



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors: Mr Bill Gash; Mr Allan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites, (also representing Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.)); Mrs Ann Van Praag and Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S,C,C,) who left at 7.40pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None.

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

Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle who is on holiday.

Cllr. Miss Kathryn Vellacott due to work commitments.

Declarations of Interest:

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

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

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None.

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Mr Nick Thwaites S.W.T. Council:

New Unitary Council - Boundaries of the Country Wards and Number of Cllrs.

An options paper is to be considered by Cllrs. on the 15th September which will set out the collaborative work being undertaken by the five councils regarding the pros and cons of various proposals concerning potential council sizes for the unitary council elections in May 2022. The deadline to submit this option paper to Secretary of State (SOS) is the 17th September.

The situation is far from clear because in the end it is the decision of the Secretary of State and he can overrule anything put forward.

The government (SOS) have set unrealistic terms in the number of Cllrs. and the boundaries of each ward. Normally the Secretary of State Department would undertake the work but have delegated the work Somerset Councils due to the time scales involved and difficulty of carrying out the work.

White Lining:

Issues are ongoing with regards the arrows going round the Lorna Doone roundabout.

Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.S.C.):

Barle Enterprise:

Concerns were raised that the businesses' might decide to reallocate if progress on the ongoing issue of broadband (voice over the internet) continues to be slow.

New Unitary Council: The business case for the single unitary has been accepted. Cllr Nicholson expressed her concern that the review of the county ward boundaries will not be considered by The Boundaries Commission.

Discussions with parishes are taking place with regards piloting the proposal that parishes and S.C.C. Highways work together. It will be known as the Exmoor Local Community Network and will take responsibility for aspects of highways maintenance. A meeting was held in Cutcombe between two Directors from S.C.C. and local Parish/ Town Councillors and provided insight as to how differently rural local parishes work compared to urban towns. A list is being compiled prioritising key things including signage, responsiveness to road works, gully grips and drains.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2021 as circulated:

Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6717 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6705 Emergency Town Centre Grant:

The fun run takes place on Sunday 19th September. Forty seven runners have signed up to date.

Mrs Ali Pegrum has had a meeting with Marketing Chameleon the design of the new website.

Welcome Back Fund:

The cost of the entertainment provided at the Vintage Fair has been met by from the Welcome Back Fund. Flags and bunting have also been purchased.

6705 Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund:

Paper bags and jute bags have been purchased displaying the new logo.

Members agreed to purchase 10 flags and three poles in principle; to be resolved at the next meeting.

6705 All Saints Church Wall – North Wall:

Two quotes have been obtained from contractors to date, the specification being to maintenance the wall, not improve or enhance it.

6718 Accounts:

The Financial Statement – August 2021: Appendix A

Deferred until the next meeting.

Members were informed that the external auditor has completed the review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Dulverton Town Council for the year ended 31 March 2021. No issues have been raised.

6719 Committees:

None

6720 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 Ann Van Praag, seconded by Mr John Preston and carried

6721 Vintage Fair:

The Chairman, Mrs Dubery gave a report to members.

The Vintage Fair was considered a great success. The estimated footfall of people was around two thousand. The atmosphere was happy, friendly and relaxed and many complimentary emails have been received as a result.

The Clerk has been requested to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Ali Pegrum.

6722 Councillor Vacancy:

The Clerk has received confirmation from SWT Council that no requests from resident requesting an election have been received. Members are able to co-opt at the next meeting.

6723 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

Two members expressed an interested in attending councillor training.

6724 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Patient Group Meeting – 10th August 2021: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Rawle who circulated a written report.

Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Mr Nick Thwaites circulated a report after attending a zoom meeting held by S.A.L.C.

Climate Report Training

Cllr Mr Bill Gash gave a verbal report. Climate change has various levels of responsibility, from global to personal. It involves connecting with various people and taking practical steps to change the way we live.

Members agreed that a Climate Change event could be held in the future.

6725 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman: None

Chairman.....