



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 24 November 2016 commencing at 7pm in Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Martin Smith (in the chair)

Cllrs: Karl Busch, Iain Emmett, Gordon Guest, Kate Haslett, Camille Harrison, Janet Johns, Chris Stanford, Mike Thompson and Richard Thorne

Also in attendance: one member of the public and Dr John Womersley, NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

98. APOLOGIES received and accepted from: Town Mayor Cllr Rachel Sinclair (personal) and Cllrs: Eileen Andrews (health), Daniel Barnes (personal) and Chaim Ebanks (health).

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Cllr Kate Haslett declared a personal interest in respect of item 106 (i) as she is a member of the Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign Committee.

100. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

(i) Mr Chris Snow asked about:

- Where agendas can be found on the Council's new website once the meeting date has passed.
- Why the contact form on the Council's website did not have a "copy back" facility so that the public can refer back at a later stage.
- Details of cemetery income/expenditure.

The Clerk will contact Mr Snow with a response to his questions.

101. NHS Commissioning Group: Dr John Womersley presented proposals for changes to the location of community inpatient beds. The aim is to transform community services and encourage the frail and elderly to be treated in their own homes rather than in hospital. The proposal means the closure of hospital beds and retraining of staff.

Concerns raised about the cost to the NHS of agency staff and that there is no-one to look after people when they come out of hospital. He explained that this was a new way to manage the care system and training will be provided.

The Chairman thanked Dr Womersley for attending and he left the meeting.

102. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Full Council meetings held on 27 October 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

103. REPORTS

(i) Town Mayor's Report: None

(ii) Police Report: Circulated to all those present and noted

(iii) County/District Councillor Reports: None – Concern raised about MDDC spending on extension to the Exe Valley Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED: That Mid Devon District Council is asked to explain why it has decided to fund an extension to the Exe Valley Leisure Centre and asking the following questions:

- Is there any justification for the extension on an increase in income basis, is it possible for the council to see projections compared with any similar investment in sports facilities in Cullompton?
- Cullompton has been requesting improvements to its leisure facilities for many years. At one stage a Committee was set up by MDDC to further this objective but nothing happened and eventually MDDC decided to disband the Committee – why?
- The Culm Valley Sports Centre and the All-Weather Sports pitch were both closed on Monday due to flooding – why is no money being invested in these facilities to resolve this flooding issue?
- The Town Council has been told by MDDC that if it wants to keep its public toilet open then it is required to pay the running costs as MDDC does not have the money to continue to fund public conveniences and yet it has the money to fund an extension to the Exe Valley Leisure Centre – please explain why?
- The Town Council recently received a letter from Stephen Walford, on behalf of MDDC, confirming that MDDC is fully supportive of the town's aspirations for a swimming pool and is happy to support any bid activity by the Town Council but is not in a position to offer any funding contribution. Please can you explain why MDDC is able to fund an extension to the Exe Valley Leisure Centre but is not willing to make a contribution to the provision of a swimming pool in Cullompton.

(iv) Devon & Somerset Metro Group meeting held on 28 October 2016: Cllr Mike Thompson attended the meeting on behalf of the Council, summary circulated with the agenda, he had found the meeting very interesting.

(v) Any other meeting reports. None

104. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

(i) To approve the Financial Statements for October 2016

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £33248.84 for October 2016 are approved and the Financial Statements for October 2016 are approved. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

NOTE: Cllr Mike Thompson suggested that the Council receives a breakdown of credit card expenditure. To be considered by the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee.

- (ii) **Precept: To consider draft budget and precept 2017/18:** Budget and precept documents, as recommended by the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee, were circulated with the agenda. It was explained that, as there are approximately 50 more houses in Cullompton (Band D equivalents) to share the precept between the Council can increase its 2017/18 precept by about £5k without any increase in what the public will pay.

The recommended increase is £14527.00 (from £304,573.00 to £319,100.00) and would mean that the average Band D household will pay an additional 29p per month, an increase of 4%.

RESOLVED: That the 2017/18 budget as recommended by the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee is approved. The 2017/18 precept is £313,757.28 plus Council Tax grant of £5324.72 making a total receipt of £319,100.00. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Chris Standford.

