



Town Clerk: Miss Joy Norris MSc ACIS

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## **Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held remotely on Thursday 22 October 2020 commencing at 19:00 hrs**

### **Present**

**Chair:** Councillor L Knight

**Councillors:** E Andrews, J Buczkowski, M Dale, R Dietrich, G Guest, K Haslett, J Johns, M Rowe and M Smith.

### **In attendance**

**Officers:** J Norris (Town Clerk) M Weston (Deputy Town Clerk)

2 members of the press attended the meeting

3 members of the public attended the meeting

### **116. Mayor's Announcements**

#### **1. Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day**

There will be a service at St Andrews Church on Remembrance Sunday starting at 10:30hrs, the church will be asking people to book in and special guests will be invited the week before. Official wreaths will be left by attendees in the church porch; these will be taken to the War Memorial by council staff on Armistice Day and laid at the War Memorial.

On Armistice Day they will be maroons set off to mark the beginning and end of the 2 minute silence.

#### **2. Monitoring Officer Report**

The Town Council made a self-referral to the Monitoring Officer about Declarations of Interest in relation to 19 High Street, Cullompton. A response was received that there does not appear to have been any specific breaches of the Code of Conduct but does make constructive recommendations regarding refreshing Councillors knowledge of the Code of Conduct and the limitation of their role, reminding Members of the requirement to declare the existence AND nature of interests in meetings – and that these be recorded fully in the minutes and to consider drawing up a protocol for dealing with members' meetings with third parties i.e. Council expectations and advice on what to do

before, during and after such meetings. The Town Council will be taking the recommendations on board.

**117. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lockhead.

**118. Declarations of Interests**

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Cllr Guest –declared a personal interest in Agenda 7, Planning Application 20/01452/MOUT Land at NGR 305210 108255, Horn Road, Kentisbeare, Devon as he has spent 8 years working with the sports clubs, including the cricket club to help them find suitable sites for relocation.
- Cllr Dale declared a personal interest in Agenda 7, Planning Application 20/01452/MOUT Land at NGR 305210 108255, Horn Road, Kentisbeare, Devon as he is a member of the cricket club
- Cllr Andrews declared a personal interest in Agenda 7, Planning Application 20/01452/MOUT Land at NGR 305210 108255, Horn Road, Kentisbeare, Devon as she has been assisting the cricket club to find a new location
- Cllr Rowe declared a personal interest in Agenda 7, Planning Application 20/01452/MOUT Land at NGR 305210 108255, Horn Road, Kentisbeare, Devon as she is on the CCA Committee

**119. Public Participation**

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

The Town Clerk read out an email that had been received

**“Please bring this to the attention of the town council and advise their reply.**

I have just listened to the audio and what a waste of time, both yours & mine! It is obvious that the majority of the council had little or no real knowledge of the actual situation.

The root of the problems being experienced in St. Georges View (SGV), stem from the totally unnecessary yellow-lining of Willand Rd. This was objected to by the residents of SGV, when first proposed and everything we forecast has happened. There was no support from the town council. Recent complaints to DCC requesting they removal of the lining on Willand Rd. have met with a point blank refusal. In the council meeting there was talk of the introduction of free overnight parking at St. Andrews, this was never promoted and was it really likely to appeal when a 500mt walk is involved?

There was also much discussion about problems possibly being caused by the McCarthy & Stone contractors vehicles. The demolition company, currently on site, park all their vehicle off road, so contractor's vehicles parking on SGV have not been an issue!

Perhaps if councillors had spoken with SGV residents or even visited the road, they might have had a better understanding.

Finally, one of the resolutions was to write to us with your proposals, it is nearly a month since the meeting and we have heard nothing.”

The Chair said that there would be opportunity to discuss the matters raised during consideration of Agenda Item 9.

