



Town Clerk: Miss Joy Norris MSc ACG

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council
held on Tuesday 14 December 2021 commencing at 19:00 hrs**

Present

Chair: Councillor J Johns

Councillors: J Buczkowski, A Connolly, I Emmett, L Knight M Rowe and C Snow

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.

428. The Deputy Mayor took the Chair in the absence of the Mayor

429 Mayor's Announcements

The Deputy Mayor reminded everyone about the markets and Santa's Grotto which would be happening on Saturday.

430. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrews, Dale, Dietrich, Haslett and Smith.

The Chair did a roll call of the Councillors present in the Town Hall.

431. Declarations Of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this stage of the meeting.

432. Public Participation

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

Speaker 1

The Speaker said he had concerns about draft minutes as presented as they contained errors because they did not reflect the reasons why there were adjournments nor dealt with questions that were asked.

The Speaker continued that he had previously raised previously the matter of the publication of the agenda and documents and legislation requires all documents to be published at the same time - when will this late publication stop?

Chair responded that an email response will be sent to the speaker.

433. Minutes

Consideration was given to the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2021 (subsequently adjourned and reconvened on 6th December) and the draft Minutes of the extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 6th December 2021. (Supporting Papers A and B to the Agenda)

RESOLVED not to confirm the draft minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2021 (subsequently adjourned and reconvened on 6th December) and the draft Minutes of the extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 6th December 2021 as presented.

434. Action List

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

435. Payments for Authorisation:

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

RESOLVED

- (i) That the invoices due for payment as presented totalling £7,827.53 gross and the direct debits and standing authorisation items totalling £1,160.32 be approved
- (ii) That the overtime totalling 83.05 hours is approved and charged to the budget for the Christmas event.

Following discussion regarding the invoices received from Utilight for Christmas lights it was

RESOLVED

- (i) That no action is taken on the invoices received until further information is obtained (see ii) below
- (ii) That clarification is sought regarding the legal, financial and taxation situation between the various companies but that the Town Council's dealings will be with SparkX

436. 2022/23 Budget Process.

To receive an update from the Resources Committee on the 2022/2023 Budget Process

There was no update as the Resources meeting scheduled for 9 December had been inquorate and therefore unable to proceed.

437. Town Hall Hire

Consideration was given to whether or not the Town Hall should be made available for hire (Supporting Paper E to the Agenda)

RESOLVED to defer making a decision on this agenda item and reconsider the availability of the Town Hall for hire when the COVID restrictions are eased/ guidance is changed.

438. Schedule of Meetings

Consideration was given to changes to the scheduled dates of Town Council meetings in January 2022 to enable the budget and precept decisions to be made in a timely manner.

Guidance was given to the Town Clerk that the Council meeting scheduled for 6 January 2022 to discuss the budget, and the precept should be retained and that a Council meeting be provisionally scheduled for 18 January 2022 in case decisions are not made on 6 January and a further meeting is required.

439. 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 matters were raised:

- Questions from last 3 council meetings have not yet received a response
- There is a need to tighten the purse strings and not just increase budgets
- Has the Town Council any plans in place to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee and thought given to locations and budgets, road closures etc? Cullompton Community Association may be willing to work with the Town Council on an event. The Chair responded that this will be discussed by the Community Wellbeing Committee.
- Please can we find out if the HAZ project could help with funding to modernise the electrical supply in High Street and Fore Street and get the wiring removed from the front of properties.
- Continuing on from a matter raised at the last Council meeting there is a need to look into Christmas lights issues and learn from the experience in 2021 making a better event in 2022. A response was given that the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting on 16 December has an Agenda Item to consider setting up a working group to undertake a review of the 2021 Christmas Lights and events and identify learning.
- Lack of response from others, including the Mayor, on important questions being asked – over the last 3 – 4 months it seems that some Councillors are being ignored. There seems to be a communication problem and people need to work together as a team. The Chair responded that this should be addressed when the relevant persons are present and able to respond.

The Meeting closed at 20:07hrs