



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

Held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00pm, using remote video conferencing.

**Present:** Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Allan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston, who joined the meeting at 7.26pm; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites, (also representing Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.)); Miss Kathryn Vellacott and Mr Piers Wood. Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.).

**Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:** None

**Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:**  
None

**Declarations of Interest:**

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

**Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:**

The Chairman wished all present a happy New Year.

**Questions for County and District Councillors:**

Nick Thwaites S.W.T. Council:

Covid19: Members were informed that vaccination centres are to be set up in Musgrove Park Hospital car park and at Taunton Race Course.

Cllr. Thwaites reinforced the Government message to stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives.

Frances Nicholson (S.S.C.):

Somerset Memorial Wood: Cllr. Nicholson informed members that there existed some issues concerning the usage of the land in question; however, trees continue to be planted.

Cllr. Mr David Fothergill is happy to meet with members to provide further information if requested.

Roadside Hedge Maintenance: Cllr. Nicholson confirmed that following the pruning of hedges, the debris should be cleared and removed by the contractors.

Jury Road – Flooding: Members discussed at length the issues concerning flooding in Jury Road and the associated problems of running water and ice along Vicarage Hill. Although it was acknowledged that various remedies have been

tried over the years the conclusion was that there exist multiple blocked drains, the infrastructure not able to cope with the debris carried by the considerable amount of water which flows into the Town. The task of unblocking the drains is far too great for the Parish Lengthsman to undertake. It requires the attention of the contractors hired by Somerset County Council.

Cllr. Nicholson strongly advises that residents report the problems directly to S.C.C. via the website. Unfortunately specific blockages have to be reported separately.

Pound Walk: It was reported that further rain has carried vegetation debris and mud down through the walk. Some clearance has been undertaken.

S.C.C. Alleged Use of Covid-19 Funding: In response to Ian Liddell –Grainger MP’s comments in the Commons, Cllr Mr David Fothergill, in a letter to the Prime Minister confirmed that spending of all Covid-19 funding has been made in full compliance of the requirements of the various grants and is being used as the Government intended. Cllr. Fothergill added that the MP has failed to attend any briefing with himself or the Chief Executive for a significant number of months.

Covid – 19 Vaccination Programme: Members commented that it was not appropriate or safe to request very elderly residents to travel to Minehead for their vaccinations. Vaccinations should be made available locally, ideally at the local surgery. Local assets, such as the sports field, have been offered to S.C.C. as alternative locations.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 as circulated:**

Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mr Wood and carried.

**6625 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:**

6613 Emergency Town Centre Grant:

Members were informed that the Partnership Group met last Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

- 1) With regards the proposed open air event space, plans and costing have been obtained. Based on these specifications two further quotes are to be sought.  
Planning issues are still to be clarified.
- 2) Logo and branding/promotional issues are still to be resolved.

An eight week report is to be submitted to SWT Council in the near future.

6613 Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund:

Members were informed that there will be a delay in the final decision making process due to the redeployment of staff from normal roles in order to support other activities including the co-ordination of the mass vaccination rollout and testing centres.

**6626 Accounts:**

The Financial Statement – December 2020: 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 – December 2020: Appendix B

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

**6627 Committees:** None

**6628 C.L.O.W.N.S. – Grant Request:**

Members considered a request for funding and consequently:

RESOLVED: That a grant amounting to £200.00 is awarded. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Miss Vellacott and carried.

**6629 Community Flood Group:**

Members were informed that the Flood Plan is in the process of being updated. All residents currently living in properties which have been identified as being vulnerable have been written to requesting contact details and details of specific help required. Those who did not respond were sent a second letter. Residents are warned that in the event a response is not received the property will be removed from the list.

Local volunteers are still required to help in the event of anticipated flooding. Furthermore a Deputy Co-coordinator is needed to cover Councillor Christine Dubery, the Flood Response Co-coordinator, in the event that she becomes unavailable.

**6630 Late Correspondence:**

Correspondence noted by members.

Planning Application 6/9/20/117 – Mr Roger Watts: Members noted that there has been no response from E.N.P.A. regarding the public use of the proposed electric charging points and intend to pursue the matter if/when the application is approved.

Good Neighbours Group/ Food Bank: A report from Mrs Jenny Barker concerning the activity of the two groups over the Christmas period, and details concerning current and future community requirements, was read to members.

No further funding is required at the present time.

**6631 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:**

None

**6632 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:**

Junior School – Home School Learning: Members were informed that problems exist not due to the lack of equipment but to connectivity.

Cllr. Nicholson agreed to pursue the issues raised with S.C.C.

**Chairman**.....

