



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council**

Held on Monday 14th August 2023 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,  
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

**Present:** Chairman: Mrs Christine Dubery; Councillors: Mr Nick Thwaites; Mr Alan Ottey; Mr Bill Gash; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mrs Ann Van Praag; Mrs Alison Crisp and Mr Steven Pugsley, (Somerset County Council (S.C.)).

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

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

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.C.) who is on holiday.

**Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. Mrs Ann Van Praag with regards Item 7 - 6954 Grant Request – Peer Led Pain Support Group.

**Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:** None

**Questions for County Councillors:**

Cllr. Mr Steven Pugsley - S.C.C.

Car Parking Charges: The Executive decision still stands to date, although it is being challenged by several communities. The Clerk was requested by members to pursue a response from Cllr. Mr Mike Rigby to their letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> July concerning the issue.

S.C.C. Investments: District Councils including South Somerset District Council, Sedgemoor, Somerset West & Taunton and Mendip all invested public money by purchasing commercial property. They are now owned by Somerset Council who are 'left holding the baby' of a lot of poorly judged property investments; as due to the UK being on the edge of recession, property prices are falling and large retail businesses are struggling.

ENPA Car Park Charges Consultation: The issue is ongoing. The next meeting at which the proposals will be discussed is scheduled to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Dulverton Cemetery – Rules & Regulations: Cllr. Mr Steven Pugsley, having received an enquiry from a resident, asked about the Town Councils policy not to allow plastic flowers. He was informed that the gentleman concerned had been invited to attend a Town Council meeting to address members on the issue.

LCN Jetting Scheme: A survey is being taken to ascertain exactly where problems exist.

Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery was thanked for her continuing work regarding this project.

### **Minutes of the meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as circulated:**

RESOLVED: To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023: Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

### **6966 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:**

6954 Grant Request – Peer Led Pain Support Group:

Members were informed that a grant of £250 had been awarded to the Support Group but as a bank account has not been created payment has not yet been made.

Members, agreed that although in support of the initiative in principle, bearing in mind that Section 137 grants cannot be awarded to individuals they would like sight of a copy of a constitution formalising the group, providing details of those involved and the financial controls imposed.

6959 Speed Awareness/ Traffic Calming:

The Chairman confirmed that she had spoken to Cllr. Mr Mike Ellicott who maintained that the speed calming measures taken in Exford were considered successful in reducing car speeds. They had however proved costly and could only be used for up to two weeks at a time.

The Clerk was requested to enquire from Avon & Somerset Police as to whether any funding was available.

6963 Clutter on High Street:

Members agreed that no action is required at this time but the situation would be monitored.

6965 All Saints Church Boundary Wall:

The quantity surveyor appointed has raised several queries which will require advice from ENPA Planning Authority. Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery has arranged to speak to Mr Dean Kinsella, Planning Officer, accordingly.

6965 Exmoor Lawns Signage:

RESOLVED: To accept the quote from Kale signs amounting to £42.00 + VAT. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

6962 Lion Stables Public Toilets:

Notification has been received that the necessary parts have been dispatched from Sweden and the engineer is expected to attend on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.

The statutory electrical check will be carried out on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

### **6967 Accounts:**

Financial Statement – July 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 Van Pragg and carried.

### **6968 Committees:**

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

Dulverton Partnership Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Dulverton Partnership Group Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Proposed by Mrs Crisp, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

Legal & Finance and Policy & Procedure Committee Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Legal & Finance and Policy & Procedure Committee Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

It was noted that an amended Statement of Internal Control had been adopted by the Committee.

### **6969 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.

### **6970 Finance Officer Appointment:**

Resolved: To appoint Mrs Helen Pearce as a Finance Officer as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The salary to be set at the Local Government pay scale band SLC1(14) at £13.21 per hour, with an agreed contract for eight hours per week. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

**6971 Office Equipment & Training Costs:**

RESOLVED: To approve training costs for the newly appointed Finance Officer amounting to £520.00 + VAT. Proposed by Mrs Crisp, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a new laptop and associated software for the Finance Officer for £555.82 + VAT; and accepting the quote from Rialtas for the installation of the financial software at £25.00 + VAT. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

**6972 Grant Request - Fishers Mead Community Centre:**

The request has subsequently been withdrawn

**6973 Correspondence:**

Correspondence noted by members.

**6974 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:**

None

**6975 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:**

Highways:

- 1) The lining order has been submitted. A programme date is awaited.
- 2) High St – leading up from the junction with Union Street to Vicarage Hill.  
A 'priority give way' scheme appears to be the only solution with regards stopping vehicles mounting the pavement to pass each other. The estimated cost is £2,000.
- 3) Highercombe – Warning signs with regards the presence of horses and riders are still being pursued. Advice is being sought from Avon & Somerset Police.

The Bridge Inn:

Members were informed that the new landlord is hoping to reopen the pub during the August Bank Holiday weekend.

**Chairman** .....