



Dulverton Town Council

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The Clerk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 8th January 2018 at 7.00pm, in the Town Hall, Dulverton.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mr Keith Coulman; Mrs Christine Dubery, Mr Ian Fleming; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites; (D.T.C. & W.S.C.); Mr Piers Wood; Mr Bruce Heywood (W.S.C.) and Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.C.C.) who left at 7.45pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

None

Apologies:

Cllrs. Mrs Judy Ernest and Miss Hattie Sloggett.

Declarations of Interest:

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

Cllr. Dubery with regards the Farmers Market.

Cllr. Rawle with regards Battleton traffic issues

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:

The Chairman informed members that Cllr. Mrs Judy Ernest was currently unwell and would not be in attendance for several months.

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr Frances Nicholson:

Monmouth Terrace: Members noted that the repairs were carried out on a wet day, however the slabs have since bedded down.

Barle Bridge: The necessary permissions are currently being sought in anticipation of the maintenance work being undertaken.

Jury Road – Virtual Path: A local resident has complained that part of the footpath is unlit and therefore hazardous to pedestrians. Members suggested the use of torches and hi-viz jackets.

Battleton Road Safety Issues:

Members were informed that Somerset County Highways have confirmed that they are unable to extend the existing proposal to create a blanket 20mph limit through Battleton. Unfortunately Cllr. Frances Nicholson is unable to use her powers under the 'small improvement scheme' as Dulverton have already been a major benefactor. Members subsequently requested that once the speed indicator device reports have been received the Clerk write to Somerset Highways requesting that they consider:

1. Moving the 30mph signage further towards Brushford giving more notice of the oncoming speed restriction.
2. Possibility of installing 'rumble strips'.
3. Whether they have any alternative speed calming measures which could be considered

Battleton Temporary Road Closure - RCNWS9253:

Members raised their concerns regarding the signage which will be used for the road closure above and the corresponding diversion.

The main site for concern is the junction on the A396 at the roundhouse at Exebridge as follows:

- 1) That traffic heading for the Barle Business Units should be told there is access to the units from Exebridge as normal.
- 2) That the signage should be more informative, not just 'roadclosed' and diversion', but that it should clearly state that there exits access to Dulverton Town via the diversion.

Hollam Drive: Members raised concerns regarding a proposal to erect fencing around land at the junction of Hollam Drive and Jury Road. The concern being that it would obscure the vision of drivers exiting Hollam Drive.

The Clerk was requested to contact Mr David Wyborn (E.N.P.A.), and enquire as to whether he was aware of any local knowledge concerning this piece of land and whether planning permission would be required.

Cllr. Heywood and Cllr. Thwaites (W.S.C.):

Car Parks – Salt Provision: Mr Hadley (W.S.C.) has been requested to investigate the matter. Cllr. Heywood will pursue the issue.

Leat Vegetation: A response regarding the maintenance of the overgrown vegetation is still awaited.

6285 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

Minute 6270 – Somerset Library Service Consultation:

According to Cllr. Nicholson the options have been broadened by S.C.C. but there is no final solution in mind. She advised members to continue as they were doing, in arguing the case for maintaining the current service as it is. She does however consider that voluntary help would be welcome. Cllr. Lewis commented that it would be preferable if the library service continued to be administered by professionals.

Minute 6285 – Burr ridge Wood Bridleway:

Cllr. Fleming has clarified the status of the footpath/bridleways concerned. Enquiries have been directed to E.N.P.A. who erected the signage.

Minutes of the meetings held on 12th March 2018 as circulated:

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

6286 Accounts:

Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

Payments for approval: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

6287 Committees:

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

a) Grounds Committee Meeting – 20th March 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 20th March 2018 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Ernest, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

b) Planning Committee Meeting – 3rd April 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2018 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

c) Legal & Finance Meeting – 5th April 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Legal & Finance Committee meeting held on 5th April 2018 are approved. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

The Clerk was requested to enquire from S.A.L.C. as to whether the Council needed to appoint a Data Protection Officer before 31st May 2018.

6288 Co-Option:

The Clerk informed members that W.S.C. had instructed DTC that no requests for an election had been received. There currently exists two vacancies at present which can be filled by co-option.

6289 Dulverton Youth Club:

Cllr. Ernest left the room.

RESOLVED: To award £1,000 as per minute 6277. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

6290 Life Education Wessex:

Members agreed that a contribution towards the costs would not be granted.

6291 Musgrove Park MRI Scanner Appeal:

After lengthy discussion it was proposed by Mr Thwaites that a grant amounting to £1,000 is awarded. Cllr. Fleming then proposed an amendment as follows:

RESOLVED: To award £500. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mr Coulman and carried unanimously.

The Chairman suggested that the award of a further grant is considered in December 2018.

6292 Car Parks - W.S.C. Proposed Survey

W.S.C. Task and Finish Group intend to carry out a survey of the car parks regarding boundaries, parking lines, ticket machines and lights etc., to ensure that up to date information is used when formatting policy. Cllr Thwaites requested that representative from DTC accompanies the survey team when the survey is carried out. Cllr. Lewis agreed to be involved.

6293 DTC/Dulverton Public Relations:

Cllr. Thwaites informed members that the Traders Association had requested that a member of DTC is appointed as Council representative to act as a formal link between the two organisations. After lengthy debate members agreed that the Clerk write to the Chairman of the Traders Association formally inviting a representative to attend a future Council meeting to discuss any proposals the traders may have as to how to address their issues of concern.

Cllr. Coulman suggested that a Town Council Surgery is held at a future Farmers Market event providing the opportunity for members of the public/residents to meet Councillors and obtain a greater understanding of the responsibilities of the Town Council and the work undertaken by its' members. It was agreed that Cllrs. Mr Coulman and Mr Lewis would lead the project.

6295 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6296 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Traders Association – 21st March 2018:

Attended by Cllr. Thwaites. A copy of the minutes was circulated to members.

6297 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Internal Audit Issues:

Cllr. Thwaites confirmed that all the information as recommended by the Internal Auditor to be published on the website was in fact was there.

Exmoor Lawns – Event Management:

After lengthy debate the Chairman suggested that in the event that an approach is made requesting permission to hold a formal event on the Lawns a policy is in place to deal with it.

The issue is to be referred back to the Grounds Management Committee.

Committee Structure:

The Chairman expressed his concerns that the committee structure is not being taken seriously. He asked members to respect and uphold committee decisions, which should only be challenged in exceptional cases.

Youth Club:

Cllr. Ernest informed members that the Youth Club had been awarded a grant of £2,000 from All Saints Church to help meet the cost of staff training.

Lorna Doone Festival:

Cllr. Coulman expressed his concerns that initial enthusiasm appears to have evaporated and that if the event is to be used as a marketing opportunity the organisation of events need to commence as soon as possible. Mrs Jan Ross is sourcing general funding for the Festival and various suggestions have been made concerning the 'opening' of the event.

Future Agenda Items:

The Clerk requested members contact her with regards items for the agenda the Friday prior to publication which occurs on the Tuesday before the next meeting.

Chairman