



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 15 December 2016 commencing at 7pm in Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Town Mayor Cllr Rachel Sinclair (in the chair)
Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Martin Smith, Cllrs: Daniel Barnes, 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 who later joined the Council (Cllr James Buczkowski)

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

109. APOLOGIES received and accepted from: Cllrs: Eileen Andrews (health) and Chaim Ebanks (health), Devon County Councillor John Berry.

110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

111. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None

112. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Full Council meetings held on 24 November 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Martin Smith, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

113. ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- (i) **Devon County Council: Response to request for emergency action in Cullompton when there is a spontaneous closure of the M5 and agree any action required.** Concern that there is no emergency plan in place if/when the M5 is closed and traffic is diverted through Cullompton.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council contacts the Police and requests that they have an action plan ready to implement when there is an emergency on the M5 and traffic is diverted through Cullompton. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Camille Harrison.
2. That the Council contacts Devon County Councillor Andrew Leadbetter asking if he realises that there are is no action/emergency plan in place to deal with closures of the M5 and the consequences which have left Cullompton gridlocked on numerous occasions. There are

emergency plans for major incidents there should be something similar in place for motorway closures. Copies to Cllr John Berry, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, and Neil Parish MP. Proposed Cllr Kate Haslett, seconded Cllr Gordon Guest.

- (ii) **Swallow Way: To receive any response to the road report and agree any action required.**
Devon County Council have requested full details of the brief supplied to the consultant that prepared the report as there appears to be inaccuracies and assumptions made which do not reflect the histories of the design approach.

RESOLVED: Respond stating that the brief was “to consider whether the road was fit for purpose”, also request details of what they consider to be the inaccuracies and assumptions made in the report. Proposed Martin Smith, seconded Janet Johns.

NOTE: Concern that the road is not fit for purpose and the additional development of land off Knowle Lane and Ponsford Lane will feed into Swallow Way, a road that already doesn't work. Makes more sense to use Langlands Road as the link to the North West Extension

- 114. CO-OPTION: To consider the applications to fill the vacant council seat by co-option.** Two applications, paper vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED: That James Buczkowski is co-opted to fill the vacant seat on the Council.

James Buczkowski signed the Acceptance of Office form and joined the Council.

- 115. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS: To approve co-option of new members**

RESOLVED:

1. That Richard Thorne is co-opted onto the General Purposes Committee and the Public Convenience Working Group.
2. Cllr Karl Busch is co-opted onto the Public Convenience Working Group.
3. Cllr Chris Standford becomes a trustee for the Upcott Field.

- 116. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: To approve the date of the Annual Parish Meeting as Thursday 11 May 2017.**

RESOLVED: That the Council's Annual Parish Meeting is held on Thursday 11 May 2017.

117. REPORTS

- (i) **Town Mayor's Report.** Deferred until the end of the meeting.
- (ii) **Police Report:** Report relating to speed checks in Exeter Road. Conclusion that speeds are largely compliant and no further monitoring is necessary.
- (iii) **County/District Councillor Reports.** Mid Devon District Councillor Karl Busch's report included:
 - New Chief Executive has shaken things up, running resources more efficiently, new Director of Operations due to start March 2017.
 - Changes in the way space is being used, part of Phoenix House being leased to the Department for Work & Pensions.
- (iv) **Any other meeting reports.**

- **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group:** Cllr Gordon Guest reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group intends to consult on additional sites to be allocated in the Plan, hope to consult alongside the Local Plan consultation in January 2017.

118. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

(i) To approve the Financial Statements for November 2016

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £37959.53 for November 2016 are approved and the Financial Statements for November 2016 are approved. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Martin Smith.

NOTE:

1. It was suggested that financial software training is organised for Councillors.
2. Cllr Mike Thompson felt that the bank reconciliation statement was not being prepared in the best layout. Clerk offered to include the balance sheet with the financial statement documents in future.

(ii) To approve holding/administering Town Team budget (money to be transferred from MDDC).

RESOLVED: That the Town Council administers funds for the Town Team and the money currently held by MDDC is transferred to the Town Council. Proposed Cllr Richard Thorne, seconded Cllr Gordon Guest.

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

- (i) **Planning & Licencing Committee** meeting held on 24 November 2016; *Noted*
- (ii) **General Purposes Committee** meeting held on 6 December 2016: *Noted*
- (iii) **Market Committee** meeting held on 7 December: *Noted*
- (iv) **Grass Verges Working Group** meeting held on 13 December 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Grass Verges Working Group meeting held on 13 December 2016 are noted and the recommendation contained therein is approved i.e. *"That the Council accepts the £2561.00 from Devon County Council towards the cutting of highway verges in Cullompton parish and uses this along with some of the £5,000 in its 2017/18 budget for grass/verge cutting to contract Mid Devon District Council to cut the highway grass 5 times per year at a cost of £1001.86 per cut provided that no additional forced costs for additional services are placed on the Council by the District or County Council during the 2017/18 financial year"*. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

120. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- (i) **Kingfisher Reach: To receive any responses from Barratt Homes/David Wilson Homes following public meeting and approve format for a follow-up public meeting.** Barratt Homes/David Wilson Homes have confirmed that they are willing to attend a follow-up meeting but will not attend another public meeting in the same format as the previous one. They will attend a meeting with representatives of the Town Council, the local Councillors, officers from MDDC and a couple of residents to act as spokespeople for the residents.

