



Dulverton Town Council

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The Clerk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.00pm, using remote video conferencing.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Miss Kathryn Vellacott; Mr Piers Wood; Mr Nick Thwaites, Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.) who left the meeting at 7.20pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

Ms Kate Ansell – A written submission received by email and circulated to members requesting them to consider a proposal to distribute a Christmas hamper to all families and households in Dulverton experiencing hardship at this present time.

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

Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.).

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery with regards the Sports Field.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson - S.C.C.

Cllr. Nicholson was not present but requested the Clerk to reiterate to members that the responsibility to maintain Church Walk lies with Exmoor National Park Authority.

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

Kemps Way – Drainage Issues: Members were informed that Cllr. Thwaites has finally succeeded in convincing SWT that Kemps Way is owned by, and the responsibility of, SWT. The drain is now permanently blocked and requires urgent attention to ensure that flooding does not occur.

Businesses & Covid19 Restrictions: Cllr. Thwaites was requested to seek clarification as to what restrictions affected the various businesses in Town and what financial support is available.

Car Park Charges: It was confirmed that car park charges are to remain and parking enforcement will continue through the current lock down. Cllr. Thwaites agreed to pursue the request, submitted by the Starlight Committee, for free parking on 6th December 2020.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2020 circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Miss Vellacott and carried.

6603 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6596 Emergency Town Centre Grant:

Work is ongoing concerning the construction, erection and costings of an outdoor performing arts venue.

The appointment of a marketing consultant is being pursued.

6596 Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund:

Cllrs. Mrs Christine Dubery and Mr Alan Ottey are continuing to obtain the necessary quotes with regards all three initiatives being considered by this Council with the intention of submitting an application for funding by the first closing date, 12th November 2020.

6604 Accounts:

Financial Statement – October 2020: See Appendix A

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

Payments for approval – October 2020: See Appendix B

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

6605 Committees:

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

Town Management Committee Meeting – 23rd October 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2020 are approved. Proposed by Mr Wood, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

Cllr. Mr Ottey agreed to undertake the position of Social Housing Liaison.

Grounds Committee Meeting – 3rd November 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2020 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

RESOLVED: To approve the recommendation of the Grounds Committee to accept the quote supplied by Brendon Hill Tree Services Limited @ £575.00 + VAT Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

6606 Planning Applications & Approvals:

Exmoor National Park Planning Authority:

6/9/20/116 Proposed removal and rebuilding of chimney. (Full)
Dulverton Pharmacy, 21 High Street, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HB

Observations: No objections. There is no discernible difference from the original.

6/9/20/117 Application under Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for the proposed installation of 5 electric vehicle charging points. FULL
Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HL

Observations: Members welcome the upgrade to electric vehicles, however expressed concern that the installation of 5 fast charging electric points for the use of E.N.P.A. employees alone would result in the facility not being available for public use in other parts of the town.

It was questioned as to whether one could be made available for public use in the event that this is proved to be the case.

6/9/20/118LB Application under Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for the proposed installation of 5 electric vehicle charging points. FULL
Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HL. Listed Building Consent.

Observations: As above.

Final Approvals:

6/9/20/110: Certificate of Existing Lawful Use and Development for Lawful development certificate for the existing use of main house as large-scale self-catering holiday let. (Sui Generis).
Northmoor House, Dulverton TA22 9QG

6/9/20/111: Proposed replacement of four timber windows with four new double glazed timber windows. CONDITIONAL
17, High Street, Dulverton TA22 9HB

6/9/20/114 Proposed erection of summerhouse and associated decking. (HOUSEHOLDER). CONDITIONAL
30 Barns Close, Dulverton, TA22 9EA

6607 Co-option of a new Member:

Having been presented with an application from Mr Nick Thwaites members:

RESOLVED: To invite Mr Thwaites to fill an existing councillor vacancy. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6608 Adoption of a New Trustee for Streamcombe Allotment Charity:

Due to the vacancy which has arisen following the resignation of Mr Ian Fleming, members:

RESOLVED: To appoint Mrs Jenny Barker as a Trustee of the Streamcombe Allotment Trust. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6609 Provision Free School Meals – Christmas Holidays:

Following receipt of a second email from Ms Ansell, and the statement from the Prime Minister that children entitled to free school meals would still receive them over the Christmas holidays, members, as requested, considered an alternative proposal to provide Christmas hampers to families/ households experiencing financial hardship.

Members were informed that Mrs Jenny Barker, administrator of the Good Neighbours Scheme has been already contacted and confirmed that similar proposals were already being pursued and that there exist sufficient funds, due to the generosity of local people.

Members agreed that the Good Neighbours Scheme, having been coordinating help of this nature for many months are best placed to determine the need not only of residents in Dulverton but in the surrounding area and provide a sensitive, discrete approach.

Comment was made that several local traders are already struggling and have expressed concern that their businesses will not survive due to the restrictions imposed. To approach them with a request to donate items would not be appropriate.

However, it was acknowledged that the Town Council are in the best position to source funding on behalf of the Good Neighbours Scheme, to help with their initiatives, and the offer will be made accordingly.

6610 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6611 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Patient Group: 13th October 2020: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle remotely.

Members were informed that a new medical delivery car has been purchased. Questions raised concerning the use of digital personal information are still to be answered.

Town Hall Committee – 23rd October 2020. Attended by Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish via zoom, who submitted a written report.

The Thrift Shop has re-opened after a refit. Opening hours are from 10.30am until 2.30pm, after which volunteers carry out a Covid19 deep clean in anticipation of opening the following day. Card payments are now accepted. More volunteers are being sought.

Up until the current lockdown some use has been made of the facilities within the guidelines to ensure that it is Covid19 safe.

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 5th November 2020. Attended by Cllrs. Mrs Margaret Rawle and Miss Kathryn Vellacott via zoom.

Planning: ENP is amending its standing orders to make it compulsory for Parish/ Town Councils to justify their reasons for either supporting or objecting to an application. Dean Kinsella has undertaken to provide planning training for Parish/ Town Councils in the near future.

Highways: Livestock especially Exmoor Ponies are being hit by speeding traffic on Winsford Hill causing injuries and the death of ponies. Extra road speed limits signage on black spots and where the ponies cross would help reduce the accidents. There are 8 rare bloodlines in the Anchor Herd grazing

on the Hill and these and other animals, including sheep and cattle, need protecting.

A letter is to be sent to both Highways and ENP requesting further signage and speed limiters and also suggesting that the use of blue deflectors along the road be considered. It has been ascertained that they are effective at keeping the animals off the road and are cheaper than erecting signs.

6612 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Members were informed that a former DTC Chairman, and District Councillor, Mr Mike Gammon passed away over the weekend. The Clerk was requested to send a letter of condolence.

Members agreed that a request to hang a 'Chairman's Honour Board' in the office is granted.

Members were informed that the remaining new six Shared Ownership properties at Allers View/Barn Close have been allocated to local people.

Chairman