



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Tuesday 11th September 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, and Cllrs. Mrs Frances Nicholson, who left at 8.00pm and Mr Stephen Pugsley, Somerset Council (S.C.) who left at 7.40pm. 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 has recently undergone surgery and Mr John Preston who has an emergency School Governors meeting.

Declarations of Interest:

None not already declared.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for Somerset Councillors:

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

Local Community Network Meeting (LCN) – 7th September 2023: Additional sub-groups were set up involving housing, employment and business. Cllr. Mr Pugsley expressed his hope that positive proposals would be forthcoming.

Members were informed that future funding from Somerset Council is in the balance which may affect the future of the Parish Steward.

LCN Exmoor Highways Pilot Project - Cllr Mrs Dubery was thanked publically for her work concerning the Jetting & Gully programme of cleaning and clearance. Members were provided with details of the procedure and progress to date as follows:

- Jetting requests received and entered on the schedule. - *Completed*
- Highways team do a check to ensure that there are no conflicts with other budgets / work streams. - *Completed*
- Sub-contractors are invited to price for the work as listed in the Schedule. – *Ongoing. This also to include any disposal of waste and detritus.*

- Highways team check all credentials of the sub-contractor(s) to ensure compliance with current policies and procedures – *Completed based on information to date.*
- A one-off payment of £300 made to the *broker* for works undertaken in respect of checking the schedule and work requests with the sub-contractor. – *In progress (PO raised – awaiting invoice)*
- The sub-group give approval on the preferred sub-contractor and enter into an agreement with the *broker* to pay for the work. Somerset Council will raise a limit order to ensure that the work undertaken does not exceed the available budget. The purchase order will be made out to the broker
- The *broker* will undertake all liaison with the sub-contractor and oversee the work in progress.
- The *broker* will invoice Somerset Council once the work has been completed. (VAT to be reclaimed via the town council). This not to exceed the amount of the limit order.
- Somerset Council will make payment to the *broker* from the devolved funding budget.
- Schedule will be updated to show the work has been completed and devolved funding budget adjustments made. Highways subgroup will be advised of any remaining 22/23 revenue budget.

Members agreed in principle that DTC will act as *broker* for this 'one off' project. To be resolved at the next meeting.

Traffic Management Issues: Cllr Mrs Rawle provided details of her meeting with Ms Kate Brown (S.C. Traffic Engineer) on the 30th August 2023 and the current on going issues.

Cllr. Mr Pugsley advised that the issues are revisited at the next LCN meeting scheduled to be held on 29th September 2023.

Bus Service 25: Members were reassured that the service was secure and would remain in operation until April 2024.

Haddon Hill/Exford Car Park Proposals: Members expressed their disappointment that the proposals were to be implemented.

B3222 & B397 Diversion Signage: Several issues were raised concerning the signage being used, which Cllr. Nicholson agreed to pursue.

Grit Bins – Winter 23/24: A Somerset Council officer will be visiting the locations of the bins to:-

- Verify the location
- Report on quantity and condition of the material contained
- Report on any damaged bins
- Report on any access/clearance works required
- Report on any litter found

Once this has been completed an order will be put together by Somerset Council for the bins to be filled, however any issues will be reported back to the Town Council to rectify the matter prior to the bin being filled.

The grit bins remain in S.C ownership and once the locations are verified the mapping and bin referencing system will be updated, a map copy of the town will be shared with you following that, for future reference purposes.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 2023 circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Vann Praag and carried.

6975 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6966 Grant Request – Peer Led Pain Support Group:

Members expressed their support for the initiative and added that they recognise the passion that existed to succeed in this venture.

Unfortunately the criteria set (according to current legislation) is not met currently, in that it cannot be shown that the residents of Dulverton will directly benefit. Furthermore, payment cannot be made into a personal account.

However, members appreciated that this is not possible until the group are up and running.

After lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED: To offer up to £120 to meet the anticipated cost of placing adverts in the Exmoor News and parish magazines. The invoices are to be sent directly to Dulverton Town Council.

