



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

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

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

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

Cllr. Mr Alan Ottey who is ill.

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery with regards the Sports Field Management Committee.

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites with regards the Sports Field Management Committee.

Cllr. Mr Bill Gash with regards the PCC.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson S.C.C.

Bus Service: Members were informed that considerable work had been undertaken to improve the existing service. However, there remains uncertainty regarding future funding.

Monmouth Terrace: It was reported that work had been undertaken with regards the re-laying of slabs. There still exist some loose slabs.

Highways - Reporting of Issues: Most reports are being acknowledged and investigated but most often being referred to be dealt with sometime in the future or to be monitored. Members commented that this resulted in a lack of clarity as no further details are available.

Parish – on –Line: Cllr. Mrs Dubery highlighted two issues that she considered important concerning this service. The first questioning the need for two separate systems and secondly who pays for the service; S.C.C. or the parishes?

Climate Change Emergency Fund: Cllr Mrs Frances Nicholson presented the Chairman with a plaque following the completion of the project.

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites S.W.T:

The existence of a dead ash tree was reported. It is situated on SWT Council land and requires felling.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2022 as circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

6775 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6764 Milham Lane Light: To consider quote from S.C.C: Following lengthy debate members agreed not to pursue the installation of a further light.

6765 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Jubilee Committee held on 14th March 2022 are approved and adopted as part of this meeting. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6757 Council Vacancy/Local Elections: The Clerk was requested to advertise the forthcoming elections on the website and Facebook.

6776 Accounts:

The Financial Statement: February 2022 - See Appendix A

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

Payments for Approval: February 2022 - See Appendix B

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

6778 Committees:

Legal & Finance Committee meeting: 8th March 2022:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Legal & Finance Committee meeting held on 8th March 2022. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

RESOLVED: To allocate £300 with regards the Chairman's Allowance 2022/23. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried

Dulverton Partnership Group Meeting – 16th February 2022:

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Dulverton Partnership Group Meeting held on 16th February 2022. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6779 2021/22 National Salary Pay Award:

RESOLVED: To implement the pay award for local government services ('Green Book') employees, covering the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and pay arrears as due. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

6780 Planning:

To approve comments as per Appendix C

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

6781 Buses in Somerset:

No further action.

6782: Somerset Community Volunteer Trust:

Members were informed that the Dulverton Flood Group have received two donations of plastic sand bags facilitated by Bridgewater Rotary Club. As requested by the Rotary SVC Trust, and in grateful thanks members:

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £100.00 to the Somerset Community Volunteer Trust. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

6783 Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

Somerset CCG Engagement Bulletin: Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation request concerning a second Community Diagnostic Centre in the east of Somerset.

S.C.C., Deborah Porter, Service Manager, Communications – Social Care Day of Remembrance: Unfortunately the notice given was too short to organise the involvement of Dulverton on this occasion.

6784 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 10th March 2022 – Attended by Cllr Mrs Dubery, who circulated a written report.

Exmoor Highways LCN Pilot: Approval had been granted for the appointment of a trained operative with a vehicle who will carry out the work of a Highways Steward. It was hoped to have someone in post by May 1st. This person would concentrate on resolving issues and defects that the parishes identified and additional service requests could be paid for using their discretionary budget.

It had been agreed at the Parish Sub-group that there should be a “broker” type role to coordinate the work of the Parishes and communicate these to the Highways Steward. This would ensure there was no duplication of work and prioritise areas according to urgency. This was likely to be someone employed internally by Somerset County Council. They would provide a conduit between the parishes and the Highways Steward.

Visit Exmoor Event - Attended by Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle and Mrs Ali Pegrum. Future events were advertised and Dulverton was promoted as an exciting/beautiful tourist destination.

6785 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Exmoor Rotary Club: Members were informed that the Rotary Club have offered a grant of £250.00 to help meet the cost of the food to be provided at the Jubilee Event to be held on 3rd June 2022.

Emergency Planning: In the light of recent weather events and the resulting loss of power to many households, members were requested to consider what form a local emergency plan should take, giving consideration to what facilities would be required and the specific criteria required to access help. They were advised to seek information from guidelines published by 'Somerset Prepared'.
To be discussed further at the next meeting.

Ukraine Refugees:

Members recognise that a long term solution needs to be resolved.
The opportunity for individual members of the public to register the availability of accommodation is provided via a Government website.
Donations of clothing etc. will be accepted at ENPA Headquarters.
The Clerk was asked to enquire as to whether the Dulverton YMCA had considered offering accommodation to refugees.

Chairman