



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 23 July 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, Deborah Christopher, Camille Harrison, Janet Johns, Martin Smith, Chris Stanford, Mark Stevens and Mike Thompson

Also in attendance: Cllr John Berry (Devon County Council), a reporter and one member of the public.

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

39. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Gordon Guest (personal), Cllr Kate Haslett (unwell), Cllr Phil James (work) and Cllr Brett Lewis (personal).

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

41. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None

42. ONE MEDIA: Presentation by and discussion with Bev Ward from One Magazine (Life in Mid Devon).

NOTE: Bev Ward had sent her apologies as she was unwell and it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

43. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 June 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.

44. REPORTS

(i) Town Mayor's Report: The Town Mayor reported her attendance at the Mid Devon Pride of Mid Devon Awards, for which she was a judge. Fantastic event with students from Cullompton Community College collecting awards for young writer of the year and young people from the John Tallack Youth & Community Centre being nominated for their fundraising achievements. She also had the pleasure of officially opening the Street Market at the start of Cullompton Festival Week.

(ii) Police Report: A report detailing recorded crime in Cullompton during June 2015 was circulated to all those present and noted.

(iii) County/District Councillor Reports:

Devon County Councillor John Berry's report included:

- Budget papers circulated setting out how DCC intends to reduce its budget by £46m in the next financial year due to cuts in grants received from central government.
- Attended a presentation on children's care homes, DCC has received an Outstanding Report for Care Homes and Adoption.
- Concern about construction traffic accessing the NW Extension development via St George's View, this is being considered by Devon County Council but has not yet been approved.
- Concern about traffic queuing back to the M5, due to parked cars in Fore Street and the closure of the Tiverton Road junction. Willing to contribute £1,500 from his Locality Budget if a Traffic Order is required for Fore Street or Willand Road. Could use the TAP fund to raise the additional £1500 required to pay for a Traffic Order.
- Has arranged for the DCC Head of Planning & Highways to attend a meeting to discuss the proposals for an Eastern Distributor Road with Town Councillors.

CLLr Mike Thompson stated his concerns that, whilst he appreciated the County Council needs to save money, pushing responsibility for services down to town and parish councils is not the answer as they have less money than the principle councils.

Mid Devon District Councillors Eileen Andrews reported on a meeting she had attended the previous day to discuss repairs to the Manor House Hotel. New scaffolding to be erected week commencing 27 July and repair work to start week commencing 4 August. Hope to complete in 6-8 weeks.

(iv) Meeting with developer and Planning Officer regarding Knowle 2 development. CLLr Anthony Buczkowski reported on the meeting attended by himself, the Clerk and CLLrs: Gordon Guest, Janet Johns and Mike Thompson. Also in attendance were CLLrs: John Berry and Rosemary Berry, MDDC Planning Officer and representatives from David Wilson Homes. Discussion had included:

- Agreement to consider low level solar lighting for paths across the area of public open space.
- No bus service planned but agreed to include pull-in areas for buses in the design.
- Will look again at the location of the community hall.
- Reduce badger protection area, what protection is there for humans from the risk of bovine TB?

(v) Any other reports: None

45. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £29883.72 for June 2015 are approved and the Financial Statement for June 2015 is approved.

46. DEVON ASSOCIATION OF PARISH COUNCIL, COUNTY COMMITTEE: To receive notification that CLLr Anthony Buczkowski has been elected to serve on the Committee. Noted

47. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(i) MARKET TRADER'S PARKING: To receive response from Mid Devon District Council with regard to free parking for Market traders in Forge Way car park and agree way forward:

Mid Devon District Council are unable to provide free car parking for market traders in Forge Way car park as they do not provide free parking for Tiverton traders and consider that there is a need for fairness with the other traders in the main street.

Discussion ensued, a number of suggestions were put forward. It was stressed that St Andrews is a shoppers car park, primarily for the use of people using the shops and businesses in the town centre and that Forge Way car park is relatively empty when compared to St Andrews. The fee to park in Forge Way car park is £1 for 5 hours and some of the Farmers' Market traders are able to park free of charge in Barclays Bank car park on Saturdays when the bank is closed.

RESOLVED: That the Outdoor, Indoor and Farmers' Market traders are not permitted to park for more than the permitted three hours in St Andrews car park as this is a small car park primarily for people using the town's shops and businesses. Proposed Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.

