



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors: Mr Nick Thwaites, (also representing Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.)); Mr Alan Ottey; Mr Bill Gash; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mrs Margaret Rawle and Mrs Ann Van Praag and Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.), who left at 8.50pm

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

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

Cllr. Mr John Preston who has a Governor's meeting.

Declarations of Interest:

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

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

Cllr. Mr Bill Gash with regards the PC.C. & Parish Rooms.

Cllr. Mrs Ann Van Praag regards Parish Rooms.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:

The Chairman regretfully informed members that she had accepted the resignation of Cllr, Miss Katherine Vellacott as a member of this Council. Her job is becoming ever more time consuming with an increased need to travel, and she doesn't consider that she has the time to give the council (meetings and/or reading) her full commitment or attention to fulfil the role to the best of her ability.

The Chairman expressed her thanks for Ms Vellacott's contribution as a member of the Council and commented that having a younger person's view point is absolutely vital and her hope that younger residents would come forward to fill the existing vacancies.

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites - S.W.T:

Local Authority Reorganisation:

Draft Structural Changes Order Provisions - Details concerning the elections are still to be determined, whether it is May 2022 or 2023 remains uncertain, however the following is known:

- District and SCC will continue until 2023 when district councils along with SSC will cease.
- The unitary council is to be named '**Somerset Council**'.
- The new unitary is to be a **continuing authority** – that is the body corporate that is SCC will "take over" the district functions.
- In the period until the first elections (whether May 2022 or May 2023), an
- **Implementation executive** is to be the transitional decision-making body. Made up of the leader of Somerset County Council as chair; four additional county council members and four members who are the leaders of the four district councils.
- The new Somerset Council is to consist of **110 members in 55 wards**.

Kemps Way: A purchase order has been raised to refresh the white arrows and all give way lines approaching the roundabout and caravan site along Kemps Way. It has also been arranged for Exmoor House car park to be re-lined by the same company.

With regards the enforcement of parking restrictions on Kemps Way, Somerset County Council have agreed to add this to their on street parking order as it is not within any of the car parks owned by S.W. & T.

Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson - S.C.C.

Local Authority Reorganisation: Four pilot 'Local Community Networks' have been created. They will be serviced by the new authority and will include representatives from Somerset Council, local parish & town councils, voluntary organisations and when appropriate the NHS.

British Telecomm: Members were informed that BT will now only supply a digital telephone service. Concern was expressed at the difficulties that might be experienced, particularly by the elderly, who only use a land line as their only form of communication.

Drainage: Councillor Mrs Rawle has carried out a comprehensive survey of all the drains in the Town. Out of 38, 10 of the drains were blocked with silt and debris. All have been reported to S.C.C. online as requested, some several times. To date a response has not been received although it is believed that some maintenance work has been carried out.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2021 as circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Van Praag, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6735 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6726 Emergency Town Centre Grant: Members of the Dulverton Partnership have agreed that the original proposal to erect a bandstand is no longer viable due to the constraints imposed by the Environment Agency. To either purchase or hire a semi - permanent structure has been found to be both financially unsustainable and logistically extremely difficult.

It was subsequently agreed that the purchase of 2 or 3 large gazebos should be considered, and that an approach is made to SWT with a proposal to transfer surplus funds to Marketing /Events.

It is anticipated that the Visit Dulverton website is launched on or around the 22nd November 2021.

6726 Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund: All the paper bags have been delivered to the Town Council office and are to be distributed to the local traders on Friday 12th November 2021.

Further purchases of paper bags will be funded by the traders.

6726 All Saints Church: No further information concerning historic ownership of the wall has been forthcoming from S.C.C.

It is hoped that a further quote concerning the repair of the wall will be obtained following a site meeting next week.

The existing scaffolding has been purchased by DTC in an attempt to reduce costs.

6736 Accounts:

Financial Statement – October 2021: See Appendix A

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

Payments for approval – October 2021: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mrs Van Praag and carried.

6737 Committees:

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

None held.

