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MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF CULLOMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
DATED THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH 2023 AT 7:00PM
AT CULLOMPTON TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Buczkowski (Chair), M Dale, R Dietrich, G Guest, K Haslett, S Holvey, J Johns, L Knight, M Thompson.

Officers: The Town Clerk, the Deputy Town Clerk.

Others: Sergeant Andrews (Devon and Cornwall Police), Dan Angell (representing tfa Limited and Danescroft) together with Johnathan Coombes (Pegaus Limited Planning Consultancy) and Claire Danks (Origin3 Limited Project Design Consultant).

Cllr C Snow (by remote attendance).

Sgt Andrews made a report on the Police Service in Mid Devon and, in particular, Cullompton and the approach to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour. This includes that a report is automatically generated when a call reporting Anti-Social Behaviour is received; there should be no reason that an officer should not respond to such a report.

Dan Angell presented on the proposed developments East of Cullompton in the broadest sense. There were a number of questions from members (*responses in italics*):

- Does the developer support the need for the Eastern Relief Road to be delivered before work commences on the Garden Village? *There is a series of ongoing assessment work around J28 and the delivery of the Relief Road and results of this will be reported in April 2023. Developers support this delivery of the Relief Road and it is very much the expectation that this will be the case.*
- Regular updates were requested as the plans for East Cullompton develop noting that, in the past, a moratorium on major developments had been imposed until such time as the local infrastructure could support it. *There is a commitment to provide regular updates.*
- It was noted that MDDC had twice been unsuccessful in their bid for Levelling-Up Funding in order to progress the proposed Eastern Relief Road; what happens should the next funding bid be unsuccessful? *Cannot go into detail on the Relief Road as negotiations are commercially sensitive but options are being considered regarding funding the project.*
- It was noted that there is a site for a new Primary School; is there provision for a Secondary School and a new medical centre? *No Secondary School is required although there is a contribution required to DCC for secondary provision including expansion of the existing secondary school. Discussions are taking place with the NHS to determine its healthcare requirements.*

- What provision has been made for new business and retail? *There is a certain amount of employment land in the whole allocation. Fordmore Farm is developing and expanding although this proposal is largely residential in nature and there are limits on the quantity of employment and retail provision in order that it does not compete directly with the Town Centre.*
- What provision is being made with regard to the mix of housing types to accommodate an ageing population? *Working with MDDC on accommodating an ageing population although the provision will be not just related to this particular proposal but the Garden Village as a whole and will include a proportion of accessible and adaptable housing and greater care provision.* It was noted that elderly accommodation provision is, generally, poor. Housing for an ageing population should be on level ground, include charging and storage facilities for mobility scooters, be on a bus route and be close to shopping amenities.
- It was noted that accessibility and adaptable housing is not just for an ageing population; there are lots of others in younger age demographics that have additional needs and require additional support. *It was responded that MDDC do have a policy on the quantity of accessible and adaptable housing that is required in major developments.*

The Chair requested that an item is placed on a future Agenda to request from the Education Authority their plans for the long-term plans for provision of secondary education in Cullompton considering the significant expected housing expansion planned.

Ref 730 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES**

23.03.2023 Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillor E Andrews.

Ref 731 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

23.03.2023 There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests made.

Ref 732 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

23.03.2023 There were no members of the public present.

Ref 733 **MINUTES**

23.03.2023 **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 23 February 2023 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Ref 734 **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

23.03.2023 **RESOLVED** to establish a Cullompton Community Safety Partnership with representation from the Police, MDDC, DCC, Primary and Secondary Schools, Youth Workers, Neighbourhood Watch representatives to tackle problems with Anti-Social Behaviour and to consider allocation some funding towards the project with a view that it would attract further funding from other partner agencies.

Ref 735 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

23.03.2023 The Chair had received an email requesting that an update is provided on legal matters currently ongoing. He reported that the dispute with SparkX is ongoing but that there had been no further complaint from a resident in the vicinity of Headweir Road play area.

The Chair also encouraged support for Springfest which is happening on 9 April 2023.

