



**MINUTES of Cullompton Town Council meeting
held on
Thursday 22 January 2015 at 7pm at Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Town Mayor Cllr Gordon Guest (in the chair)
Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Rachel Sinclair and Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Anthony Buczkowski, Jane Campbell, Claire Francis, Pauline Hammett, Phil James*, Chris Snow, Michael Speirs, and Jim Young

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk.

Also in attendance: Cllr John Berry (DCC)*, Cllr Linda Holloway (MDDC)* and one member of the public.

*In attendance for part only of the meeting.

127. APOLOGIES received and accepted from: Cllr Chaim Ebanks (work).

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Eileen Andrews declared a pecuniary interest in respect of item 134(ii)b as she is a member of the Cullompton Community Association Committee.

129. RESIGNATION: To receive the resignation of Cllr Craig Norman.

RESOLVED: That the Council accepts the resignation of Cllr Craig Norman and, as there is less than 6 months until an election, that the vacancy is not advertised. Also that the Council writes to Craig Norman to thank him for his work as a Councillor and letting him know that he will be missed.

130. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None

131. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 11 December 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Proposed Claire Francis, seconded Anthony Buczkowski.

132. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: To consider and approve Thursday 12 March 2015 at 7pm as the date for the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Meeting of the Parish is held on Thursday 12 March at **7.30pm** in the Town Hall. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Claire Francis.

133. REPORTS

- (i) **Police report.** Written report circulated to all members present. Discussion included:
- Report of vandalism at the Walronds, nothing could be traced on the town's CCTV system. They hope to install a camera on the building opposite to link into the town's CCTV system.
 - Whether there were any non-recorded incidents, particularly those related to the late night economy.
 - Whether it was possible to split the violence offences to show which were domestic incidents and which were late night economy related.
 - Concern about whether landlords are taking responsibility for the actions of people that have had too much to drink. It was suggested that the "Pub Watch" scheme is reintroduced in Cullompton.
 - A new Neighbourhood Beat Officer has recently joined the Cullompton force.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council asks for an item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Culm Valley Safety Partnership to discuss the reinstatement of the "Pub Watch" scheme in Cullompton.
2. That the new Neighbourhood Beat Officer is invited to the Council's next meeting to discuss issues to include the late night economy.

(ii) **Chairman's report and announcements:** The Town Mayor's report included:

- Skatepark, the £25k Viridor grant has now been spent, there are some more ramps to be installed. Thank you to Cllr John Berry for his contribution to the project.
- He recently attended a meeting of the Devon County Council Footpaths Committee, of which he is a member. DCC willing to support the Town Council if it wished to replace/repair gates along the footpath that runs from Old Hill to Honiton Road. It was suggested that landowners are responsible for maintaining gates etc.
- He expressed concern that DCC had rejected an offer from a developer to include money in a s106 agreement to upgrade this footpath. Cllr John Berry offered to investigate why this had happened.
- Willand & Uffculme are hosting a meeting about IT in rural areas. Neil Parish MP is chairing the meeting and everyone is invited to attend on 6th Feb.

(iii) **District/County Councillor reports:**

(a) **Devon County Cllr John Berry** reported that:

- The traffic lights in the town centre should be gone by Tuesday, once the exterior wall of the Manor House Hotel has been shored-up. Tiverton Road will become one-way (down only).
- Developers cut off a drainage pipe during building work on the development site opposite Trumps Barn, they are now negotiating with South West Water to obtain a licence to put water into the sewerage system.

- DCC looking to save £15m each year and services will be cut. They are pressing central government for more money for welfare reforms and hoping to get European funding, it will be challenging. There will be no Council Tax increase in 2015/16.
- He hoped that Sidmouth Road (off B3181 at Hele straight) and the bridge on the road to Bradninch (opposite Merry Harriers) will be open by March 2015.
- In response to a questions he said that he thought that, in an emergency, fire service officers would be able to travel up Tiverton Road to the fire station. He will find out how far down Tiverton Road the one-way only restriction will be implemented and how this will impact on the residents of the cottages at the Tiverton Road/High Street junction.

(b) Mid Devon District Cllr Eileen Andrews reported that:

- Warden service to cease from 2015/16 and tenants will be supplied with an alarm.
- Proposal to increase rents by 3.4%, no increase in garage rents but garage plot rents to increase from £165 per annum to £200 per annum. Discussion about garage maintenance.

(c) Mid Devon Councillor Linda Holloway reported that:

- Anyone concerned about the experimental “no right turn” from Tiverton Road, can make response to DCC. Potholes should be reported using the DCC on-line reporting form.
- Western Power has now disconnected services to Harlequin Valet so can start taking action on site. A Compulsory Purchase could take about 2 years to complete.
- Compulsory Infrastructure Levy has now been approved by MDDC, target 28% affordable housing and £40 per sq metre CIL charge. Consultation period 9 Feb – 30 March. Three exclusion sites that will still be subject to s.106 conditions including North West Extension and Eastern Extension.

