



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 13th June 2022 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors: Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites, DTC & Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.); Mr Bill Gash; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston, who left at 9.15pm; Mrs Margaret Rawle: Mrs Ann Van Praag and Cllrs. Mrs Frances Nicholson, who left at 8.15pm and Mr Stephen Pugsley, who arrived at 9.15pm, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.) and one member of the public.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

Mr Rob Jones, who wished to address members regarding a request from a resident asking for a 'face to face' meeting concerning her concerns about an oak tree situated on the boundary of her property. Mr Jones was anxious that members were aware of the Clerks response which was to invite the resident to this Council meeting.

The Clerk informed Mr Jones that members had been copied into not only this response to the resident, but all the other emails received from her. As a result a member had visited the site in question and additional enquiries have been directed to Magna, the owners of the property concerned.

Mr Jones went on to say that the resident was unable to attend due to child care responsibilities and would have found the experience 'intimidating'. The Chairman suggested that she may be more comfortable attending the next Grounds Committee meeting, which will be held in the Council office on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, the date is yet to be scheduled.

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed: None

Declarations of Interest: None

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllrs. Mrs Frances Nicholson and Mr Stephen Pugsley - S.C.C.

Fore Street – Pot holes: The holes situated in the parking bays have been reported but deemed too shallow by S.C.C. to carry out any maintenance work.

Traffic Management: Members discussed various issues of concern regarding the parking of vehicles on yellow lines, which caused the restriction of traffic flow through the town and hazardous driving conditions, as well as the width restriction in the High Street creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians.

- 1) At the junction of High Street and Fore Street, outside the chemists and grocers.
- 2) At the junction of Lady Street and Fore Street, outside the Post Office
- 3) At the junction of Union Street and High Street, outside the estate agents.
- 4) Jury Road (the parking of camper vans)

Various solutions were discussed:

- That yellow strips are painted on the curbs implementing a 'no loading restriction', which makes it an offence for anyone one to park including blue badge holders. However, it was pointed out that in the event that 'no loading restrictions' were implemented they would be asked to designate disabled spaces.
- Double yellow line parking limitations are enforced more strictly.
- That time restricted parking is available only.
- That local traders are encouraged to keep an eye on illegal parking activities outside their own premises to help relieve the problems and prevent further restrictions having to be implemented. Members agreed that this suggestion is pursued. Cllr. Mr Gash agreed to instigate the initiative.

Most of the issues are currently being considered by S.C.C. Highways (Kate Brown). However the Chairman suggested that due to financial implications it might be necessary for members to prioritise those issues deemed most urgent.

LCN Pilot: Councillor Nicholson reported that she was encouraging the necessary decisions to be made as quickly as possible.

S.C.C: It was reported that an extremely large salary increase was being proposed and considered by members in the near future, for the new C.E.O.

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

Lion Car Park: The existence of large pot holes and a blocked drain was reported.

Litter Bins: Cllr Mr Nick Thwaites continues to pursue the outstanding issues including the return of two bins owned by DTC, as well as the proposal to move the new style bins locations. One from Exmoor Lawns and one from the land owned by DTC at the Lion Stables Car Park Entrance to land owned by SWAT.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2022 circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Van Praag, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6811 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting: None

6812 Accounts:

Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

6813 Committees:

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

Grounds Committee Meeting – 26th May 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 26th May 2022 and the recommendations therein are approved. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

Members were informed that a further meter and a half of the wall had been reinstated.

Queens Jubilee Committee – 26th May 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the queen Jubilee Committee meeting held on 26th May 2022 and the recommendations therein are approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

It was reported that the Committee had met following the event which had been enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended. Over fifty volunteered had helped to make it such a success.

6814 Planning:

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

6815 Committee Membership:

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr. Mr Bill Gash to the Planning Committee and Grounds Committee. Proposed by Mrs Van Praag, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6816 All Saints Church Wall - Insurance Reinstatement Cost Assessment:

No further developments. Information from the Diocese concerning the current insurance valuation of the boundary walls is awaited.

6817 Somerset Bus Service Improvement Plan:

Cllr Mr Nick Thwaites volunteered to be the DTC representative for the Somerset Bus Partnership.

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites to represent the Council at the Somerset Bus Partnership. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

Members approved the draft letter as presented by the Clerk, to be sent to Cllr. Mr B. Revans (S.C.C.); a copy to be sent to Department of Transport.

It was proposed that DTC hire the Community Bus to regularly take residents to Tiverton. The service to be subsidized by the Council. Cllr. Mrs Dubery agreed to investigate further.

6819 'Dulverton Lives!' – Proposed Event:

Cllr. Mr Bill Gash provided details of his proposal as follows:

An 'open day' type of event for residents old and new, of all ages, to find out more about the various groups and organisations operating in the town which will benefit existing and new residents, who can find out about activities, groups, events they may want to join and be part of, or even volunteer to help.

It will benefit groups by providing a friendly informal and cost effective way to meet potential new members, explain what they do and what they can offer.

Many groups have suffered from losing active members and worse, active volunteers and organisers - so this helps address that too.

Creating a Dulverton Lives type event brings groups and residents together and a more lively, personal way (than leaflets, websites, emails, posts etc.) and take place towards the end of the year Sept/Oct. This will allow groups to recruit new joiners over the winter and plan for the spring/summer activities.

The proposal is to hold it in the Town Hall on a Saturday morning 9.00am until 12.30pm. Coffee/tea biscuits will be served.

While it is a Town Council community initiative, groups would invite people to 'Meet Us At Dulverton Lives' in advance. DTC would also look at promoting the event.

It may be possible to target new residents that have moved to the area through the estate agents.

Groups would have a table top type area with details of what they do, where to register, and have representative present to explain to attendees

Attendees can drop in while in the town that morning doing errands etc.

The event will promote a story of Dulverton as 'somewhere to live and work as well as visit' and be a forum to show that there's much more going on (often behind the scenes) hence Dulverton Lives.

This could also be an opportunity to invite people to join the DTC and contribute that way as well as help run events like this in the future.

Members agreed to adopt the proposal and hold the event in the Town Hall on 8th October.

6819 Code of Conduct:

RESOLVED: To adopt the new LGA Code of Conduct as presented with the following amendment to no.7 to incorporate the following:

7.1 I will 'as appropriate' undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local County Association (SALC) or by the Monitoring Officer.

Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

6820 Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

S.A.L.C. Consultation on street naming: Members commented that the exercise would be a waste of time and public funds.

6821 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Panel – 9th June 2022. Attended by Cllrs. Mrs Rawle and Mrs Dubery.

Members were informed that PCSO Bryan Stevens is to retire in July.

The public are requested to report all incidents of possible crime as soon as possible after the event.

Magna South West: There were reports of problems arising due to residents being housed in areas that they don't wish to be. As a result many are isolated and lack the support services they require.

6822 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Website: Members were requested to submit their comments on the new website as soon as possible.

Chairman