



Minutes of a meeting of Cullompton Town Council held on Thursday 9 January 2020 commencing 7pm at Cullompton Town Hall

Present: Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Kate Haslett (in the chair) and Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Kerry Baldwin, James Buczkowski, Matthew Dale, Robert Dietrich, Janet Johns, Will Jones, Ian Morton, Russ Murch, Michelle Rowe and Martin Smith.

Also in attendance: One member of the press and one member of the public.

Judy Morris: Town Clerk

It was noted that the meeting is being recorded.

160. APOLOGIES: Received and accepted from: Town Mayor Cllr Lloyd Knight (work) and Cllr Gordon Guest (personal). Proposed Cllr Kate Haslett, seconded Cllr Matthew Dale.

161. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: None

162. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(i) Mr Ian Emmett asked:

- With the setting up of the Leat Working Group I am concerned about a lack of a budget allocation should work to protect the amenity be identified.
- Will the Council consider introducing a motorcycle parking facility in St Andrews car park as only one space is currently provided in Cullompton car parks?

It was explained that the Council will be discussing the Council's budget later in the meeting and the matter of a budget for leat maintenance will be discussed then. The Council will investigate the provision of motorcycle parking in St Andrews car park and get back to Mr Emmett.

(ii) Mr Mike Thompson stated his concerns with regard to the Council's budget and precept process and reports. He considered that there were "too many issues" to discuss at the meeting and asked for a single item extra-ordinary meeting.

It was explained that there was an agenda item to discuss the precept later in the meeting when his concerns can be discussed but that the Council's budget and precept reports had been produced in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulation. All the Council's financial reports are included with the agenda and are in the public domain. The public have an opportunity to review those documents and a number of people have been in touch with the Council to make comment.

(iii) Mr Ashley Hellier asked, in view of the parking problems in Church Street, will the council give permission for parking on zig zags? Concern about access to Church Street during the gas main work.

The Council will talk to the contractor about the location of the traffic lights in Fore Street and it was suggested that Mr Hellier contacts Devon County Council about enforcement of parking restrictions in Church Street.

163. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 December 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Will Jones, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

164. RESOLUTIONS: Noted

NOTE: Discussion regarding charge for overnight parking in St Andrews car park and removal of grass verge in Exeter Road (agenda item for next full council meeting).

165. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

(i) **Payments:**

(a) To approve payments for November 2019

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £28,497.60 for November 2019 are approved. Proposed Cllr Martin Smith, seconded Cllr Matthew Dale

(b) To approve payments for December 2019

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £28,865.86 for December 2019 are approved. Proposed Cllr Martin Smith, seconded Cllr Will Jones

(c) To examine and agree the accounts due for payment

RESOLVED: That invoices totalling £2257.81 for January 2020 are approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Kate Haslett, seconded Cllr Michelle Rowe

(ii) **Financial Reports:** To receive Financial Reports for November 2019 as follows:

- (a) Bank Reconciliation: Noted
- (b) Balance Sheet: Noted
- (c) Income & Expenditure Report: Noted

(iii) **To receive Financial Reports for December 2019 as follows**

- (a) Bank Reconciliation: Noted
- (b) Balance Sheet: Noted
- (c) Income & Expenditure Report: Noted

(iv) **Budget and Precept:** To receive report and consider and approve budget and precept for 2020/21

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders are suspended for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow members of the public present at the meeting to make comment on items specific to the values in the budget or precept. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Ian Morton.

Cllr Nikki Woollatt asked about funding for leat maintenance as there is no allowance for this in the draft budget and precept.

RESOLVED: To resume Standing Orders. Proposed Cllr Kate Haslett, seconded Cllr Kerry Baldwin.

Discussion relating to budget and precept matters included:

- in order to address issues relating to the maintenance of the town leat, the Townscape Heritage budget can be reduced by £2,500 and a new 'leat maintenance budget' line set up. The £2,500 can then be transferred to this new budget line. Provision can be made in Year 2 of the Council's draft 3 year plan to make up any deficit in the Townscape Heritage budget allocation
- An allocation for Christmas Event 2020 is included in the budget, this is a steep increase on the previous financial year as the funding for the 2019 event came from a reserve fund.
- Increase in training budget due to burial and digger driver training for outdoor staff plus allowance for training for new Town Clerk.
- Contingency budget increased from £3k (2019/20) to £5k to allow for any unexpected spending, this can be spent anywhere across the council.
- Exeter Road grass verges: It was thought that a project to remove the grass verges in Exeter Road would be very expensive and out of reach of the Town Council. It was suggested that this was a project to research for the future.
- Van lease: Council considering replacing its current van with a hybrid, cost/benefit analysis of buying v leasing to be produced.

RESOLVED: That the budget is approved, subject to the transfer of £2,500 from the Townscape Heritage budget to a new leat maintenance budget, subject to match funding being obtained for the leat project. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Will Jones.

RESOLVED: That the Council issues a precept demand of £404,350 for 2020/21. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Matthew Dale.

166. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

- (i) **Nomination for Royal Garden Party:** Nominations are invited in recognition of past service of Town Mayors, who have not previously attended a Garden Party, for inclusion in a ballot, four individuals from Devon will be selected at random.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Gordon Guest is nominated for inclusion in the ballot for tickets for a Royal Garden Party, subject to confirmation that he has not previously attended a Garden Party. Proposed Cllr Will Jones, seconded Cllr Martin Smith

- (ii) **Economic Development Initiatives:** To receive Minutes of Economic Development Working Group meeting held on 2 December 2019 and agree any action required.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports the project to explore the feasibility of acquiring 19 High Street, Cullompton in order to improve the economic prospects for the benefit of the whole town. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

- (iii) **Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Cultural Programme:** To receive summary of meeting held on 20 November 2019: Noted.

167. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Mid Devon District Council:** Parish newsletter. Noted.

- (ii) **Mid Devon District Council:** Mid Devon Local Plan Review consultation, 6 Jan – 17 Feb 2020. Noted
- (iii) **Mr & Mrs Ogle:** Neglect of Fore Street

RESOLVED: That the Council responds to Mr & Mrs Ogle explaining that there is a recognition of the need to improve Fore Street and the Council has been trying for a number of year to obtain funding to get Fore Street upgraded. In the past this request has been rejected as the Council has been told that there is no point in spending money until there is a definite proposal to remove some of the traffic. Now that there is a definite proposal for a relief road Historic England has agreed to include Cullompton in its Historic Action Zone programme.

The Council will also look at ways to provide Christmas lighting in Fore Street that doesn't involve electricity.

- (iv) **Devon County Council:** Falcon bus stop adjacent to the Weary Traveller to be moved the opposite side of the road on 10 February.
- (v) **Mid Devon District Council:** Local Plan Review consultation, deadline 17 February 2020.
- (vi) **Wales and West Utilities:** Request for cars displaced by gas main works to use St Andrews car park.

RESOLVED: That Devon County Council is instructed to introduce free overnight parking in St Andrews car park from 1 January 2020 (as per Minute 89, Town Council meeting 26 September 2019). To be well advertised so that local residents are aware of this free facility.

Allow permit parking for the 6 residents who are currently unable to access their parking spaces due to the gas main work. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Will Jones.

168. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 23 January 2020 at 7pm.