### **Speaker 1 - Representative from Cullompton Cricket Club**

The Speaker explained that the Planning Application to relocate the cricket club has been lodged and gave reasons why the application site had been chosen for the relocation of the cricket club. It is intended that the pitches will be of suitable quality with boundary sizes large enough to become a county ground for Devon. The facilities will meet the most recent ECB criteria and be over 2 storeys but will not be big pavilions and there will not be any tall floodlights

### **Speaker 2**

The recent car fire resulted in traffic chaos in the town as vehicles couldn't take a short cut because of parked delivery vehicles - have the Council got any plans to do anything about the parking chaos?

The Council had previously said it would put up warning signs that charging in St Andrews car park was to be reinstated

The Town Clerk said that the signs were on display in the car park that morning.

### **Speaker 3**

1. Agenda 10 – resurrecting of regeneration group. The speaker was a founder member of the group and glad to see it coming back
2. Missing Supporting Papers - the public has a right to see them before the meeting starts this needs to be sorted so there are no further complaints
3. Why is the Council creating such a restrictive policy as the proposed Casual Vacancy policy; the procedure of proposing, seconding and voting on candidates is an archaic method and will lead to problems similar to last time when many members of the public complained about voting not being conducted properly; the process needs to be proper, open, transparent and fair to all not controlled by one or two councillors getting their best friends on the Council
4. The Speaker made a complaint to the Mayor many weeks ago - -please contact him to discuss the matter so that it can be progressed for the benefit of the people of the town.

The Mayor responded that he agreed it was good the regeneration group is coming back and was looking forward to receiving its reports.

### **Speaker 4**

1. Petty Cash – the Speaker said he had not seen any information on petty cash for about 12 months why is it being left out, how many times and how much has been requested?
2. Co-Option Policy –what is proposed is a restrictive practice which goes against openness and transparency - who advised the Town Council?

The Chair of the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee (PFP) responded to the comments and questions about the Co-option Policy; advice was taken from the Town Council's solicitor, the Mid Devon District Council's Monitoring Officer and DALC so there was a wide range of advice. The Chair of PFP said he didn't agree at all that the policy would create a restrictive practice, if it is approved it will be more open and transparent than it has ever been.

The Town Clerk responded that the amounts held in petty cash are reported on the balance sheet which goes to every PFP Committee meeting and since the 1st April 2020 the Clerk cannot recall any petty cash claims being made.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020 were considered (Supporting Paper A to the Agenda)

**RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020 as a correct record

**121. Action List**

To receive and review the Action List relating to the Town Council. (Supporting Paper B to follow)

The Action List had not been updated and sent out

**RESOLVED** to defer consideration of this item until the next meeting.

**122. Planning Application 20/01452/MOUT Land at NGR 305210 108255, Horn Road, Kentisbeare, Devon**

To consider the available information and agree any comments to be submitted on the following Planning Application which would have an impact on the parish of Cullompton.

Planning Application 20/01452/MOUT

Proposal: Hybrid application for a new cricket facility consisting of an Outline application for a pavilion of up to 2 storeys, indoor cricket centre of up to 2 storeys, scorers hut, ground equipment, store, outdoor cricket nets, landscaping and parking (all matters reserved) and a Full application for layout and earthworks for 2 cricket grounds  
(Supporting Paper C1 – MDDC Letter & C2 Report and Application)

Cllr Guest explained the context and history of the proposed cricket club re-location and application.

**RESOLVED** to support the application.

**123. Planning Application 20/01409/MOUT Land at NGR 303082 107667 Stoneyford, Devon**

To consider the available information and agree any comments to be submitted on the following Planning Application in the parish of Cullompton

Planning Application 20/01409/MOUT

Outline hybrid application for the erection of 5.2ha of B2 and B8 industrial units and Detention Basin and Full permission for the erection of 4 industrial units (Plots 5,9 and 10) (4327sqm) Class B1, B2 and B8 Uses and creation of new vehicular access, parking and landscaping  
(Supporting Paper D1 – MDDC Letter & D2 Report and Application)

Cllr Guest introduced the application and gave some background information including links to the Mid Devon District Council Local Plan.

