



Dulverton Town Council

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The Clerk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 11th September 2017 at 7.00pm, in the Town Hall, Dulverton

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis, Councillors: Mr Keith Coulman; Mrs Christine Dubery; Mrs Judy Ernest; Mr Ian Fleming; Mr Nick Thwaites (DTC & W.S.C.), Mr Piers Wood; Mr Bruce Heywood (W.S.C.) and Mrs Francis Nicholson (S.S.C.) who left at 7.30pm, and one member of the public.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

Mr Lesley Silverlock: Mr Silverlock suggested to members that surrounding Parishes are invited to join Dulverton Town Council in pursuing West Somerset Council to offer free parking on specific days to encourage trade in Dulverton.

Members responded by stating that issues concerning car parks, not least the proposed future charges, were still ongoing and being robustly challenged by the Town Council. The Chairman, Mr Gerry Lewis will be attending the Exmoor Panel Meeting tomorrow night where he will be urging the surrounding parishes to insist that W.S.C. listen and take into account the views of parish and town councils when determining future policies etc.

Several D.T.C. members will also be attending the W.S.C. meeting scheduled to be held on 20th September 2017 when proposals concerning the car parks in Dulverton will be considered. It was suggested that representatives from the Dulverton Traders Association also attend as there will be an opportunity for members of the public to state their views, providing advanced notice has been given.

Mr Silverlock stated that he felt intimidated when attending Town Council meetings and suggested that if DTC wished the public to participate the process needed to be made more accessible and friendly.

Apologies:

Mrs Margaret Rawle who is on holiday

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Nick Thwaites with regards his position as District Councillor.

Cllrs. Christine Dubery and Ian Fleming with regard the Sports Field Management Committee.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Coulman as a new member of the Council.

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllrs Bruce Heywood & Nick Thwaites W.S.C.:

None.

Cllr. Frances Nicholson S.C.C.:

High Street Posts – S.C.C. are currently researching the road records to confirm that the pavement exists despite Cllr. Nicholson's verification. However, according to Cllr. Fleming the posts have been marked, presumably indicating the undertaking of the necessary repairs.

Dulverton Library: Cllr. Nicholson reiterated her commitment to ensure that the service is not threatened and acknowledged that the library is well used in relation to the number of residents in Dulverton. However, she continued by stating that in reality there did not exist the funds to continue maintaining the facility as it is. A consultation is therefore to be undertaken concerning the existence of an 'efficient' community library service of which, in her opinion, Porlock is a good example

A meeting is to be held on 19th October 2017 involving all interested parties including representatives from E.N.P.A., S.C.C. and D.T.C. to discuss the best use of the building in which the library is housed.

Community Bus Service: Cllr. Dubery expressed her concerns that if new regulations as published by the Dept. of Transport are implemented it is unlikely that the Community Bus Service will be able to continue to exist. The importance of a community bus service in this rural area was acknowledged by Cllr. Nicholson who stated that she will ensure that her fellow S.C.C. members are made aware of the problems anticipated.

Cllr. Nicholson gave her apologies in advance of the meeting scheduled to be held on 9th October 2017.

Minutes of the meetings held on 14th August 2017 as circulated:

Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6217 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6171 W.S.C. Complaint re: Car Parks:

The response received from Mr Bruce Lang, Assistant Chief Executive, W.S.C., to DTC's letter of complaint was considered by members who agreed to the suggestion that a meeting involving the two parties would be advantageous with regards future relations between the authorities.

Cllr. Lewis commented on his concern that the Conservative members of the W.S.C. had met prior to the meeting when the proposals concerning Dulverton Car Parks were to be considered, and had predetermined their decision.

As stated above Cllr. Lewis will be attending the Exmoor Panel meeting where he intends to bring to the attention of other parishes his concerns regarding the failure of W.S.C. to heed and act upon the views and opinions of those representing local people, i.e. town/parish councils.

6218 Accounts:

The Financial Statement: See Appendix A

RESOLVED: That the financial Statement as per Appendix A is approved. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mrs Ernest and carried.

Payments for Approval: See Appendix B

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

The Clerk informed members that the external audit had been completed. In the opinion of the External Auditor the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met.

6219 Committees:

Minutes submitted for approval:

Planning Committee Meeting – 22nd August 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22nd August 2017 are approved. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

Grounds Committee Meeting - 7th September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 7th September 2017 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Ernest, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

Town Management Committee: 7th September 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 7th September 2017 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Wood and carried.

Installation of a Defibrillator: Members thanked Mr Fleming for organizing the CPR training, and the Town Hall Projection Team for their input.

6220 Co-Option:

RESOLVED: That Ms Hattie Sloggitt is invited to fill an existing vacancy, once the residency criteria is met, and replace Mrs Louise Parrish as a member of this Council. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried

6221 Committee Membership:

RESOLVED: To appoint Mr Wood as a member of the Town Management Committee and Mr Coulman as a member of the Grounds Committee. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Ernest and carried

6222 Public Works Loan:

Having considered new information and advice received from the Somerset Association for Local Councils it was:

RESOLVED: That a loan from the Public Works Loans Board with regards the costs accrued refurbishing All Saints Church wall, is not pursued. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mrs Ernest and carried

6223 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6223 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Cllr. Ernest reported to members that she had met with a local resident who had expressed interest into becoming a member of this Council. Unfortunately the criteria with regards eligibility will not be met until January 2018.

6224 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

All Saints Church Yard: Cllr. Dubery informed members that she had met on site, and received advice from Mr Ernest, regarding the deposit of a large amount of soil and stone debris on the lower level of the churchyard, which has created a very uneven surface. She was advised that the stones need to be more evenly spread and the earth compacted. Members agreed that the site needed to be reinstated to ensure that the area can be maintained in the future.

The Clerk was asked to approach three contractors and request a specification and details of the anticipated costs involved.

Enquiries are to be made to the P.C.C. regarding the temporary removal of grave stones while the work is undertaken.

Chairman