RESOLVED: That the meeting due to be held on 2 February as a follow-up to the public meeting held on 20 October is held in-camera as the developers will not attend a public meeting. Residents of the new development at Kingfisher Reach to be invited to send six representatives. Contact the residents to confirm the matters to be included on the agenda. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

- (ii) **Saxon Fields: To consider revised construction management plan and approve response.**
The revised plan had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Richard Thorne reported that a couple of additional sentences had merely been added to the original document. Concern that, if the plan had been adhered to in the first place, then there wouldn't be the problems there are now.

RESOLVED: That the response drafted by Cllr Richard Thorne is approved and submitted as the Council's response to the revised construction management plan for Saxon Fields. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

- (iii) **Station Road car park: To receive response regarding residents' parking permits and agree way forward:** MDDC has sold 19 annual permits, 18 daily @£310 and 1 day/night permit @ £400. They feel that they are unable to offer a reduced rate permit for residents as it would have a detrimental impact on their income.

The Council needs to find a way to show that it would be financially beneficial to MDDC if they were to offer permits for residents. IT was suggested that a reduced charge of say £180, instead of £400, could generate additional income for MDDC.

RESOLVED: That the Council undertakes a consultation to assess the interest in a reduced cost parking permit for Forge Way car park, specifically for residents. Suggest a fee of £180 per annum that can be paid monthly by direct debit. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Martin Smith.

- (iv) **M5, Junction 28: To receive queue length monitoring report and approve any follow-up action required:** The conclusion of the report is *"It has been calculated that the maximum capacity of the Station Road entry onto the J28 roundabout is around 800 vehicles per hour, when flows on the roundabout are around 400 vehicles. The survey shows that during the morning peak hour, this capacity was reached. Therefore the reason there is queuing on Station Road is because of the limitations of the roundabout to cope with the traffic flows"*.

Concern that the Town Council were not consulted before the survey was carried out. Also doesn't cover Honiton Road.

RESOLVED: That the Council contacts DCC to express its concern that the survey was carried out without first consulting with the Town Council to find out what the problems are. Concern that businesses are being financially affected by not being able to get out of Kings Mill Road at peak times. Proposed Cllr Martin Smith, seconded Cllr Gordon Guest.

RESOLVED: That as the time was 9pm to continue the meeting until 9.15pm. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

121. MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY COUNCILLORS

- (i) **To request clarification about the costs associated with the refurbishment of Wilcombe playground in Tiverton and the implications this has on the decision, by Mid Devon District Council, to no longer maintain play areas in other areas of the district (Cllr Camille Harrison).** Concern that MDDC had closed some play areas but also appears to have contributed towards the cost of refurbishing Wilcombe play area in Tiverton. Cllr Karl Busch explained that MDDC will only spend money if a business case can be provided. The Town Council drafted a play area report a couple of years ago which included financial opportunities for Tiverton. This report was ignored. It was suggested that it is found, tweaked and sent to MDDC.

RESOLVED:

1. That MDDC is asked for details of the costs associated with the refurbishment of Wilcombe play area in Tiverton. Proposed Cllr Camille Harrison, seconded Cllr Rachel Sinclair.
2. That the Council updates its play areas report and sends a copy to MDDC and reminds them that there was a Leisure Facilities Working Group for Cullompton and it would be beneficial to everyone if it was resurrected. Proposed Gordon Guest, seconded Martin Smith.

122. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Community Action Groups Devon: new** project to reduce household waste in Mid Devon – www.cagdevon.org.uk *Noted*
- (ii) **St Georges Well residents:** to advise on the setting up of a Residents' Support Group. *Noted*
- (iii) **Environment Agency:** Meeting to discuss planting for Kingfisher Reach stream. *Meeting to be held on 5 January 2017.*
- (iv) **Viridor:** Grant application for Head Weir Road play area was successful. *Noted*
- (v) **Mid Devon District Council:** Confirmation that MDDC will transfer the Freehold of the public toilet in Station Road to the Town Council with development restrictions. *Noted*
- (vi) **Involve:** Thank you for grant. *Noted*
- (vii) **MDDC:** Justification for the investment in an extension to the Exe Valley Leisure Centre: *Noted.*

- 123. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT:** Cllr Rachel Sinclair reported on the Council's successes during 2016, including the celebration event for the Queen's 90th birthday and taking leases for Tufty Park and Head Weir Road play areas to stop them from going into managed decline. She welcomed new Councillors and thanked everyone for being supportive and understanding when she had been unable to attend meetings for personal reasons. She then wished all those present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- 124. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 26 January 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

DRAFT