



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 12th December 2022 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors:; Mr Bill Gash; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites (also representing Somerset West & Taunton Council (S.W.T.)), Mrs Ann Van Praag; Mrs Allison Crisp and Mrs Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Council (S.C.C.)), who left at 8.20pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:
Mr Alan Ottey who is unwell.

Declarations of Interest: None that have not already been registered.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson S.C.C.

Open Reach Fibre Availability: A list of addresses in Dulverton has been provided to the Clerk whose occupants can place an order for fibre. It was suggested that it is made available on the Town Council website and face-book page as well as the community face-book page.

Road Diversion Signage Problems still exist concerning appropriate signage as well as the timing of both the erection and removal of signs once the work has been completed. British Telecom is to return in January 2023 to complete the work from Exebridge to Brushford. Cllrs. Mrs Nicholson, Mr Pugsley and Mrs Dubery are scheduled to meet with a representative from BT, S.C.C. Highways & the signage contractor on Tuesday 13th December 2022 to discuss ongoing issues.

Local Community Network Scheme: A new Highways Steward has been appointed as from January 2023 on a twelve month contract. It is hoped that he will have the opportunity to liaise with the existing Parish Lengthsman, Mr Bryant, early in January. Mr Gray the previous Highways Steward will be able to hand over . The erection of an additional post by the dropped curb at Acorn Antiques has been included in the LCN scheme for installation before end of March 2023.

E.N.P.A. Budget Cuts: Members were informed that discussions are ongoing concerning ENPA proposed budget cuts of about 10%, and how they will affect the Visitors Centre at the next financial year.

Traffic Management: Ms Kate Brown (S.C.C.) is planning to visit Dulverton in Feb/March 2023 to do a full inventory of the lining throughout the town rather than just record previously identified issues, as some more may need doing after the winter weather. A new works order will then be submitted in April 2023 to authorise all the refreshing of lines and will include the various faded yellow lining and the virtual footway, together with any other issues identified at the site visit. The lining can then be laid in drier warmer weather and a request will be made that it is given priority as it was missed last year.

This will also include a keep clear at the pinch point on Northmoor Road where the fire engine has difficulty getting through.

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites S.W.T:

SWT Shoppers Car Park Permits: Members discussed concerns raised by a member of the public concerning the withdrawal of the use of a cardboard clock for new applicants, replacing it with a more technically demanding system.

Members agreed to support the request and ask that the new Unitary Council reconsider this decision and reinstate the use of a card board clock on the grounds that many elderly members of the public would be deterred from using the technology involved which in turn will impact on local traders etc. as they will choose to shop elsewhere.

The Clerk is requested to contact Sam Murrell, Town and Parish Council Liaison and Scrutiny Officer, accordingly.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2022 as circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Crisp, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

6868 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6856 LCN - Devolved Funding Schemes:

As per Cllr. Mrs Nicholson's report above.

6856 Barnsclose – Proposed Access:

No further developments.

6861 West Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau:

After lengthy discussions it was:

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £200.00 and to request a progress report in six months' time. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

6869 Accounts:

The Financial Statement: November 2022 - See Appendix A

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

Payments for Approval: November 2022 - See Appendix B

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

6870 Committees:

Grounds Committee Meeting – 29th November 2022

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 29th November 2022. Proposed by Mrs Crisp, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

Town Management Committee Meeting – 29th November 2022

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 29th November 2022. Proposed by Mrs Van Praag, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

Legal & Finance Meeting – 29th November 2022

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Legal & Finance Committee meeting held on 29th November 2022. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6871 Setting of the Precept 2023/24:

Members considered the recommendation from the Legal & Finance Committee and acknowledged the economic future remained very difficult and uncertain.

Using the spreadsheet provided by SWAT it would appear that the proposed increase of the precept to £85,833 will amount to just over 2.5% increase on a band D property.

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED: That the precept for the Financial Year commencing 1st April 2023 is set at £85,833. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

6872 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 Mrs Crisp and carried.

6873 All Saints Churchyard Boundary Wall:

RESOLVED: To accept the quote to continue the repair to All Saints retaining boundary work of £16,652.94 + VAT. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

6874: SLCC & Affiliated Membership:

To be deferred until the next meeting.

6875 Town Hall Committee: Grant Request:

After discussion and consideration of further information provided by Mrs Jan Ross members determined not to increase the precept to meet the future costs of heating the Town Hall.

6876 Kite: Grant request:

Following debate and consideration of the present economic situation, members agreed that a grant would not be awarded at this present time.

6877 Exmoor News: Grant Request

Members considered the grant request and although acknowledging the benefits to the community of the publication determined that due to limited finances a grant would not be awarded.

6878 Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6880 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 24th November 2022 – Attended by Cllrs. Mrs Rawle and Mrs Dubery. The minutes were circulated to members by the Clerk.

6881 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Warm Spaces: Locations for local people to access with regards warm spaces have been identified as the Library and Fishers Mead Community Centre.

Dulverton by Starlight: Members commented as to how well attended, and what a success the event was this year. The Clerk was requested to write to the organisers forwarded their thanks and congratulations.

Chairman

