



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 25 June 2015 commencing at 7pm at Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Town Mayor Cllr Rachel Sinclair (in the chair), Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Chaim Ebanks and Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Anthony Buczkowski, Gordon Guest, Camille Harrison, Janet Johns, Brett Lewis, Martin Smith, Chris Standford, Mark Stevens and Mike Thompson

Also in attendance: Cllr T Snow (Mid Devon District Council), PC Nigel Berry and PCSO Katy Butt

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

- 27. APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Deborah Christopher (personal), Cllr Kate Haslett (personal) and Cllr Phil James (work).
- 28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
- 29. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None
- 30. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 June 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record after adding Cllr Gordon Guest to the list of those in attendance. Proposed Cllr Chaim Ebanks, seconded Cllr Camille Harrison

NOTE: Cllr Mike Thompson asked that it be recorded that, at the meeting on 11 June 2015, he had requested that approval of the Annual Return 2014.15 be deferred until the following meeting. This motion had been defeated.

31. REPORTS

- (i) Town Mayor's Report:** The Mayor reported that she will be attending the Pride of Mid Devon community awards at the Tiverton Hotel on Friday evening (26 June).
- (ii) Police Report:** A report detailing recorded crime in Cullompton during May 2015 was circulated to all those present. It was explained that both the violence with injury and violence without injury offences referred mainly to domestic incidents although 2 police officers had been assaulted. In response to a question the Police Officers stated that there had been no further trouble since the incident outside the Manor House Hotel on 4 April 2015.

Discussion ensued about parking in Willand Road and whether the Police could do anything about vehicles causing an obstruction.

Cllr Martin Smith thanked the Police for helping to calm things down following the incident on 4 April and the Police left the meeting.

(iii) County/District Councillor Reports: None

RESOLVED: That the Council contacts its District and County Councillors to request that they regularly attend meetings of the full council to make a report. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Brett Lewis.

(iv) Larger Local Councils meeting: Cllr Anthony Buczkowski reported his attendance at a recent meeting and explained that the Department for Communities and Local Government are looking for suitable parishes for ministers and civil servants to visit to showcase activities happening at a local level. He had put Cullompton forward.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports the invitation to ministers and civil servants to visit Cullompton.

(v) Any other reports: None

32. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

(i) To approve the Financial Statements for May 2015.

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £57,063.26 for May 2015 are approved and the Financial Statement for May 2015 is approved.

(ii) To consider ways to finance a Traffic Order for Willand Road/Fore Street: A meeting had been held with Devon County Council, which Cllrs Eileen Andrews and Mike Thompson had attended, to discuss changes to the Traffic Order. Devon County Council, in an email dated 12 June 2015 stated that *“until any funding has been secured, whether via DCC means or the Town Council, it is not considered necessary to carry out any further proposal works”*. The cost of the Traffic Order is £3,000.

Discussion ensued about both ways to fund the Traffic Order and ways to resolve the current parking issues in Willand Road. Cllr Martin Smith considered that parking is an effective way to slow traffic down.

Cllr Mike Thompson considered that as Devon County Council are the highway authority with responsibility for Traffic Orders then they have a legal responsibility to resolve the current problem and should pay the cost of the Traffic Order.

Cllr Gordon Guest felt that the Council needs to decide whether it feels strongly enough about the traffic problems in Willand Road to do something about it.

Cllr Martin Smith considered that it was a very complex issue and the Council needed to consider the safety of all road users. If the parking in Willand Road is removed and the road

becomes a clearway then a pedestrian is more likely to get knocked down. Need to take a look at the issue as a whole to make sure that we don't make the situation worse. Need a comprehensive traffic report to understand the situation.

Cllr Mike Thompson considered a meeting with Police and DCC Highway Officers was needed to look at all the safety issues and agree the best way to resolve the problem.

Cllr Chaim Ebanks proposed, seconded by Cllr Gordon Guest that, due to the urgency of the matter, the Council underwrites the £3,000 cost of the Traffic Order and applies for a Town and Parish Fund grant of £2,000 towards this cost.

Cllr Mike Thompson proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Anthony Buczkowski that as Devon County Council has a legal responsibility for Traffic Orders then they should pay for any alterations to the current Traffic Order.

The amendments was voted on – a recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For: Cllrs: Anthony Buczkowski, Brett Lewis and Mike Thompson

Against: Cllrs: Chaim Ebanks, Gordon Guest, Camille Harrison Janet Johns Mark Stevens and Martin Smith

Abstained: Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Rachel Sinclair and Chris Standford.

The amendment was defeated and the original motion was then voted on. A recorded vote was requested.

For: Cllrs Eileen Andrews, Gordon Guest, Chaim Ebanks, Camille Harrison and Janet Johns

Against: Anthony Buczkowski, Brett Lewis Rachel Sinclair, Martin Smith, Chris Standford, Mike Thompson

Abstained: Cllr Mark Stevens

The original motion was also defeated.

