



Town Clerk: Miss Joy Norris MSc ACG

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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 28 October 2021 commencing at 19:00 hrs**

### **Present**

**Chair:** Councillor K Haslett

**Councillors:** M Beckwith, J Buczkowski, A Connolly, M Dale, R Dietrich, I Emmett, J Johns, L Knight, M Rowe and M Smith

### **In attendance**

*Note: Councillors attending by remote access are not able to participate nor vote in the meeting*

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

1 member of the public attended the meeting by remote access.

### **376. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor did a roll call of all the Councillors present and then made some announcements:

- Acts of Remembrance -  
There will be a Sunday Service at the Church starting at 10:00  
On Armistice Day there will be a short ceremony at the war memorial starting at 10:45.  
The Deputy Mayor will be attending on the Mayor's behalf.
- Co-Options – no applications received; will be re-advertising
- Cllr Berry's report received today has been circulated by email
- The Mayor had attended the Community Engagement Event at the Walronds on 27 September and the Autumn Fest on 9 October

### **377. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrews and Guest and also County and District Councillor Berry

**378.** Cllr Smith requested that the approval of the funding bid for Cullompton & Wellington railway stations be announced and recorded. The meeting agreed that Councillor Emmett could provide a quick update.

Cllr Emmett explained that at very short notice he had been requested to do a radio interview that morning.

The spending review and budget gave £5m towards the metro project which is the Cullompton and Wellington railway station regeneration and links with the Bristol metro. This means that there is development funding and the project can move to the next stage of design & development. Until now the project has been funded entirely from money generated from Devon County Council, Mid Devon District Council, Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane and West Somerset Council, Cullompton Town Council and Wellington Town Council.

**379 Declarations of Interests**

No declarations of interests were made regarding any items on the Agenda at this stage of the meeting.

**380. Public Participation**

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

An email regarding vans and cars parked in Fore Street in the early morning was brought to the attention of the meeting; the correspondent said they had been late for work a number of times due to the obstructions caused by parking

It was agreed to pass the information to Devon County Council, Highways as they control on-street parking.

**381. Minutes**

- (i) Consideration was given to the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 2021 (Supporting Paper A to the Agenda)
- (ii) Consideration was given to the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. (Supporting Paper B to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 2021 be confirmed as a correct record
- (ii) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

**382. Action List**

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

**383. Payments for Authorisation:**

The accounts due for payment were examined. (Supporting Paper D to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** that with the exception of the invoice for WT Consultants, the invoices due for payment as presented totalling £19,090.28 gross, the direct debits and standing authorisation items totalling £697.88 be approved

**384. Recommendations from Cemetery and Town Hall Committee**

Consideration was given to recommendations from the Cemetery and Town Hall Committee (Supporting Paper E to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for the Resources Committee be amended to include “any matters regarding internet access at the Town Hall, including enabling town centre wi fi.”

**385. Recommendations from Town Centre & Economic Development Committee**

Consideration was given to recommendations from the Town Centre and Economic Development Committee. (Supporting Paper F to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED**

- (i) To confirm that no charges be made in relation to market stalls until 31 December 2021
- (ii) that the following grass verges / areas are left uncut:
  - Millennium Way
  - South side of Swallow Way
  - North side of Honiton Road
  - West side of Willand Road
- (i) That Mid Devon District Council are asked what the cost saving will be if the areas in (i) above are not cut
- (ii) That Mid Devon District Council are asked how much weed spraying in the town could be done for the amount that is saved from not cutting the areas in (i) above
- (iii) That the aim is to get all road sides / kerbs in the town sprayed, including the residential areas
- (iv) That the cost of the CTC Outdoor Team weed spraying all the roadsides /kerbs in the town is calculated
- (v) That Mid Devon District Council are requested to undertake one cut before the winter and recommence cutting in the spring.

**386. Committee Composition**

Consideration was given to the composition of Committees, with regard to requests from recently co-opted Councillors (Supporting Paper G to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That Councillor Rowe be appointed to the Town Centre & Economic Development Committee
- (ii) That Councillor Connolly be appointed to sit on the Resources Committee and the Town centre and Economic Development Committee.

**Note:** Councillor Emmett stated that he wished to resign from the Cemetery and Town Hall Committee.

**387. Members' Allowances**

The Town Council's Policy regarding the payment of Members' Allowances was considered. (Supporting Paper H to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council confirms that for the financial year 2021/2022 the Town Council will pay an allowance of £100.00 to each elected Councillor and £120.00 to the Town Mayor.

**388. Town Centre Wi-Fi**

Consideration was given to a request to place a transmitter on the rear of the Town Hall as part of the Cullompton Town Centre Wi-fi Project. (Supporting Paper I to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** to agree to the installation of a transmitter on the Town Hall for the purpose of enabling free wi fi in Cullompton Town Centre subject to the provider applying for any necessary permissions, licences, doing all the necessary works and being responsible for all related future maintenance.

**389. Mid Devon District Council Playing Pitch Strategy**

Consideration was given to any comments that the Town Council wished to make on the Mid Devon District Council Playing Pitch Strategy.

No comments or response from the Town Council were agreed.

**390. External Audit Report**

The External Audit Report for 2020/2021 was reviewed. (Supporting Paper J to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** to note the External Auditor's report

**391. Internal Audit Report**

The Internal Audit Report for 2020/2021 was reviewed (Supporting Paper K to the Agenda)

**Resolved to** note the Internal Auditor's report.

**392. Recognition of Long Serving Councillors**

Consideration was given to ways in which long service by Councillors can be recognised. (Supporting Paper L to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That living people who have given over 20 years continuous service as a Town Councillors should be recognised by means of hanging an engraved plaque in the Town Hall.
- (ii) That future plans for landscaping in the cemetery include consideration of rose garden / gazebo and seat which could be used as a means of recognising Councillor service.
- (iii) That research be conducted into Alderman and Freeman of the Town schemes and also the Mid Devon District Council Policy regarding using street names as a way of recognition.

**393. Members Questions**

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

The following questions / matters were raised:

- What was happening about the Remembrance Sunday service and parade?
- A councillor requested to be sent any correspondence about the road closure for the Christmas Lights event and the decision to have the light switch-on at the Lower Bullring
- A volunteer who has appropriate equipment will be writing to the Town Clerk to offer assistance with planting wildflowers and bulbs.

**394. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** in accordance with the 1960 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act to exclude the public and press during consideration of:

- Agenda Item 19, Station Road Toilets on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature (items subject to legal advice and negotiation).
- Agenda Item 20, Town Hall Internet Connection, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature (items subject to legal advice and negotiation).
- Agenda Item 21, B3181 Baulk Bridge Replacement, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature (items subject to negotiation).

The reports relating to these items have been withheld from public circulation and deposit.

**395. Toilet Building, Station Road**

To receive an update on matters pertaining to the toilet building on Station Road and take any associated decisions. (Supporting Paper M)

**RESOLVED** to defer any decision on this agenda item to enable the Town Clerk to seek further information from the Solicitors and Mid Devon District Council

**396. Town Hall Internet Connection**

Consideration was given to the internet provision in the Town Hall. (Supporting Paper N)

**RESOLVED**

- (i) To enter into a 12 month contract with Greenbeam Orion at a fee of £65. 00per month
- (ii) To give delegated authority to the Resources Committee to agree how the contract cost be funded, including any appropriate virements.

**397. B3181 Baulk Bridge Replacement**

Cllr Emmett, who had attended a site visit, explained that the bridge requires an emergency repair.

The meeting closed at 20: 44hrs