Ref 736 **Town Clerk's Report**
23.03.2023 The Town Clerk reported that:

- That the dog waste bin installed at Headweir Road play area had significantly improved instances of dog waste in the vicinity of the play area.
- Staff appraisals are underway.
- Pollarding of the High Street Common Lime trees is almost complete.
- The Town Centre WiFi project has run into difficulties as a result of Greenbeam Orion Limited entering liquidation. As the Council contracted with Greenbeam Orion Limited for its internet provision, this situation may prove problematic for it as well; there is a Part II item later in the Agenda to resolve a way forward.
- The public toilets continue to be subject to vandalism and are taking up a significant proportion of staff time to manage.
- First Aid training has now been completed for most staff.

Ref 737 **FINANCE**
23.03.2023 To consider and note the payments, receipts & invoices. To consider other financial matters including the bank reconciliation. It is **RECOMMENDED** that members:

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliations up until 28th February 2023 are approved.
- b. **RESOLVED** to note the budget to date and approve any virements between budgets and/or reserves.
- c. **RESOLVED** to purchase of a new ride on electric mower and accessories, proposed by Councillor M Dale and seconded by Councillor R Dietrich. A recorded vote was requested by Councillor M Thompson:

Those in favour of the motion: Councillors J Johns, K Haslett, M Dale, R Dietrich, G Guest, S Holvey, L Knight, J Buczkowski.

Those against the motion: Councillor M Thompson.
- d. **RESOLVED** to establish the signatories of the Gift of A Burrow and Upcott Field bank accounts by role rather than by name and that they are to be the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council and the Chair of the Gift of A Burrow for Allotments Committee.

Ref 738 **CEMETERY CCTV SYSTEM**
23.03.2023 **RESOLVED** that a CCTV system with 3 fixed cameras is installed at Cullompton Cemetery to deter and detect instances of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour with 3 fixed cameras.

Ref 739 **DIGNITY AND RESPECT POLICY**
23.03.2023 **RESOLVED** to defer the adoption of the Dignity and Respect Policy until the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

Ref 740

PLANNING MATTERS

23.03.2023

Planning applications received by the Planning Authority and available to view on the [Planning Portal](#):

- a. [23/00103/FULL](#). Change of use from Use Class B8 to mixed use of B8 and E(a) to include retail goods at Supercars Southwest Limited, Mercury Business Park, Bradninch. *Note: Although this application is addressed at Bradninch, it is at the business park built at Quad World and falls just within the Cullompton Parish boundary.*

RESOLVED to have no objection to 23/00103/FULL but with some concerns regarding increase traffic to the unit whilst supporting the increased economic activity that the change of use will generate.

- b. [23/00271/FULL](#). Construction of a new glazed mono-pitched canopy roof to front elevation, change of use of garage to games room and addition of 2 roof lanterns and new pedestrian access from Bellevue Terrace.

RESOLVED that 23/00271/FULL is **NOT SUPPORTED** on the basis that the access to the development is a private one for the residents of Bellevue Terrace and it is likely to cause problems for those that live there.

- c. [23/00364/ARM](#). Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 21/02554/ARM (Reserved matters for the erection of 2 dwellings with associated access and garages following outline approval 19/00883/OUT) to allow for substitute plans relating to installation of solar panels, removal of chimneys, reduction in footprint of each dwelling and external finishes.

There was **NO COMMENT** on this application.

- d. To note planning decisions made by the Planning Authority in February and March 2023.

RESOLVED to note the decisions made by the Planning Authority in February and March 2023.

Councillor G Guest requested that he be permitted to make a personal statement before the meeting proceeded into Part II and informed the meeting that, for a variety of reasons, would not be standing for re-election in the upcoming Parish and District Elections. The Chair thanked him for his long service to the Council and wished him well for the future.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Ref 741

23.03.2023

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, parts 1.1 and 4.14 and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act Section 1(2), 1960, the public and press are excluded from this part of the meeting.

Ref 742

23.03.2023

TOWN HALL INTERNET PROVISION

RESOLVED that the fibre lease line is adopted until the lease expires in December 2024.

- Ref 743 **STAFFING MATTERS**
23.03.2023 **RESOLVED** that the outstanding holiday for staff is paid for and that, going forward, all Annual Holiday entitlement is taken in the holiday year in which it is due and any remaining holiday entitlement will be lost.
- Ref 744 **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk is delegated authority to arrange benchmarking for all job roles at Cullompton Town Council.
23.03.2023
- Ref 745 **FINANCE SYSTEM AND APPS**
23.03.2023 **RESOLVED** the matter of the Finance System and other apps provided by CloudyIT is deferred until further information is provided.

Meeting closed at 21:15.