

Exmoor Panel meeting – 13th October: Called by S.C.C. Councillors who have invited representatives from all parishes in the division to discuss the proposed LCN boundaries, in the hope that a consensus of opinion can be obtained and a collective view pursued as the way forward. Councillors Mr Steven Pugsley and Mrs Frances Nicholson propose that the Exmoor and Dunster Panel Area merges to become the Dunster and Exmoor LCN. Members were advised not to respond to the consultation until after the meeting.

Due to difficulties experienced in accessing the consultation on line it was suggested that the consultation process is extended. However Cllr. Mr Steven Pugsley pointed out that the Executive were obligated to resolve LCN boundaries by November 2022 if they are to be implemented in April 2023.

E.N.P.A. Planning Authority: Members were informed that the planning team are extremely short of staff so to expect delays concerning planning decisions.

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

Asset Transfers – Members were informed that any acquisition of assets have been postponed until the Unitary Council is in place.

Taunton Town Council – A Council has been formed, however the boundary includes parts of several of the surrounding parishes whose members are in the process of challenging the decision.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2022 circulated: were approved and signed with the following amendment. Proposed by Mr Gash, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6843 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

Minute 6834 – ‘Dulverton Lives!’: Cllr. Gash provided a report of the event:

- 30 groups took part
- Feedback has been 100% positive
- Over 100 people attended

Various recommendations have been made for a future event including:

- Later start time, longer opening.
- Rationing of space, to allow more participants.
- Earlier promotion – use of banners etc.

Photographs of the event have been posted on face book and Cllr. Mr Gash proposes to write a report in the Parish Magazine providing details of next years’ event to be held on Saturday 14th October 2023.

6844 Accounts:

Financial Statement – August 2022: See Appendix A

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

Payments for approval: See Appendix B

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

Financial Statement – September 2022: See Appendix A

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

Payments for approval: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

6845 Committees:

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

a) Dulverton Partnership Group – 24th August 2022

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Dulverton Partnership Group Meeting held on 24th August 2022. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

b) Grounds Committee Meeting – 8th September 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee held on 8th September 2022 are approved and adopted as part of this meeting. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

Barnsclose Recreation Ground:

Members were asked to consider a request received from Fisher German LLP, to close part of the site, as from November, for four months, in order to lay temporary trackways and create vehicular access for SWW to undertake work at the waste water treatment site.

DTC will be paid a weekly fee and some work to improve the fencing would be undertaken.

Members agreed in principle.

6846 Planning:

To approve comments as per Appendix C

RESOLVED: To adopt the comments as per Appendix C as part of this meeting. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

RESOLVED: To adopt the comments as per Appendix C as part of this meeting. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6847 Co- Option:

RESOLVED: To invite Mrs Alison Crisp to fill the existing vacancy on this Council. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6848 S.A.L.C:

Members requested that the Clerk query the cost of renewing membership, which appears to have risen considerably from last year.

To be resolved at the next meeting.

6849 Litter Group – Grant Request:

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites, proposed that a grant of £150 was awarded. Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish then proposed an amendment:

RESOLVED: To award a grant amounting to £100.00. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6850 Annual Play Inspection:

RESOLVED: To accept the quote from GB Sport & Leisure £201.00 (incl. VAT) to carry out play equipment inspections at Kings Corner and Barnsclose recreation grounds. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

6851 Royal British Legion:

RESOLVED: As per custom and tradition to award a grant amounting £100.00. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6852 LCN - Devolved Funding Schemes:

Members discussed the request by S.C.C. Highways to undertake a public consultation concerning proposed parking restrictions. It was commented that past experience has shown that such an exercise is costly and unlikely to produce a consensus of opinion.

Cllr Mr Nick Thwaites will attend the meeting on Friday 14th October and report back to Council regarding any developments. He will raise the issues concerning outstanding proposals submitted by DTC concerning highways issues, including:

- High Street from Lion Stables up to Vicarage Hill – Request that bollards are re- instated at the dropped curbs on the left.
- Jury Rd – High Street End – Request whether big vehicles eg camper vans can be restricted from parking along that main road stretch.
- High St/Fore St/Bridge St – Yellow kerb blips need to be urgently installed at Union Street outside Webbers at the junction.

6853 Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6854 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 1st September 2022. Attended by Cllr. Mrs Rawle who circulated a written report.

- LCN - SCC has employed Sam Murrell to take on the Brokerage Role. She would be a conduit between the parishes and SCC.
Only 8 of 23 parishes have signed up for the services of the Highways Steward to date. If no more become involved funding may be an issue next year.
- Hedge-Cutting and Maintenance – Several parishes commented that 1 cut a year on hedges in their parish was not sufficient to keep the highway safe for pedestrians. Parishes are asked to report where hedgerows need a second cut.

Dulverton Patient Group: Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle reported that as council representative member on Patient Group she volunteered on 1st October at the Exmoor Medical Centre to help the medical staff administer the annual flu vaccinations by greeting and directing patients in an orderly way to the clinicians.

The Patient Group are anxious to recruit more members. Anyone interested is requested to contact Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle.

6855 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Lion Loos

Members were asked to consider how they would like to progress the issues concerning the broken lock.

The Clerk was requested to order the parts required and source a local electrician to fit it.

Speed cameras: DTC own a speed camera which is mounted in Battleton. The image/data is collected and stored and can be accessed by the register user (i.e. a DTC designated person).

The unit captures image along with the number plate and records the date/time, location and speed. Using this info a mapped history of the "speeder" is able to be collected.

If/after a persistent speeder is identified the Town Council can submit the information to the police and they assess whether an action is necessary. In most cases a letter is sent to the offenders although using the history an active police speed cam could be deployed to "catch" those identified.

For DTC to continue to use the equipment it will have to be removed from the current location and sent back to the supplier to get it updated and for the unit to be registered on a mobile network (i.e. a new SIM needs to be installed and activated).

The cost is £79 to have it registered and upgraded. Activation is an additional £148 per year. A special device is needed to remove the item and that is priced at £7.65.

Cllr. Thwaites has requested further advice from Avon & Somerset Police. Once received, members will be given the opportunity to determine as to how they wish to progress the matter.

Office rent: The Clerk informed members that the licenses regarding the two rooms at the Dulverton Club & Reading Room are to be renewed as from 1st October 2022, the rent increasing by £400 per year.

Members agreed in principle to renew the license, to be resolved at the following meeting.

HMS Dulverton Memorabilia: Memorabilia, kindly gifted by Mr Nick Jaffray, is to be exhibited in All Saints Church later in the year.

Signage: Members were informed that Mr Piers Wood, still being a member of the ENPA Signage Group, has recently refurbished many of the local signposts. The Clerk was requested to send a letter of thanks.

Warm Spaces: Members commented that as DTC does not own any buildings it was unable to provide 'warm spaces'. They do however acknowledge the possible availability of funding for local businesses which they will encourage to open for longer. The library and youth club were also suggested as possible locations.

Chairman