



**MINUTES of Cullompton Town Council meeting
held on
Thursday 26 February 2015 at 7pm at Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Town Mayor Cllr Gordon Guest (in the chair)

Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Anthony Buczkowski, Jane Campbell, Chaim Ebanks, Claire Francis, Pauline Hammett, Chris Snow, Michael Speirs, James Wakefield and Jim Young

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk.

Also in attendance: Cllr John Berry (DCC) and PC Johnny Haynes* and PCSO Katie Butt*

*In attendance for part only of the meeting.

148. APOLOGIES received and accepted from: Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Rachel Sinclair (work) and Cllr Phil James (work).

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

150. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None at this time.

151. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 12 February 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Proposed Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Claire Francis.

152. REPORTS

(i) Police report. As no Police Officer was present at this time it was

RESOLVED: To defer the Police report item until later in the meeting.

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

- He and Cllr Anthony Buczkowski had attended a meeting with developers to discuss the Knowle Lane Phase 2 development. He felt that they had been amenable to one or two changes.
- He and Cllr Anthony Buczkowski had toured the play parks and are preparing a report to enable the Council to respond to Mid Devon District Council re proposals to close some of the play parks in Cullompton.

- Cullompton Rugby Club are concerned that land that they lease as playing pitches has recently been sold for development. There is a meeting with the local MP, Neil Parish, on Friday 13 March at 12.30pm to discuss.
- Meeting to be arranged with MDDC Planning Officers to discuss ways in which the Town Council can have more involvement in s106 negotiations.
- He attended a recent rural broadband meeting chaired by Neil Parish MP. Some businesses on the outskirts of Cullompton do not have access to superfast broadband.

PC Johnny Haynes joined the meeting

(iii) Police report: The crime figures for the previous month were circulated and discussed. Discussion included:

- A change in anti-social behaviour legislation (Section 35 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014) now allows the Police to direct a person to leave a designated area and not return for 24 hours.
- Investigating ways to encourage people not to drink before they leave home. Breathalysers can be supplied to door and bar staff, if customers are over the limit then they can refuse to serve them.
- Neighbourhood Beat Officers are currently required to end their shifts by 12 midnight.
- In response to a question it was considered that incidents of racism in Cullompton were very low level and isolated.
- Looking to re-introduce a "Pubwatch" scheme. Cllr Pauline Hammett offered to let the Police have a copy of the constitution for the previous scheme as she was the scheme secretary.
- Concerns raised about the increase in incidents of violence with injury. It was explained that this was due, in part, to changes in the way in which this type of crime is now recorded.
- Parking enforcement, parking on the pavement, and loading/unloading in Fore Street were discussed. Police will investigate what can be done and issue a press release to try and discourage people from parking vehicles on pavements.
- It was confirmed that traffic management resulting from the closure of the M5 was a matter for the Highways Agency rather than the Police.
- Town Council to liaise with the Police re upgrading the CCTV system.

(iv) District/County Councillor reports:

(a) Devon County Cllr John Berry reported that:

- Parking Enforcement Officers will be in Cullompton every day for the next couple of weeks to enforce the loading/unloading restrictions in Fore Street at peak times.
- MDDC Enforcement to be requested to look at what is happening regarding removal of hedges and road width in Knowle Lane. The road should be 5.5 metres wide, but is currently only 3m wide and houses are being built very close to the hedgeline, concern that this may result in hedges being removed.
- Bus consultation currently underway, some routes uneconomic, DCC intend to increase its share of the Council Tax by 1.99%, hopefully some of this increase will be used for public transport.

- He agreed to ask the Parking Enforcement Officer to investigate vehicles that park all day in limited waiting parking spaces in High Street.
- Cllr Jane Campbell confirmed that the path through the Walronds garden from Shortlands Lane to Fore Street will be reopened, during daylight hours, from Monday 2 March. This will mean that people can use this route instead of the pavement in Tiverton Road which is currently closed.
- **Mid Devon District Cllr Eileen Andrews** reported that she had spoken to MDDC about the possible closure of Tufty Park and was assured that there will be consultation before any decisions are made.

