



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 11 June 2015 commencing at 7pm at Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Chaim Ebanks (in the chair), and Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Anthony Buczkowski, Chaim Ebanks, Camille Harrison, Phil James*, Janet Johns, Martin Smith and Mike Thompson

Also in attendance: Approximately twelve members of the public

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

*In attendance for part only of the meeting

14. **APOLOGIES:** Town Mayor Cllr Rachel Sinclair (personal).
15. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** All Councillors declared a personal interest in respect of co-options as some of the applicants are known to them.
16. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**
 - **Art House Project:** A representative from the Art House Project provided an update of what the project is intended to do. They would like input into events that the Council organises. Their programme of events includes: pop-up art exhibition, stall at the Town Fair, flash mob signing event in the High Street during the summer and an art competition to run concurrently with the Autumn Fruits Festival.

They will add the Town Council to their mailing list.
17. **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 21 May 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record after amending Item 9 Committee membership to remove Cllr Janet Johns from the General Purposes Committee and add to the Planning & Licensing Committee. Proposed by Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Chaim Ebanks.

NOTE: The meeting was adjourned to allow applicants for the vacant seats to make short presentations and then re-opened.

- 18. CO-OPTIONS:** To consider applications for Co-option and appoint five Councillors to fill the vacant seats: Nine applications for 5 vacant seats. A paper vote took place, one vacancy at a time.

RESOLVED:

1. Deborah Christopher was co-opted to fill the vacancy in South Ward.
2. Christopher Standford was co-opted to fill a vacancy in North Ward.
3. Kathryn Haslett was co-opted to fill a vacancy in North Ward.
4. Brett Lewis was co-opted to fill a vacancy in Outer Ward.
5. Mark Stevens was co-opted to fill a vacancy in Outer Ward.

All the candidates were thanked for attending the meeting and making their presentations.

- 19. FINANCE:** To approve the Annual Return 2014/15 including the Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED: That the Annual Return 2014/15 is approved and the Council responds 'Yes' to sections 1-8 of the Annual Governance Statement 2014/15. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Chaim Ebanks. A recorded vote was requested. Voting was as follows:
For: Cllrs: Chaim Ebanks, Gordon Guest, Camille Harrison, Janet Johns and Martin Smith
Against: Cllrs: Anthony Buczkowski, Phil James, Mike Thompson
Abstained: Cllr Eileen Andrews

- 20. COMMITTEES:** To receive the Minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- (i) Planning Committee meeting held on 28 May, to approve the terms of reference and consider the recommendation contained therein.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 28 May 2015 are noted and the terms of reference and the recommendation that the Council purchases a large screen monitor to be installed on the Committee Room wall to facilitate Powerpoint presentations of planning applications to a maximum cost of £550 are approved. Proposed Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Phil James.

- (ii) Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 2 June, to approve the terms of reference and consider the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 2 June 2015 are noted and the terms of reference and the following recommendations are approved

- (a) That the Committee is renamed the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee. Proposed Cllr Chaim Ebanks, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.
- (b) That £4,000 is transferred from the Contingency budget to the Neighbourhood Plan budget. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Martin Smith.

NOTE: Cllr Gordon Guest proposed, seconded by Cllr Martin Smith that £4,000 is transferred from the Contingency budget to the Neighbourhood Plan budget (instead of £3,000 as recommended in the Minutes). 8 voting for with 1 abstention.

- (c) That, from 1 April 2015, Councillor's allowances are increased to £100 per year to reflect cost of living increases and that the Town Mayor's allowance is £120 per year to allow for additional incidental costs associated with the position of Town Mayor. Proposed Cllr Chaim Ebanks, seconded Cllr Phil James.

NOTE: Cllr Thompson stated that he would not claim his Councillor's Allowance for 2015/16.

- 21. CULLOMPTON UNITED CHARITIES:** To consider request that Mrs Pauline Hammett remains a trustee.

RESOLVED: That Mrs Pauline Hammett remains a Town Council nominated trustee of Cullompton United Charities. Proposed Cllr Eileen Andrews. Seconded Mike Thompson.

- 22. POLICE GROUP:** To consider suggestion that a local area Police group is set up with a view to meeting every six months to discuss what is happening in the local area. It was noted that the Police have organised a meeting at Cullompton Police Station on 6 July at 1930hrs and have invited one representative to attend to discuss the benefits of forming such a group.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mike Thompson attends the Police Group meeting on 6 July to represent the Council and reports back.

Cllr Phil James left the meeting

- 23. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF DEVON:** To make comment on the proposed new electoral arrangements for Devon County Council.

RESOLVED: That this item is deferred until the next meeting.

- 24. CULLOMPTON SKATE JAM: 4 July 2015:** To approve acting as the organiser of a Skate Jam to be held in Meadow Lane on 4 July to celebrate the official opening of the extension to the Skate Park area.

RESOLVED: That the Council acts as the organiser of a Skate Jam to be held at the skate park in Meadow Lane on Saturday 4 July 2015. Proposed Cllr Eileen Andrews, seconded Cllr Chaim Ebanks.

25. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership:** Minutes of meeting held on 20 May 2015. *Noted*
- (ii) **Devon Association of Local Councils:** Newsletter. *Noted*
- (iii) **Mid Devon District Council:** Application to designate a Neighbourhood Plan area for Tiverton and Halberton parishes. *Noted*
- (iv) **National Westminster Bank:** Closure of Cullompton branch in September 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Council writes to the National Westminster Bank to express the Council's disappointment at the decision to close its Cullompton branch and pointing out that the town is likely to double in size over the next 10 years.

26. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 25 June at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____