6738 Planning Applications

6/9/21/133: Proposed single storey side extension. (HOUSEHOLDER)
Club Cottage, 16 Bridge Street, Dulverton

Observations: Members have no objections. By a majority it was agreed that the decision to approve the proposal remains with the planning officer concerned.

Final Approvals:

6/9/21/121: Proposed erection of agricultural and equestrian building (18.2m X12.1m), for housing of livestock and storage of machinery, equipment and fodder, together with creation of 3.2m wide track connecting existing pathway and 1.5m footpath. (Amended Description). CONDITIONAL
Duxhams, 41, Jury Road, Dulverton TA22 9EJ

6/9/21/131: Proposed installation of 8m x 4m in-ground swimming pool and a surrounding patio area, together with erection of 1.8m high privacy wall and installation of ancillary air source heat pump. CONDITIONAL.
Great Meadow House, 24 Jury Road, Dulverton TA22 9DU

6739 Councillor Vacancy:

No further developments concerning the existing vacancy.

The second vacancy will be advertised as required and SWT notified accordingly.

6740 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:

Members agreed that the occasion be marked with an event to be held on Exmoor Lawns and involve local residents and visitors on Friday 3rd June 2022.

It was agreed that:

- Entertainment (big band) is provided as from 4.15pm and again at 6.00pm
- Afternoon tea is provided for invited guests including 'Covid volunteers' as from 3.00pm
- General invite extended to all those who wish to picnic on the lawns.
- Entertainment for children to be provided.
- Additional band to be hired to play in the early evening.

Councillor Mrs Dubery agreed to obtain quotes and ascertain costs to be considered and resolved at the next meeting.

6741 Environmental Permitting Regulations - Policy Consultation:

Having considered the future limitations concerning the cemetery and the probability that further burial facilities will not be made available, members concluded that any new regulations are unlikely to have any impact and decided not to respond to the consultation.

6742 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6743 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Rural Housing Network Meeting – 20th October 2021: Attended by Cllr. Mr Bill Gash. Minutes are to follow.

Exmoor Patient Group Meeting – 12th October 2021: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Rawle. Press releases and information were distributed to members via email.

Town Hall Committee – 20th October 2021. Attended by Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish, who circulated a written report to members.

Exmoor Panel Meeting – 4th November 2021. Attended by Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle, who circulated a written report to members. Further issues raised concerned:

- Housing Enabler – It was reported that affordable housing is rarely available as construction companies are only obliged to provide affordable housing if they intend to build more than six properties.
- Highways – The drainage scheme on the B3222 has been postponed due to the discovery of asbestos.

Homefinder Meeting – 11th November 2021: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Ann Van Praag via zoom. Members were informed that the Homefinder processes have been greatly improved and are easier to access. Cllr. Mrs Van Praag is happy to help anyone with regards the completing of application forms.

6744 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Online Banking: The Chairman reported that she had been liaising with NatWest with regards the implementation of online banking. There should be no bank charges imposed and both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk will have delegated authority.

A resolution from members will be sought at the next meeting for authority to pursue.

Dulverton Youth Club: Members have been informed that the AGM is to be held on 25th November 2021. The future of the club will be determined on how many people attend. The current Trustees consider that younger people should be involved and are seeking new trustees. In the event that none come forward it is likely that the club will fold.

Parish Magazine: Cllr. Mr Bill Gash, in anticipation of a Dulverton/Brushford PCC meeting to discuss the future of the publication, enquired from members as to whether they found the Parish Magazine useful and whether it could serve a wider purpose. Members commented that it failed to target a younger audience and that more general/secular information could be made available.

Dulverton Parish Council Minute Book – 4th December 1894 to 11th March 1909:
Members were informed that the Clerk had been contacted by Mr Paul Davies, Kingsbridge Books, Devon; who had found, when undertaking a house clearance in Exeter, the first minute book of the newly formed Dulverton Parish Council and had kindly forwarded it onto her.
The book will be available in the Town Council office in the event that members are interested in taking a look.

Chairman