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

(v) **Any other reports:** None

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

- (i) **General Purposes Committee** meeting held on 15 January 2015: **Noted**
- (ii) **Planning Committee** meeting held on 22 January 2015: **Noted**
- (iii) **Events Committee** meeting held on 27 January 2015: **Noted**
- (iv) **Policy & Resources Committee** meeting held 3 February 2015

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 3 February 2015 are noted and the Training & Development Policy as attached to these Minutes at Appendix A is approved. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Pauline Hammett.

(v) **Market Committee** meeting held on 4 February: **Noted**

RESOLVED: That the recommendation contained in the Market Committee Minutes that the market traders' are permitted to park in St Andrews car park for longer than the three hours permitted is referred back to the Market Committee for further discussion. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.

(vi) **Traffic & Environment Working Group** meeting held on 3 February 2015: **Noted**

154. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

(i) To approve the Financial Statements for January 2015

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £33,372.04 for January 2015 are approved and the Financial Statement for January 2015 is approved. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Claire Francis.

155. COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

(i) **Cullompton Fore Street and Traffic: To consider letter from Mr & Mrs Rusalen:** The letter writer suggested that the current weight limit for Fore Street is reduced.

RESOLVED: That the Council responds to Mr & Mrs Rusalen sympathising with the points raised but explaining that Devon County Council are responsible for highway matters and some things are out of the Council's control. There can be no weight limit on Fore Street due to the need to use it as a relief road if the M5 is closed. There is already a 20mph speed restriction in Fore Street.

NOTE: It was thought that the most of the heavy vehicles coming through the town centre were either construction traffic or serving local businesses and it was suggested that a destination survey is carried out. It was felt that lorries have no option but to come through the town centre until such time as a relief road is built.

(ii) Devon County Council Tough Choices: To consider proposals to reduce bus services.

RESOLVED: That, as one of the proposals it to reduce the service to/from Uffculme School, we find out from the school whether they are aware of the changes and if they have had any representations from parents that the Town Council should support. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Pauline Hammett.

NOTE: Cllr Eileen Andrews declared a personal interest in respect of the following item as she is a United Charities Trustee (former owners of the land).

(iii) Mid Devon District Council: To consider proposals for road names at the development off Knowle Lane i.e. Martin Way and Trott Close.

RESOLVED: That the Council accepts the road names Martin Way and Trott Close for the new development off Knowle Lane. A list of appropriate road names to be prepared for future new development. Proposed Cllr Jane Campbell, seconded Cllr Claire Francis.

(iv) Sporting Facilities: To consider ways to protect the town's current sporting facilities and amenities.

The Town Mayor reported that, due to housing development proposals, there was uncertainty about what will happen to some of the town's sports clubs. Also the clubs would like to expand their facilities to accommodate the proposed population growth. The Rugby Club may lose land that it currently leases and, if an Eastern Relief Road were to be built through the CCA Fields, this will impact on the Football, Cricket and Bowling Clubs.

Mid Devon are considering closing some of the town's play parks and there are no tennis courts or MUGAs in Cullompton. Look for ways to safeguard green spaces and provide additional allotments and community orchards. Green areas can be protected through the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED: That an informal meeting is arranged to enable Councillors to study maps and plans to identify green areas to be protected and suitable sites for relocation of existing sports clubs and provision of new facilities.

156. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Culm Valley Memory Café:** Grant report form. *Noted*
- (ii) **Devon Association of Local Councils:** Town and Parish Councils will not have their precepts capped in 2015.16. *Noted*
- (iii) **Her Majesty the Queen:** Thank you for your kind message of Christmas and New Year greetings. *Noted*
- (iv) **Cullompton Community Association:** Thank you for the contribution towards the cost of running this year's Town Fair. *Noted*
- (v) **Devon County Council:** Cullompton Relief Road, Junction 28 and Manor Hotel. *Noted*
- (vi) **Ploudalmezeau:** Thank you for your letter.
- (vii) **Involve Mid Devon:** To be merged with other CVS across Devon to become Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA) from 1 April 2015.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____