



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors: Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites; Mr Bill Gash; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mrs Ann Van Praag, who left at 8.20pm and Cllrs. Mrs Frances Nicholson and Mr Stephen Pugsley, Somerset Council (S.C.) who left at who left at 8.45pm. There were no members 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 Allison Crisp who is on holiday and Mr John Preston who has family visiting.

Declarations of Interest:

None not already declared.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County Councillors:

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

Leat Wall, Northmoor Road – Cllr. Mrs Rawle reported that several of the coping stones have cracked and cracks have appeared in the wall, which require attention. It was noted that it now the responsibility of the Somerset Council.

Abbots Way Lights – The lights are still not working. Cllrs. Nicholson will pursue the issue.

Calendar of Events – It has been noted that since the demise of Somerset West & Taunton information concerning events placed on the Visit Exmoor Site is not automatically uploaded onto a Somerset Council (S.C.) website. The County Councillors were requested to investigate.

Kemps Way – It was reported that further potholes had occurred. Cllr. Mrs Rawle was requested to send photographs directly to Mr Andrew Turner (S.C.)

Parish Steward – It was reported that there still exist problems to iron out. The Clerk commented that the procedure by which the Parish Steward reports issues to the Parishes who forwards them onto S.C. Highways is protracted and unnecessary when he can report them directly attaching photographic evidence if appropriate. The County Councillors will pursue this issue.

E.N.P.A. Planning Committee – Members were made aware of a proposal to reduce the size of the existing Planning Committee and schedule meetings every alternate month, on the basis that it will cut costs. The general feeling was that the process is being diminished and the democratic rights of stakeholders are being attacked. A decision is being postponed until after the election of the new Parish Representatives.

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2023 circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Gash, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6914 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6904 Kings Coronation – 6th May 2023:

All the necessary permissions have been obtained to light up various buildings/tree in Dulverton and permission to hang the banner has been given by the Town Hall Committee. The flags and poles have been sourced and are to be hung by 21st April 2023.

The Coronation is to be televised on a large screen in the Town Hall for anyone to attend.

6904 All Saints Church – Boundary, retaining wall.

The Clerk reported that due to the extreme wet weather a further collapse of the wall has taken place. The contractors have been requested to investigate and report back as to what needs to be done to stabilise the rest of the wall until a decision is made concerning further action. A surveyor is to be appointed to undertake an inspection and advise accordingly.

6915 Accounts:

Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

Payments for approval: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mrs Vann Praag, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6916 Committees:

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

a) Town Management Committee meeting – 23rd March 2023

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 23rd March 2023. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

RESOLVED: To purchase a replacement hayrack for the flower display at £35.00. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

Members were advised of the investigation undertaken to date concerning the unauthorised felling of a healthy tree in Barnclose. It was agreed that the occupier of the adjacent property is asked as to whether she has any knowledge concerning the incident. Furthermore a photograph of the tree stump and location along with a request for information is to be published on the DTC face book page.

b) Grounds Committee meeting – 23rd March 2023

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 23rd March 2023. Proposed by Mr Gash, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

Barnclose Recreation Ground: It was noted that License Agreement with South West Water Ltd. concerning access has been extended until the end of June 2023 and will incur further costs to the Licensee.

The Clerk was requested to write a letter of thanks to Mr & Mrs Huckins concerning the donation of clematis, planted by the Jubilee Pond.

c) Farmers Market Organising Committee – 21st March 2023

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Farmers Market Organising Committee – 21st March 2023. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

Cllr Mr Ottey asked members to consider the purchase of a store shed to be situated behind the Lion Stables toilet block, to accommodate the equipment used for the farmers market along with some flood defence items. Costs are still to be obtained, however it is anticipated that it will be financed from funds from the farmers market account. The purchase was agreed in principle.

6917 Planning:

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

6918 ENPA Parish Representation Nomination:

Cllr. Thwaites confirmed that he is willing to be nominated by this Council as a Parish Representative.

RESOLVED: To nominate Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites as a Parish Representative on the Exmoor National Park Authority. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6919 Streamcoombe Allotment Charity:

Appointment of Trustees:

RESOLVED: To re-appoint Mr Bernard How as a Trustee of the Streamcoombe Allotment Trust. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6920 Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6921 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings: None

6922 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Flood Resilience Issues – Those residents issued with sandbags are to be encouraged, once the threat of flooding has ceased, to remove and store them safely for future use.

Antique Valuation Day – 25th March 2023: It was reported that the event was very successful.

Finance Officer Job Vacancy – The Clerk reported that she had not received any enquiries concerning the recently vacancy despite it being published by both S.C.C. and S.A.L.C. Further efforts are to be made to publish the advertisement more widely.

The Clerk took the opportunity to inform members that she will reach retirement age in September 2024 and intends to resign from the post as soon as possible afterwards.

Members were pleased to be able to congratulate Cllr. Mrs Dubery concerning her receipt of a 'Certificate of Thanks', in recognition of her service as a volunteer to the community of Dulverton, presented by Cllr. Hazel Prior–Sankey, Chair of Somerset West & Taunton.

Chairman