(ii) PUBLIC TOILETS: To receive report and agree way forward:

RESOLVED: That due to the confidential nature of the report this item is deferred until the end of the meeting and discussed in Part 2.

(iii) TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: To consider how best to resolve the problem of traffic jams in the town centre: Due, primarily, to the closure of the Tiverton Road junction, there is sometimes gridlock in Cullompton's main streets with traffic backing up to the M5 junction and onto the hard shoulder. This is due to vehicles parked in Fore Street which the Council receives regular complaints about. Mid Devon District Council has indicated that the junction will not reopen for at least 6-8 weeks due to repair work being carried out on the Manor House Hotel. Devon County Council has suggested the following interim measure:

That waiting, loading and unloading restrictions are introduced along the entire length of Fore Street as follows:

07:30 – 20:00 (Monday to Friday) and
09:00 – 13:00 (Saturday and Sunday).

Discussion ensued, concerns raised about deliveries to shops and businesses and enforcement. The fire engine and other emergency vehicles will not be able to use the Tiverton Road junction due to the scaffolding and will need to travel through Fore Street, which is a problem when the town centre is gridlocked. It was also felt that traders should have a reasonable window in which to receive deliveries.

RESOLVED: That, whilst the Tiverton Road junction is closed due to repair work being carried out at the Manor House Hotel, and to provide a window for shops and businesses to receive deliveries, the following waiting, loading and unloading restrictions are introduced along the length of Fore Street until such time as the Tiverton Road junction is reopened:

07:30 – 10:00 and 14:00-20:00 (Monday to Friday) and
09:00 – 17:00 (Saturday and Sunday)

With the proviso that pressure is put on the Police and Parking Enforcement Officers to enforce the restrictions. Also look at a priority change and having a sign erected that states that traffic coming from the Exeter Road direction should “Give Way to On-coming Traffic”.

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

- (i) Traffic & Environment Working Group meeting on 23 June. *Noted*
- (ii) Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 23 June

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee are noted and the following recommendations are approved:

- (a) That the Terms of Reference are as contained in the Minutes.
 - (b) That Cllrs Deborah Christopher and Martin Smith are appointed to the Community Wellbeing Committee.
 - (c) That, in order for the Committee to function effectively, it is allocated a budget of £3,000 to be transferred from the Contingency Fund.
 - (d) That the Town Council applies to rejoin the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme.
- (iii) Planning Committee meetings held on 25 June and 9 July: *Noted*
 - (iv) Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 7 July: *Noted*

49. MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY COUNCILLORS

- (i) To ask the Police to carry out speed checks at Exeter Hill (Cllr Anthony Buczkowski)

RESOLVED: That the Police are requested to carry out speed checks at Exeter Hill and Willand Road and also organise training for Councillors to use speed guns.

50. COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATION:

- (i) To approve the co-option of Cllrs: Deborah Christopher, Kate Haslett and Chris Stanford to the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Deborah Christopher, Kate Haslett and Chris Stanford are co-opted onto the Planning Committee.

- (ii) To fill the vacant seats on the Council’s Committees and Sub-committees.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Chris Stanford is co-opted onto the General Purposes Committee and Cllr Mark Stevens is co-opted onto the Market Committee. Members not present at the meeting are to be contacted to find out if they would like to fill any of the empty places.

51. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Cullompton Town Fair Committee:** Thank you for the donation and use of gazebos, tables etc. *Noted*
- (ii) **Devon Senior Voice:** Newsletter: *Noted*

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that, in accord with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, due to the confidential nature of the business to be conducted, the press and public are requested to leave at this point and the next section of the meeting is conducted in private. Proposed Cllr Eileen Andrews, seconded Cllr Anthony Buczkowski.

PART II: PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

52. PUBLIC TOILETS: To receive report and agree way forward: The Town Council has made a contribution of £1,000 towards the maintenance of the public toilets in Station Road but Mid Devon District Council are requesting a further £2343.50 being 50% of the total cost of running the toilets for this financial year. If this additional payment is not made then the toilets will be closed on the 1st September 2015. MDDC require 100% of the cost of maintaining the toilets in 2016/17 and estimate this to be £6687.00.

The estimated costs provided by MDDC were discussed as they appeared high.

RESOLVED: That the Council pays the additional £2343.50 from the Contingency budget to keep the public toilets open for this financial year and then the General Purposes Committee investigates options for 2016/17. Ask MDDC to provide utility bills and meter readings to justify their estimates of running costs.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____