(iv) John Tallack Centre (Town Clerk): Report circulated to all those present and noted.

(v) Christmas Lights de-brief (Cllr Anthony Buczkowski) including request from “Cullompton Christmas” to organise the 2015 Christmas Lights event: Cllr Buczkowski thanked Cllr John Berry and the Cullompton Traders’ Association for their financial support, he felt that the Committee now had 10 months in which to raise sufficient to fund the 2015 event but would ask the Council for a little administrative assistance.

Cllr Claire Francis asked who the team members were and Cllrs Chris Snow, Phil James and Pauline Hammett made comment on the shortcomings of the 2014 event and how the 2015 event could be improved. This included better stage management and relocation of the trailer.

RESOLVED: That the request from the Cullompton Christmas Committee to organise the 2015 Christmas Lights event is approved. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Michael Speirs. A recorded vote was requested

VOTING FOR: Town Mayor Cllr Gordon Guest, and Cllrs Anthony Buczkowski, Jane Campbell, Michael Speirs and Jim Young.

AGAINST: Cllrs Eileen Andrews, Pauline Hammett, Phil James and Chris Snow.

ABSTAINED: Cllrs Claire Francis and Rachel Sinclair.

Cllr P James left the meeting

134. COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES: To accept the Minutes and approve the recommendations of the following:

- (i) **Planning Committee** meeting held on 11 December 2014 and 8 January 2015 – Noted.
- (ii) **Policy & Resources Committee** meeting held on 13 January 2015, including the following recommendations:
 - (a) **That the Council's precept for 2015/16 is £257,500 plus DCLG Grant of £7501.42 making a total income receipt of £265,001.42.**

RESOLVED: That the 2015/16 precept is £257,500 plus DCLG Grant of £7501.42 making a total income receipt of £265,001.42

NOTE: Cllr Eileen Andrews declared a pecuniary interest in respect of the following item and withdrew from the meeting whilst it was discussed.

- (b) **That the Council accepts the Cullompton Community Association and the Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign's offer to organise the 2015 Town Fayre and makes a contribution of £1,000 towards the cost. Also write a letter to Cullompton Rugby Club to thank them for hosting the Town Fayre for the last two years.**

RESOLVED: That the Council accepts the Cullompton Community Association and the Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign's offer to organise the 2015 Town Fayre and makes a contribution of £1,000 towards the cost. Also write a letter to Cullompton Rugby Club to thank them for hosting the Town Fayre for the last two years.

- (iii) **Market Committee** meeting held on 14 January 2015 – Noted.

135. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- (i) **To approve the Financial Statements for December 2014**

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £43,660.76 for December 2014 are approved and the Financial Statement for December 2014 is approved. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Claire Francis.

- (ii) **To consider and approve 2015/16 Budget and precept**

RESOLVED: That the precept and draft budget for 2015/16 as attached to these Minutes at Appendix A is approved. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Claire Francis.

- (iii) **Devon Association of Parish Council: to agree that the Devon Association of Parish Councils 2015/16 subscription is deducted from the 2015/16 precept.**

RESOLVED: That the Devon Association of Parish Councils 2015/16 subscription is deducted from the 2015/16 precept.

RESOLVED: That, as nearly two hours has past since the start of the meeting, the meeting time is extended until 9.15pm. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Pauline Hammett.

136. COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

(i) Letter from Mrs Marshall re improvements to the town

RESOLVED: That the Council responds to Mrs Marshall thanking her for her very interesting concept and asking if she can provide more detailed plans and costings. Also explain that the Council is starting to landscape the cemetery extension but there is a need to wait for the land to settle.

(ii) Council Elections: Invitation from MDDC to join with them to encourage people to stand for election. Meeting at the Hayridge Centre on 10th February at 6.30pm.

RESOLVED: That the Council accepts the invitation from MDDC to join them at a meeting to give people information about standing as a Councillor.

137. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Devon Association of Local Councils: Newsletter including details of launch of new award scheme. *Noted*

(ii) Healthwatch: Newsletter - *Noted*

(iii) Neighbourhood Beat Manager Graham Custance will be moving to take up a new role in Crediton. *It was agreed to write a letter of appreciation to PC Graham Custance*

138. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the informal meeting due to be held on 12 February is merged with the Planning Committee and becomes a Planning Committee meeting at which the Neighbourhood Plan will be discussed. The meeting to start at 6.30pm. All Council members welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____