



# Dulverton Town Council

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## The Clerk

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**Minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting** held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 commencing after the Grounds Committee meeting, using remote video conferencing.

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Piers Wood and Mr Gerry Lewis.

**Apologies:** None

### **Deferment of business for comment by the public:**

Written submissions as read by the Clerk:

#### Mr Richard Ansell

We are a group of local people who enjoy swimming in the river Barle by the weir along Northmoor Road. We gain access to the river via a small piece of unregistered land virtually opposite to Trout Cottage and we are very concerned that this last remaining public access point to the river from Northmoor Road is in danger of being lost.

Trout Cottage is a holiday cottage and it came to our attention that the owners were claiming the parcel of unregistered land as a 'private garden' on their website. The word 'private' has subsequently been removed but it is still very much implied that the unregistered land is in fact a garden for the cottage.

We, as a group, are very worried that over time the owners of Trout Cottage will be able to register this land as their own and we are very keen the Town Council should step in to make sure this does not happen and to preserve this access in perpetuity for local people and other members of the public.

#### Ms Ann Van Praag:

We swim every day as long as the weather is warm enough, the river is always cold, but it's the temperature when we get out determines if we go in or not. There are always at least two of us (for safety) but different people come if they can. I also take my grandsons or have friends who's two lads swim as well. We started in April this year and the last time we went in was late September. It's such a beautiful place to swim and it has really helped with my well-being this year especially with Covid. You should try and get down if you can to join us, we feel fabulous afterwards – all sort of tingly.

### **Declarations of Interest:**

CLlr. Mr Piers Wood with regards issues concerning Bank Square.

### **Chairman's Comments and Meeting Management:**

The Chairman suggested that given the challenging times the Town was not looking too bad and that there appeared to be plenty of visitors. Attention needed to be given to ensuring that Covid restrictions are adhered to. He considers that the difficulties will continue for some time but that the local businesses appear to be coping well with the current advice and restrictions imposed.

**Matters Arising:** None

### **Budgetary Requirements 2021/22:**

The Clerk presented members with details of expenditure for the first six months of this financial year. She stressed that this period had been unprecedented and advised that the costs accrued should not be used as a guide when considering future expenditure.

**RESOLVED:** To submit Appendix A to the Legal & Finance Committee with regards inclusion when considering the council budget for 2021/22. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

### **Somerset Emergency Community Fund Application:**

#### **EV Charging Points**

Quotations are awaited concerning the supply and installation of a charging point behind the Lion Stables toilet facilities and the Sports Field.

#### **Plastic Free Dulverton**

It was reported that local traders have responded positively to the initiative and are keen to be involved. The proposal is to provide traders with one year's supply of paper bags.

#### **Use of Solar Panels**

Four sites have been identified regarding installation, the public library, the Heritage Centre, the Sports Field pavilion and the Town Hall. Quotes are awaited concerning both supply and installation.

### **Unregistered Land in Dulverton:**

Members have been advised by ENPA that the fact that the land is not registered with Land Registry does not mean that it is not owned; only that it has not been registered. There are many parcels of land and individual properties in the UK that are unregistered. The fact the land is unregistered has no impact on any claim of a public right of access over the land.

Members are given to understand that Trout Cottage was purchased in 2016 and it may be that the land in question was not registered as it should have been. It was therefore considered only fair to the current owners that they be contacted to seek clarification.

The fact the land is unregistered does not have any impact on any claim of a public right of access over the land therefore members of the public are to be advised that if they believe a public right of way exists, they should consider making a claim via Somerset County Council.

**Social Housing Liaison:**

Following the resignation of Mrs Judy Ernest a position is now vacant with regards involvement with social housing issues and help with regards Home Finder Applications.

Members agreed that the issue is to be brought to the attention of full council at the next meeting. In the meantime Cllr. Mr Alan Ottey agreed to fill the role.

**Correspondence:**

**Mr Richard Sinclair - Bank Square Parking Issues:**

Members were asked to consider what could be done to alleviate the parking issues in Bank Square. Concerns have been raised regarding emergency vehicle access and lack of parking facilities for local residents.

Members agreed with the response given by Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.C.C) that it is only a few years since the town council asked for and got a number of new restrictions. S.C.C. Highways would be unlikely to prioritise further proposals from DTC so soon. Secondly, there would need to be very strong local support for such a change, not only among councillors but also among residents, businesses and those communities round about Dulverton for whom Dulverton is the centre and whose residents unlike the residents of Dulverton are not within easy walking distance of the shops.

If access is denied the issue should be resolved by the police.

Cllr. Mr Gerry Lewis commented that the car parking policy of SWT to remove vehicles off the road into their car parks was clearly not working.

**Matters to Report with permission of the Chairman:**

Dog Poo Bags: Members expressed concern that the bags provided continue to be taken in bulk almost immediately after the dispensers have been filled. It was agreed that a survey is carried out to ascertain the use of the bags and the siting of the dispensers, before further bags are purchased.

Town Benches: A survey of the current condition of the benches is to be undertaken.

Emergency Town Centre Grant: Cllr. Mr Gerry Lewis confirmed that the grant had been received.

Kings Corner Salt Bin: It was confirmed that the damage done to the bin was not caused by Western Power. It had been damaged at the same time that the electric pole had been hit by a drunk driver, and had had to be moved mechanically before the pole could be replaced.

It was noted that a replacement would need to be sited at least three meters away from the replacement pole.

The Clerk was requested to approach S.C.C. Highways for advice.

Rat Bins: The Clerk reported that all the rat bins have been marker baited. They will be checked again mid-November to see how much activity there has been and whether bait with poisons is required.

**Date of next meeting:** To be determined.

**Chairman.....**

