



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

Held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,  
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

**Present:** Chairman/Mayor: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors: Mr Bill Gash; Mr Allan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites, (also representing Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.)); Mrs Ann Van Praag and Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S,C,C,) and one member of the public.

### **Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:**

Cllr. Mr Steven Pugsley (SWT), Chair of the Exmoor Panel. Members were informed that in Mr Pugsley's view the recent LCN meeting was positive and there existed possibilities for development.

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

None

### **Declarations of Interest:**

None that are not registered.

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

### **Questions for County and District Councillors:**

Mr Nick Thwaites S.W.T. Council:

Bin Replacement Project: Members are anxious that the bins owned by DTC, which were removed by SWT, are replaced as soon as practically possible. The Clerk is to pursue.

Further concerns were raised concerning the positioning of dog bins; the issue is to be considered at the next Town Management meeting.

Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.S.C.):

Road Diversions: Cllr. Nicholson sought advice from members concerning a proposed diversion. Members considered an alternative route a safer alternative. It is intended that future diversions will be reviewed at a local level (Local Community Network (LCN)), with the Contractor concerned present.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 as circulated:**

Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

**6765 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:**

6757 All Saints Church Wall – North Wall:

No further developments

6757 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:

A report from the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 was circulated.

6761 Councillor Vacancy – Co-option:

No further developments.

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules 2006, in the case of a casual vacancy occurring in the last six months before the ordinary elections, the council is required to give a notice of the casual vacancy but an election is not held. The Council may co-opt if it wishes, leaving any unfilled vacancies to be filled at the ordinary elections.

6764 Milham Lane – Street Light: The Clerk was requested to pursue the request for an amended quote.

**6766 Accounts:**

The Financial Statement – January 2021: Appendix A

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

Payments for approval: See Appendix B

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

**6767 Committees:**

Grounds Committee Meeting – 10th February 2022:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

RESOLVED: As recommended by the Grounds Committee, to accept the quote received from Mr Steve Manley amounting to £2,315.00, to carry out necessary maintenance work to Abbots Way Pond. A limit of £650 is to be allocated to be spent on plants. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery has subsequently had a discussion with the grounds man responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery, who has stated that he would like to continue in the role as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. It has been agreed that when weather conditions permit he will cut with a mover and strim around the graves all in one week preferably one day; Monday having been allocated. The

levelling of graves is to continue and any plastic flowers, unauthorised ornaments and plants removed in accordance with the rules and regulations which are clearly displayed. Signage to the effect is to be placed in view of those visiting the cemetery.

#### **6768 Grounds Tree Work:**

**RESOLVED:** As recommended by the Grounds Committee to accept the quote received from Arboricare Ltd. amounting to £3,970.00 + VAT. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

#### **6769 Welcome Back Grant:**

Members were reminded that the funding has to be used by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### **6770 Planning:**

No applications received.  
Approvals and correspondence noted.

#### **ENP 5 Year Local Plan Review/Consultation:**

It was noted that ENPA officers have indicated that they do not see the need to make any changes. It is apparently a tedious, technical process. However members commented that their main concern is the continuing lack of housing for local people and in their view the policies introduced to tackle this problem are not improving the situation.

The following response to the consultation will be submitted by Dulverton Town Council:

*"Planning Policies need to be more responsive to current conditions in order to achieve the planning objectives. It is critical that the details and explanatory notes that support the policies need to be revisited. As an example, the underlying text with regards self - build housing contains a clause on whether the applicants are already housed. If this is applied too restrictively, the applicants will have difficulty progressing with their perfectly understandable desire to better their housing situation".*

#### **6771 Exmoor Society:**

**RESOLVED:** To renew and pay the annual affiliation fee of £20.00. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

#### **6772 Late Correspondence:**

Correspondence noted by members.

#### **6773 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:**

**LCN Meeting – Pilot Highways Scheme – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022:** Attended by Mrs Christine Dubery.

Members were informed that the sub group will continue to meet to discuss the way forward. It is not certain at this point if there is going to be a higher level liaison/contact person. The sub group will act as liaison with the parishes and effectively be a set of eyes on the ground. A Parish Steward will report to a higher authority and will only carry out work that is the responsibility of the new unitary council, which will include only minor works such as the digging out of gullies and grip and cleaning signage. All parishes will receive the same level of service paid for by the new unitary council.

Parishes involved in the existing Parish Lengthsman Scheme will need to determine as to whether they wish to continue to commit in future to the Parish Lengthsman Scheme to undertake parish responsibilities and to continue carrying out work currently undertaken for S.W.T and S.C.C.

It is anticipated that part of the budget will be made available to the LCN to employ local contractors to carry out work that the Parish Steward is unable to undertake.

**6774 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:**

Street Trading – Frank the Fishman is retiring. The new owner of the business is hoping to still be able to trade from the parking space in Fore Street and has been advised to contact S.C.C. for permission.

**Chairman.....**