



Town Clerk: Miss Joy Norris MSc ACG

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held  
on Thursday 20 May 2021 commencing at 19:00 hrs**

**Present**

**Chair:** Councillor J Buczkowski

**Councillors:** M Beckwith, M Dale, I Emmett, J Johns, J Lochhead, M Smith and C Snow

**In attendance**

*Note: Councillors attending by remote access are not able to participate nor vote in the meeting but may raise questions during the agenda item for Members' Questions*

Councillor K Haslett (by remote access)

**Officers:** J Norris (Town Clerk)

3 members of the press attended the meeting.

**271. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor stated that the Summons to Councillors for the meeting stated a start time of 18.15 whilst the public Notice stated a start time of 19:00 and he confirmed that no business had been transacted prior to 19:00hrs.

The Mayor said he was delighted with the positive referendum result on the Cullompton Neighbourhood Plan and the announcement that the Cultural Consortium had been successful in their bid for £90,000 project funding. The Mayor said that he recognised the hard work by a small number of dedicated volunteers which had led to the success of both initiatives.

**272. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrews, Dietrich, Guest, Haslett and Knight.

**273. Declarations of Interests**

No Declarations of Interest were made regarding any items on the Agenda.

#### 274. **Public Participation**

This agenda item allows members of the public present at the meeting to raise matters which are relevant to Cullompton;

The Mayor read out an email from a member of the public regarding 19 High Street *“What is happening about 19 high street? There seems to be some conspiracy re its sale. I know £100K was offered and turned down by MDDC. I will be asking MDDC for an explanation under FOI if no satisfactory explanation follows.*

*As I gather £60k was set aside to buy it, when acquisition failed, £25k put back in general reserve and finance committee allowed to keep £35k to play with.*

*On the agenda for next meeting is lo and behold 19 high street discussion from which public may be excluded.*

*This all seems very under handed as it is public money that will be used. WHO is driving this project and for what reason. Who is going to benefit from this project financially?*

*Would like you to present these question at next meeting please.”*

#### **Speaker 1**

Said that he felt the Town Council should buy the 19 High Street site at almost any cost and then have a big public consultation on what it should be used for.

#### 275. **Amendments To Standing Orders – Voting**

Consideration was given to amending Standing Orders regarding voting methods taking into account the introduction of hybrid meetings (Councillor present in the meeting room but live observation enable via internet etc.). (Supporting Paper A to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** that standing order 3s is amended to read as follows:

*“S(i) Where a meeting is taking place either with Councillors in remote attendance or in a hybrid meeting where Councillors entitled to vote are in one location and other participants / observers / members of the public have remote access to the meeting the name of each person entitled to vote will be read out one by one (by the Chair or Town Clerk or person administering the meeting) and each voter must state how they are voting or if they are abstaining; the order in which the names are read out will be at the discretion of the meeting Chair but it will be usual practice for the meeting Chair to be the last person to vote. A paper or secret ballot will not be allowed. Subject to the provisions of standing order S(iv), any written record of the individual votes cast will be disposed of once the result of the vote is announced.*

*S(ii) Where a meeting is taking place and all those entitled to be present, including members of the public, are in one location and not remote access is enabled voting on a question shall be by a show of hands unless moved and seconded and approved by a majority of those present and voting, then a paper vote can be taken.*

*S(iii) Voting for Co-options will be by a show of hands (or if the meeting is being held by remote or hybrid attendance the voting method will be in accordance with Standing Order 3s(i) above), paper votes will not be allowed.*

*S(iv) At the request of a councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded in the minutes so as to show how each councillor present used their vote or abstained. Such*

*a request shall ideally be made before the vote is taken but in any case, must be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.”*

**276. Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were considered. (Supporting Paper B to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** to confirm the draft minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as a correct record.

**277. Action List**

The Action List relating to the Town Council was received and reviewed. (Supporting Paper C)

**278. No 19 High Street**

Consideration was given to whether or not the Town Council wishes to pursue the acquisition of 19 High Street, Cullompton.

**Note** The meeting was paused between 19:43 and 19:47 as the Zoom link was inactive.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the No 19 High Street Development Committee develop a fresh proposal to buy the site including a fully costed business plan containing information on funding (having investigated if Heritage Action Zone funding may be available), and including costs for the provision of professional advice.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk is authorised to liaise with Mid Devon District Council to gather as much information as possible regarding their disposal of the site.

**279. Recommendation from Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee – Letter To Internal Auditor**

Consideration was given to a draft letter to the internal auditor regarding the exercise of public rights in 2020 in accordance with the recommendation from the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee. (Supporting Paper D to the Agenda).

**RESOLVED** that a letter is sent to the internal auditor, signed by the Mayor containing the following text

*“The Town Council confirms that the Notice regarding the exercise of public rights was published on Friday 24 July 2020 on the Town Council website and on the notice board outside the Town Hall. The dates of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights was 27 July – 7 September 2020 and the Notice was displayed for the whole of that period on the Town Council’s website and the noticeboard outside the Town Hall.*

*The publication of the Notice and period for the exercise of public rights was in accordance with the resolution made at the Town Council meeting on 25 June 2020 when it was agreed that the exercise of public rights would start during the week of 27 July 2020, (Minute 38).”*

**280. Co-Options**

To receive written applications for the office of town councillor and to co-opt candidates to fill the existing vacancies. (Supporting Paper E)

The applicant had withdrawn their application between publication of the Agenda and the meeting taking place.

**281. Payments for Authorisation:**

To examine and agree the accounts due for payment (Supporting Paper F to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** that the invoices due for payment totalling £2970.77 gross, the direct debits and standing authorisation items totalling £122.36 and the contra amount of £44.37 be approved.

**282. Members Questions**

This agenda item is to give Councillors an opportunity to ask questions which are relevant to the work of the Committee.

- Recently planning permission to extend the weekly market –was obtained, what provision is there for similar permission for the Farmers Market? The Mayor responded that this was a matter for the Town Centre and Economic Development Committee.
- The Annual Town Meeting is a great opportunity to bring people in the community together and needs to be advertised widely.

The meeting closed at 19:58hrs