



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 30 June 2016 commencing at 7pm in Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr Rachel Sinclair (in the chair)

Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Camille Harrison, Kate Haslett, Janet Johns, Martin Smith, and Mike Thompson.

Also in attendance: Cllr John Berry (DCC)*, Cllr Rosemary Berry (MDDC)*, Cllr Karl Busch (MDDC)*, and two members of the public.

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

*In attendance for part only of the meeting

18. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from: Cllrs Anthony Buczkowski (unwell), Chaim Ebanks (personal), Gordon Guest (personal) and Chris Standford (work) .

19. Declarations of Interest: None at this stage of the meeting.

20. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: To receive questions from member of the public present at the meeting.

- (i) Mrs Queenie Broom asked what the Council is doing about the poor standard and lack of grass cutting which is making the town look scruffy. Children are unable to play in the play areas due to the long length of the grass.

Council members agreed with these sentiments and considered that the problem is compounded by the lack of partnership working by the different local authorities responsible for grass cutting.

RESOLVED: That a letter is sent to both Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council expressing concern about the poor standard and lack of grass cutting and asking why it is not possible for the authorities to work together and cut all the grass at the same time. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

NOTE: Cllr John Berry explained that he had taken up the poor standard of grass cutting with Devon County Council and the contractors employed by DCC. He also explained that the reason Tiverton was not experiencing the same problem is because Tiverton Town Council is paying

MDDC to cut the grass. He is trying to get DCC to reconsider its policy of only cutting visibility splays and leaving all the highway verges uncut. He is willing to make a contribution towards the grass cutting costs from his community fund.

- (ii) Mr Chris Snow queried the following:
- Payment for TV and concern that it is difficult to understand what budget heading a payment relates to. *Clerk explained that the TV was a replacement for another TV that had been returned as it had been delivered damaged.*
 - Concern that the Market Committee had not asked for the money for the power supply to be included in the 2016/17 precept. *It was explained that there is no requirement for this item to be included in the precept as the Market Committee had an available budget of £11,002.*
 - Concern about encryption and security of computers, he felt that the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee had not correctly identified the issues. *Town Council will obtain expert advice.*

NOTE: The questions were answered verbally at the meeting and no written response was offered or requested.

21. PRESENTATION: To receive presentation about new services for Cullompton from Tim Bridger of Age UK Mid Devon.

Tim Bridger who is the Mid Devon Interim Chief Officer for Age UK reported that they will be running a weekly surgery at the Hayridge on Fridays between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Drop-in, no appointment necessary, they would like to see as many people being helped in Cullompton as in Tiverton where 2,000 people over 50 obtained advice from Age UK last year.

Age UK have started a “walking football” session in Cullompton on Tuesday evenings and would like to provide other services but first need to understand what people want.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Bridger for attending the meeting and he left.

22. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 26 May 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Camille Harrison.

23. COUNCIL VACANCIES: To consider applications for co-option: Clerk reported that the Council currently has two vacancies but only one application to-date (one was withdraw and another was found to be ineligible).

RESOLVED: That the meeting is closed to enable the applicant for the council vacancy to make a short statement.

Mr Karl Busch made a short statement about his reasons for applying to join the Council and answered questions from Council members.

The meeting was re-opened.

RESOLVED: That Karl Busch is co-opted onto the Council to fill the vacant seat in North ward.

Note: The vote was by a show of hands and was unanimous.

Note: Suggestion that the council reviews its voting procedures, Clerk suggested that this can be done when the Council's Standing Orders are reviewed at the next meeting of the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee.

24. REPORTS

(i) Town Mayor's Report: The Deputy Town Mayor reported his attendance at the Devon & Cornwall Police Awards. It was a very good evening and he was proud that a local PCSO received two awards.

(ii) Police Report: Written report was circulated to all members present. Clerk was asked to query the increase in public safety incidents (20 in May 2015 and 34 in May 2016).

(iii) County/District Councillor Reports.

(a) Devon County Councillor John Berry's report included:

- Tiverton Road will be one-way only from 24 July to enable repairs to the Manor House Hotel.
- Discussions ongoing with Cullompton Community College about expansion to accommodate an increase in student numbers as more houses are built.

Note: Cllr Mike Thompson declared a personal interest in respect of the above item as he lives close to Cullompton Community College.

(b) Mid Devon District Councillor Eileen Andrews reported a MDDC extra-ordinary meeting the previous evening to approve making some past District Councillors Honorary Alderman. This includes past Cullompton Councillor Mrs Linda Holloway.

(c) Mid Devon District Councillor Rosemary Berry reported:

- Dates for events such as Tiverton Electric Nights, the Devon Youth Games and update meeting re faster broadband for rural areas.
- Disappointment at the lack of progress with regard to resolving the issues related to the poor design of the second section of Swallow Way.
- MDDC offering dementia awareness training to both Officers and staff.
- Looking to appoint a Community Health Officer.
- She is a member of the Working Group for economic development.

(d) Mid Devon District Councillor Karl Busch reported on the work being done by the Working Group for Economic Development, funding from the European Regional Fund still looks likely. Important that Cullompton has feedback on what funding is available.

(iv) Any other meeting reports: Meeting with DCC Highways to discuss issues relating to the second section of Swallow Way held on 29 June. General disappointment that little was achieved. It was suggested that the Council obtains the views of the emergency services.

25. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

(i) To approve the Financial Statements for May 2016.

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £37,175.68 for May 2016 are approved and the Financial Statements for May 2016 are approved. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson seconded Cllr Martin Smith.

NOTE: Cllr Rachel Sinclair declared a personal interest in respect of the list of payments for May 2016 as her father is included on the list.

(ii) **Bradninch TAP Fund application:** To approve support for a TAP Fund application for £1,000 towards the purchase of a disabled bowls buggy for Bradninch Bowling Club.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports the application to be submitted by Bradninch Bowling Club for a TAP Fund grant of £1,000 towards the purchase of a disabled bowls buggy. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.

(iii) **TAP Fund grant:** To approve application for a TAP Fund grant of £1500.00 towards the cost of installing a power supply in the Higher Bullring.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council submits a TAP Fund application for a £1500.00 grant towards the cost of installing a power supply in Higher Bullring. Proposed Cllr Camille Harrison, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

26. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: To confirm receipt of draft plan and agree date for discussion thereof.

RESOLVED: That the Council members confirm receipt of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (v3) and that meetings are arranged to start at 7pm on 1st September and 8th September to discuss the document.

27. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: To approve schedule of meetings for 2016.17.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of meetings for 2016.17 is approved. Electronic calendar to be investigated to save paper. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Rachel Sinclair.

28. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(i) **Upcott Field:** To consider request from St Andrews Church to use the Upcott Field on Sunday 4 September for a Sunday fun event.

RESOLVED: That the Council grants permission for St Andrews Church to use the Upcott Field for a Sunday Fun event on 4 September 2016. Proposed Cllr Eileen Andrews, seconded Cllr Rachel Sinclair.

(ii) **Environment Agency:** To receive response to the Council's request that they send a representative to attend a public meeting.

RESOLVED: Disappointment at the Environment Agency's refusal to attend a meeting. Town Council to find out which authority is currently responsible for drainage and flooding matters.

- (iii) **Devon County Council: To receive response from Devon County Council regarding Swallow Way.** The response had been circulated with the agenda and a meeting had been held with DCC on 29 June to discuss, disappointed at the outcome of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. Cullompton Town Council requests that, due to a residential road having been connected into a distributor road and the dangers associated with this action, Devon County Council supports Cullompton Town Council in requiring the developers to now change the priority of the junction back to its original layout and connect the first section of Swallow Way back into Langlands Road. This action will dramatically increase public safety.

NOTE: The Town Council is making this request with reluctance as it is not able to come up with any other solution that will resolve what is, currently, a very dangerous situation.

2. That, in view of the inherent dangers to public safety that have come about as a result of the poor design of the second section of Swallow Way, the Town Council requests that both Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council supports the Town Council financially to seek a judicial review to challenge the developers to resolve the problem.

- (iv) **Road Warden Scheme: To receive confirmation that a public meeting has been arranged for Thursday 15 September 2016.** Noted

29. **COMMITTEES:** To receive the Minutes of the following Committee meetings and approve the recommendations contained therein:

- (i) **Market Committee** meeting held on 1 June including the recommendation that the Committee's terms of reference remain as before.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Market Committee meeting held on 1 June are noted and the recommendation contained therein relating to the Committee's terms of reference is approved.

- (ii) **Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee** meeting held on 21 June 2016, including approval of the following recommendations:
 - (a) That the Committee's terms of reference are amended as per the meeting Minutes.
 - (b) That the security the Council currently has on its computers is adequate for purpose.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 21 June are noted and the recommendation contained therein relating to the Committee's terms of reference is approved. The recommendation relating to the security the Council currently has on its computers to go back to the committee for further investigation and is not approved.

- (iii) **Community Wellbeing Committee** meeting held on 2 June including approval of the recommendation that the committee's terms of reference remain as before, and meeting 21 June, including the recommendation "that the Council supports the organisers of the Town Fayre 2016 by loaning equipment as appropriate".

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 2 June are noted and the recommendations contained therein relating to the Committee's terms of reference and the loan of equipment for the Town Fayre on 28 August are approved.

(iv) **Planning & Licensing Committee** meetings held on 26 May and 9 June.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 28 May and 9 June are noted.

(v) **General Purposes Committee** meeting held on 31 May 2016 including the recommendation that the Committee's terms of reference remain as before.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 31 May are noted and the recommendation contained therein relating to the Committee's terms of reference is approved.

(vi) **Traffic & Environment Working Group** meeting held on 14 June 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Traffic & Environment Working Group meeting held on 14 June are noted

30. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) 3rd Cullompton Brownies: Thank you for the grant. *Noted*
- (ii) Cullompton Rangers: Thank you for the grant. *Noted*
- (iii) Cullompton Rugby Club: Grant report form. *Noted*
- (iv) Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership: Minutes of meeting held on 25 May 2016. *Noted*
- (v) Cullompton Board Game Group: Grant report form. *Noted*

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: That, due to its confidential nature, the following item is dealt with as Part 2 business and in accord with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 the press and public are requested to leave at this point and the next section of the meeting is conducted in private. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Martin Smith.

31. ST ANDREWS CAR PARK

- (i) To consider the revised contract for the management of the car park.

RESOLVED: That as the time was 9pm this item is deferred for consideration at a meeting to be held on 14 July 2016.

32. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 14 July at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____