NOTE: Press release to be issued explaining the Council's reasons for the increase which include the need to carry out improvement works in the old section of the cemetery (paths and chapels) and the Town Hall. Also paying the cost of keeping the public toilet in Station Road open, cutting roadside verges and maintenance of play areas.

- (iii) **TAP Fund application:** To confirm support for a TAP Fund application to replace play equipment in Bradninch.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports the TAP Fund application from the Bradninch Memorial Fund to install/replace play equipment in Bradninch play park. Proposed Cllr Kate Haslett, seconded Cllr Camille Harrison.

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

- (i) **Planning & Licensing Committee** meeting held on 27 October 2016. *Noted*
(ii) **General Purposes Committee** meeting held on 1 November 2016. *Noted*

NOTE: It was noted that Cllr Mike Thompson made comment that no reference was made in the Minutes to a comment he had made at the beginning of the meeting that there are no signs displayed at the entrance to St Andrews car park.

- (iii) **Community Wellbeing Committee** meeting held on 8 November 2016. *Noted*

NOTE: Concern raised about the misplacing of the Deputy Town Mayor's chain of office. It was suggested that, in future, mayoral regalia is kept in the safe at the Town Hall.

- (iv) **Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee meetings** held on 15 November. *Noted (Recommendations approved as per Item 104 (ii)).*

- (v) **Market Committee** meeting held on 26 October including whether the Council supports a request for free on-street parking in High Street to be increased from 1 hour to 1.5 or 2 hours.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Minutes of the Market Committee meeting held on 26 October 2016 are noted.
2. That the Council does not support a request for time permitted for the free on-street car parking in High Street to be increased from the current 1 hour restriction. Proposed Cllr Chris Stanford, seconded Cllr Richard Thorne.

RESOLVED: That, as the time was 9pm, the meeting is extended for a further 20 minutes. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

106. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- (i) **Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign:** To receive response from Mid Devon District Council and agree any further action.

RESOLVED: That a response is sent to MDDC stating that in the light of what is being spent on an extension to the Exe Valley Leisure Centre it is disappointing to learn that MDDC is unable to make a contribution towards leisure facilities in Cullompton.

- (ii) **Kingfisher Reach: To receive any responses from Barratt Homes/David Wilson Homes and consider arranging a date for a follow-up public meeting.** Disappointment that Barratts/DWH have not yet started consistently cleaning wheels. Parking problems have still not been resolved, still extremely hazardous and still reversing lorries with no banksman.

RESOLVED: That a follow-up meeting is organised to monitor progress made since meeting on 20 October, provisional date 2 February. Cllrs Martin Smith and Richard Thorne offered to arrange to meet with the site manager to discuss the issues not yet resolved. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Martin Smith.

NOTE: Contact Environment Agency to ask if they can recommend specific planting for the leat area to slow down water flows rather than allowing the area to overgrow with weeds.

- (iii) **Grass cutting arrangements for DCC verges 2017:** To receive letter from Mid Devon District Council. *Grass verges Working Group to meet and discuss.*
- (iv) **Devon County Council:** Response to request for emergency action in Cullompton when there is a spontaneous closure of the M5. *Defer until the next meeting.*
- (v) **Swallow Way:** To receive any response to the road report. *Defer until the next meeting.*
- (vi) **Forge Way car park:** To discuss costs of permit parking.

RESOLVED: Contact MDDC to ask if they would be willing to look at special charge for residents' parking permits for Forge Way car park which is less than the current day and night permit charge of £400 per annum. Proposed Cllr Chris Stanford, seconded Cllr Gordon Guest.

107. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Ian Jewson Planning:** Notice of intention to submit a planning application for land off Knowle Lane: *Invite to Planning & Licencing Committee meeting on 8 December.*

- (ii) **Devon Senior Voice:** Newsletter: *Noted*
- (iii) **NHS:** Healthwatch Voices newsletter: *Noted*
- (iv) **Cullompton Community Association:** Thanks for the contribution to the 10% third party funding for the Viridor grant for repair of the CCA entrance track: *Noted*
- (v) **Luke Ellis:** Provision of a convenience store at the northern end of Cullompton: *Noted*

108. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 15 December at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____