Cllr Buczkowski read out an email that had been submitted by a member of the public.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council has no objection to the application with the caveat that the road infrastructure is improved before any works start on the application site, this is with particular reference to the traffic lights at Junction 28 of the M5, the access and egress of Kingsmill Road and Honiton Road coming down from Mole Valley Farmers

**124. Devon County Council (Various Streets Devon) (Waiting Restrictions & Parking Places) Amendment Order**

Consideration was given to any response that the Town Council would like to submit Devon County Council with regard to Amendment Order. (Supporting Paper E to the Agenda)

The content of the email read out during public participation was also considered.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Town Council does not make any comments on the Order
- (ii) That a letter is sent to the resident of St George's View saying that the Town Council is supportive of action to resolve the parking problems but it is down to Devon County Council
- (iii) That a letter is sent to Cllr Berry telling him about the parking problems in St Georges View and suggesting a residents-only parking area may be an option.

**125. Representatives on Outside Bodies / Liaison**

The newly appointed Cullompton High Street Heritage Action Zone Project Officer at Mid Devon District Council is looking to resurrect the Cullompton Town Centre Regeneration Partnership and would like two Town Councillors to sit on the new partnership group

**RESOLVED** that Councillors Buczkowski and Dale are the Town Council's representatives to the Cullompton Town Centre Regeneration Partnership

**126. Request to Sit on No 19 High Street Development Committee**

Consideration was given to Councillor Andrews request to sit on the No 19 High Street Development Committee.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Andrews is appointed to No 19 High Street Development Committee.

**127. Recommendations and Referrals from the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee**

Consideration was given to recommendations from the Policy Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 8 October 2020 regarding a Co-option Policy. (Supporting Paper F to the Agenda)

There was discussion on whether or not there should be an option for voting for co-option candidates to be by means of a paper ballot.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Co-Option Policy and Procedure as presented to the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee is adopted and implemented i.e. that a paper ballot is not allowed.
- (ii) That Standing Orders are amended as follows
  - A new Standing Order - 3s (iii) is inserted reading "that voting for Co-options will be by a show of hands (or if the meeting is being held by remote attendance in accordance with Standing Order 3s(ii) ), paper votes will not be allowed"
  - Standing Order 3 S (i) is amended to read Unless standing orders provide otherwise (see 3s(ii) and 3s(iii)), 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"

**128 (21:00hrs) RESOLVED** that the duration of the meeting be extended until 21:15hrs

**129. Casual Vacancy – Provisional Timetable**

The timetable for the co-option process for 4 Town Councillors was considered (Supporting Paper G to the Agenda)

The provisional timetable for the Co-option process was noted

**130. 2020/2021 Budget. Half-year Review**

The 2020/2021 Budget was reviewed. (Supporting Paper H to the agenda)

The Chair of the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee (PFP) highlighted the likely budget shortfall due to the COVID-19 situation where there would be a reduced income and there had been additional expenditure; this may mean an additional call on the general reserves and an knock-on impact on next year's budget

**RESOLVED** to note the report and comments from the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee Chair

**131. Payments for Authorisation**

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

**RESOLVED** that the invoices for payment totalling £5,293.21 gross and the Direct Debits and Standing Authorisation items of £95.93 gross (as detailed on Supporting Paper I to the Agenda) be approved

**132. Recommendations from the Community Wellbeing Committee**

To consider the recommendation from the Community Wellbeing Committee with regard to Cullompton's Youth Service Provision. (Supporting Paper J to follow)

The Supporting paper had not been prepared and sent out

*Administrators Note: The Community Wellbeing Administrator subsequently confirmed there were no outstanding recommendations to Council with regard to the youth service provision – as the matters relating had been referred to the Youth Services Working Group*

**133. Members Questions**

There were no Members' questions

**134** (21:15hrs) **RESOLVED** to extend the duration of the meeting for a further 5 minutes

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

**RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public for this item or part thereof on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature (staffing – personal information)

**Note:** *The Town Clerk left the meeting*

**136. Recommendation from the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee**

Consideration was given to recommendations from the Policy Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 8 October 2020 regarding the Town Clerk's appointment.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk's appointment be confirmed and the probationary period concluded.

Agreed