



Dulverton Town Council

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The Clerk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 12th February 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.); Miss Hattie Sloggett; Mr Piers Wood; Mr Bruce Heywood (W.S.C.); Cllr. Frances Nicholson (S.C.C.) who left at 8.05pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:

None

Apologies:

Cllrs. Mrs Judy Ernest.

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.

Cllr. Dubery with regards planning application 6/9/18/102

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:

Item 11 is to be moved forward to Item 5.

Questions for County and District Councillors:

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

Declarations of Interests – Cllr Thwaites made the following statement:

'Part of my role as a District Councillor is to be part of the WSC Standards Committee. Consequently, I am fully aware and understand the code of conduct and the requirement to conform to it. However, please note that it is up to the individual Parish/Town Councillor to declare what interest they consider appropriate and not my responsibility, or any other councillor whether Town/Parish/District/County, to proffer advise as to what to declare. This understanding has been checked and confirmed correct by the WSC Monitoring Officer.'

Guild Hall Car Park -Provision of Salt: Members were informed that Cllr. Hadley (W.S.C.) has agreed to supply salt for the car park for this winter season (a limited amount which W.S.C. will not be able to spread when required). However, the provision will be reviewed before next winter.

Car Park Lighting:

Guildhall C/P – The solar lights are to be replaced. Cllr. Thwaites has requested that they are re-positioned alongside the existing wooden posts.

Lion C/P – The light positioned at the entrance to Abbots Way is to be replaced with a solar light in the near future.

Signage: It was reported that the Oldberry Lane street sign has still not been fixed back in place. Cllr. Heywood to pursue the issue.

Town Leat: The completion of the scrub cutting work undertaken along the Leat and car park is being pursued by Cllr. Thwaites.

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Cllr. Frances Nicholson S.C.C.

Bus Service - No. 25: It was clarified that S.C.C. had not removed financial support from this service. However, First Bus Company has decided to reduce the existing service and alter the timetable. Cllr. Nicholson requested information concerning the probable impact on students attending college in Taunton. Members responded by suggesting that the greatest impact will be felt by those children currently attending Kingsmead School who will ultimately attend Huish and require the current service.

Cllr. Nicholson informed members that having used the 9.30am service she found that it was well used by younger people, however her concerns regard the service available for those returning home at the end of the day. She intends to pursue the issue with First Bus Company.

Dulverton Library Service: It was reported that almost a quarter of the local population attended the recent consultation event held at the library.

S.C.C. propose that there is more community involvement in the running of the service and Cllr. Nicholson questions as to whether greater use could be made of the building currently housing the library.

Cllr. Lewis pointed out that the percentage of young people using the library was in fact much larger than the statistics produced by S.C.C. if calculated in relation to the population. As a result of further discussion, it was concluded that the consultation

Minutes of the meetings held on 8th January 2018 as circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

6266 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

Battleton Traffic Issues: Members were informed that Mrs Jo Sharpe, Traffic Engineer, S.C.C. having considered the proposals with regards traffic calming measures has concluded that there is no evidence to support the introduction of yellow bar markings on the approach to the 30mph speed limit in Battleton. Records from the Police show only one slight personal injury collision which was not speed injury related; and data from the Speed Indicator Devices shows that mean speeds in the 30mph limit through Battleton are below intervention level.

A further factor taken into consideration is that this is the gateway to Exmoor National Park and additional signage and road markings would not be favoured by ENPA.

She recommends that contact is made with the Local Community Police Officer to discuss any concerns and ask for information regarding the Speed Watch initiative.

6267 Accounts:

Financial Statement: See Appendix A

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

6268 Committees:

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

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 30th January 2018 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

Exmoor Lawns: Policy and procedure issues concerning the use of the Lawns for public and private events is to be considered initially by the members of both the Grounds and Town Management Committees.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 6th February 2018 are approved. Proposed by Mr Lewis, seconded by Mr Fleming and carried.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th February 2018 are approved. Proposed by Mr Fleming, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

6269 Dulverton Youth Club – Funding Request:

No further developments. To be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

6270 Somerset Library Service Consultation:

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Lewis respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council. Members are encouraged to respond individually, as are members of the public. The relative link is to be placed on the website.

6271 Late Correspondence:

Noted by members.

Clair Wood – Sport Relief Fun Run: Members advise that the organizers contact Sport Relief which often provide 'event packs' enclosing certificates etc.

6272 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

S.A.L.C. Clerks Event – 18th January 2018: Attended by the Clerk who provided members with a written report.

Members were updated with information concerning the new Data Protection Legislation which is likely to become Law in May 2018. Many details concerning its implementation are still to be resolved.

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 9th February 2018: Attended by Councillor Rawle who provided a written report for members.

6273 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Lorna Doone Festival: Cllr. Coulman informed members that Mrs Jan Ross is now co-ordinating the project. There have been no further developments.

Traders Association: Cllr. Sloggett informed members that traders were reporting a dramatic drop in 'footfall', which as a result several businesses are struggling and are likely to close as a result. The Association is to attempt to rejuvenate local businesses by holding public events

Battleton Road Closure: Members reiterated their concerns regarding the anticipated diversion signage to be used and its negative effect on local trade. Some concern was also expressed as to whether the road closure would exist longer than the nineteen days stated.

Chairman