Once the group is up and running and those accessing the services can be identified as Dulverton residents, members will be more than happy to revisit the request.

6966 Speed Awareness/ Traffic Calming:

Members having been provided with all the necessary information by the Clerk, with regard the process and costs of installing speed indicator devices and vehicle activation signs, considered the proposal and after lengthy discussion it was:

RESOLVED: That no further action is taken, as proposed by Mrs Dubery. Amended to insert that the situation is monitored and revisited in six months. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried by five votes in favour, two votes against.

6966 All Saints Church Boundary Wall:

No further developments.

6962 Lion Stables Public Toilets:

It was reported that the some repairs have been undertaken. Two of the three toilets have been repaired.

Once all three are in working order the water usage will be monitored.

6978 Accounts:

Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

6979 Committees:

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

Dulverton Partnership Meeting – 15th August 2023:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Dulverton Partnership Group Meeting held on 15th August 2023. With the following amendment:

To insert 'recommend' as below:

RESOLVED: To recommend to donate £1,000 to the ENP Caremoor Sowing Seeds Projects (Wildflower Meadows) to enable more wildflower meadows to be created on Exmoor. Proposed by Christine Dubery, seconded by Ken Warren and carried.

Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

RESOLVED: To pay the invoice from First Graphic at £750.00 with regards the Literary Festival Programme as recommended by the Dulverton Partnership Group. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Vann Praag and carried.

The Clerk expressed her concerns regarding the current remit of the Dulverton Partnership and informed the members that she would review the Terms of Reference for members consideration, with regards to the advice received from the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

6980 Grant Award – Caremoor:

RESOLVED: To make a donation of £1,000 under Sec. 137, as recommended by the Dulverton Partnership. Proposed by Mr Gash, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6981 Planning:

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

6982 Highways Issues:

Highercombe: Cllr, Mrs Rawle reported that on 30th August, she and Emma Wallace, (owner of ANCHOR Herd of Exmoor Ponies met with Kate Brown (S.C. Traffic Engineer) on Winsford Hill to look at the hot spots where ponies and other animals are vulnerable to speeding traffic. Kate Brown agreed draft a map and submit proposals to the Traffic Management Team and report back to DTC, copying in Winsford PC, Steven Pugsley and Frances Nicholson.

Update on Lining in the Town: Most of the double yellow line/white lining refreshing in the town has been carried out. However there exist some omissions:

1. The double yellow lines outside the Church Lych-gate, which will be done in the near future.
2. White lining at the junctions at Union Street and Bank Square and Pharmacy have also to be carried out.
3. A 20mph roundel will be painted near the entrance to Lion Car Park in High Street. There is already one at the top of Vicarage Hill.
4. Kate Brown will also attempt to get the lining in Kemps Way refreshed.

Union Street - A TRO will be requested to insert 'blips' ('No Parking or Unloading') on double yellow lines outside Webbers junction either side of the road junction.

Fore Street - Blips ('No Parking or Unloading') will be added on DYL's, for 10 metres where the road narrows, outside and opposite the hardware shop. Maps will be forwarded to DTC for approval.

Northmoor Road - Passing Place - If DTC want double yellow lines in the wider section of the road, to create a passing place, then a consultation exercise involving local residents will have to be undertaken. This will prove costly. In the event that objections are received is it probable that it won't be approved.

High Street from Lion Public Toilets to Rosemary Lane Entrance - A request has been made by DTC for £2K from the LCN Devolved Funding Grant for traffic calming/priority signage.

RESOLVED: That the proposals as above are agreed and pursued by this Council. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried

6983 Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

Post Office Limited - Dulverton outreach service changes: Members expressed considerable concern regarding the reduced services available and how it will affect the local economy.

6984 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

None

6985 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Cemetery Grave Plot: Members were asked to consider a request to purchase back the lease for plot No. 712. It was determined that there is no existing policy to meet this request and members do not consider it appropriate to consider one. It would create a precedent that would be too difficult to manage and sustain. The Clerk was asked to enquire as to whether the owner wishes to surrender the lease for use for a future interment.

Chairman