Cllr Mike Thompson then proposed, seconded by Cllr Eileen Andrews that the Council invites the Police, DCC Highways and residents to a meeting to consider ways to address the current traffic/parking problems in Willand Road. 11 voted for and 1 Against.

33. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT:

- (i) **Shortlands Lane: To receive update on progress re improvements to the surface and agree way forward.** Shortlands Lane is an unadopted road but, as it is also a Public Bridleway, Devon County Council will continue to fill-in potholes. Due to the closure of the Tiverton Road junction the lane is currently being used as a shortcut. Cllr Mike Thompson offered to explain the background to the current situation in Tiverton Road to Council members.

RESOLVED: That an informal meeting of the Town Council is arranged at which Cllr Mike Thompson will explain the background to what has been happening to Shortlands Lane. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Camille Harrison.

- (ii) **To consider and approve response to planning application No. 15/00650MARM:** Reserved Matters for the erection of 285 dwellings including community centre, green infrastructure, public open space, vehicle access points, internal roads, pedestrian/cycle links and associated works.

Cllr Anthony Buczkowski explained some of the Planning Committee's concerns about this planning application. These include:

- Flooding/drainage
- Highway access and visibility
- Road layout
- Pedestrian access
- No provision for allotments or community composting area
- Health & Safety issues relating to the attenuation ponds
- Lack of detail about the provision of public seating, bus shelters, bins, dog bins, etc.

A report detailing all these concerns had been circulated to all Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Council recommends refusal of the planning application for the reasons detailed above and contained in the report circulated to Council members.

34. COMMITTEES: To receive the Minutes of the following Committee meetings and approve the terms of reference contained in the General Purposes Committee minutes.

- (i) Market Committee meeting held on 10 June 2015: Noted
- (ii) Planning Committee meeting held on 11 June: Noted
- (iii) General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 June

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 June 2015 are noted and the Term of Reference for the Committee, contained in the Minutes, are approved. Proposed Cllr Camille Harrison, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson.

NOTE: Cllr Anthony Buczkowski requested that an item is placed on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss parking for market traders.

35. MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY COUNCILLORS

- (i) **To consider setting up a Community Bus scheme in Cullompton:** Cllr Eileen Andrews explained that the funding for the Town Bus has now been used up and Devon County Council are only able to fund this service one day each week i.e. Wednesdays instead of every weekday as previously. This is making it difficult for people to get to places such as the doctor's surgery and she asked the Council to consider setting up a community bus service, possibly in conjunction with surrounding villages.

The meeting was adjourned to allow Mid Devon District Cllr Terry Snow to speak. (Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson).

Cllr Terry Snow suggested that new development is asked to make a contribution of £50 per house towards the cost of a community bus service. Honiton has a successful community bus and it was suggested that the Council obtains some details from Honiton about how their service operates.

Cllr Snow suggested that obtaining the capital funding to buy the bus wasn't a problem but that finding sufficient funding to run the service would be far more difficult.

The meeting was re-opened.

RESOLVED: That the Council sets up a Working Group to investigate setting up a community bus service in Cullompton. Cllrs Eileen Andrews, Martin Smith and Mike Thompson agreed to join the Working Group.

(ii) To consider providing a bulky refuse skip service in Cullompton: Cllr Eileen Andrews reported that Mid Devon intends to start charging for the collection of garden refuse. There is also currently a large amount of fly tipping happening in the local area. For these reasons she would like the Council to investigate reviving the bulky skip service that Devon County Council used to organise in Forge Way car park.

In an email dated 18 June 2015 Devon Council Council stated that

1. Although Devon County Council has a long term aspiration to provide a new recycling centre to serve the Tiverton/Cullompton/Willand area it does not have any capital funding available at present.
2. They are unable to offer any funding towards reinstating the skip service at present.

Cllr Janet Johns suggested that the Council contacts a local 'scrap man' that collects metal and find out if he would be interested in providing a local service.

As it was 9pm is was

RESOLVED: That the Council meeting continues to the end of the agenda. Proposed Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson.

RESOLVED: That the matter of providing a bulky refuse skip service in Cullompton is delegated to the Community Wellbeing Committee for consideration.

36. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION: To consider response to the draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Devon County Council: The proposal is to reduce the number of Devon County Councillors from 62 to 60 and change the ward boundaries in some area.

RESOLVED: That the Council has no objections to the Local Government Boundary Commission's draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Devon County Council.

37. Devon Association of Local Councils: Election to County Committee 2015-2019: To agree which candidates to select (the council can select 4 from the 6 nominations).

RESOLVED: That the Council nominates: Richard Andrews, Ann Hughes, Anthony Buczkowski and Ken Browse to become members of the County Committee 2015-2019.

38. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Neighbourhood Plan: To agree date for meeting – *Tuesday 14 July was agreed.*

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____