



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council  
held on  
Thursday 27 August 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, Kate Haslett, Janet Johns, Brett Lewis, Martin Smith, Mark Stevens and Mike Thompson.

Also in attendance: one member of the public, one member of the press and Bev Ward (One Media)

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

60. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Deborah Christopher (personal), Cllr Phil James (work) and Cllr Chris Standford (personal).
61. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
62. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None.
63. **ONE MEDIA: Presentation by and discussion with Bev Ward from One Magazine (Life in Mid Devon):** Bev Ward explained that One Magazine is delivered to all households in and around Cullompton and contains information about Mid Devon including a "What's On" section. Her role is to promote the magazine and sell advertising space.

The Chairman thanked Bev Ward for attending and she left the meeting.

64. **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the previous meeting held 13 August 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Anthony Buczkowski.
65. **REPORTS**
  - (i) **Chairman's Report:** Tit was reported that the Deputy Town Mayor had attended the Mid Devon Show on behalf of the Mayor and had enjoyed himself.
  - (ii) **Police Report:** The Police had been unable to attend but had sent a report which was circulated to all those present. The Police had asked if the Council could clarify where it would like Police Officers to stand when carrying out speed checks in Exeter Hill and Willand Road.

Also circulated was a copy of an email from the Landlord of the Market House Inn asking for the Council's support in requesting that the Police carry out a Police Against Drugs (PADS) operation in Cullompton. Discussion included concerns about an incident at the Bell Inn on 22 August and the time taken by the Police to respond.

Discussion then ensued about ways to slow traffic down. Ideas included electronic speed signs, "ghost" policemen and a change in priority so that traffic coming into the town centre from the Exeter Road direction gives way to traffic coming towards Exeter Road as this would ease the problem of traffic congestion in the town centre. Cllr Anthony Buczkowski thought that the evidence collected from the speed checks can be used to support requests for additional traffic calming measures.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the matter of a change of priority for traffic travelling along Fore Street and the letter from the Landlord of the Market House Inn are included as agenda items for the next Council meeting.
- (ii) That the local Police Licensing Officer is invited to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss local licensing issues.
- (iii) That Police Officers are asked if they can stand at Lower Bullring area, outside Pony & Trap and at the bottom of the hill close to the pedestrian crossing. It was suggested a speed check is carried out at this location when children are walking to/from school. Proposed Mike Thompson, seconded Brett Lewis.
- (iv) That the Police are asked if the next Police Report can include details of police response times to incidents such as the one at the Bell Inn on 22 August 2015. Proposed Mike Thompson, seconded Anthony Buczkowski.

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

- **Mid Devon District Councillor Eileen Andrews** reported on proposed changes to community hospital overnight beds. The intention is to reduce the number of overnight beds in some community hospitals and move all stroke beds to Ottery St Mary hospital. She had recently officially opened "Chasers" a new children's play centre at the Old Tannery. She had found this very rewarding.
- **Mid Devon District Councillor Nikki Wollatt** had sent a written report which was circulated to all Councillors present at the meeting..

**NOTE:** Concerns about the lack of district/county councillor attendance at the meeting. It was felt that it was important to be able to share and feedback information. Clerk to write to all District and County Councillors to remind them that they are welcome to attend Council meetings. Copy to the sent to the Chairman and Leader of Mid Devon District Council.

- (v) **Devon Association of Local Councils Executive Committee meeting:** Cllr Anthony Buczkowski reported on a very good meeting where lobbying government for increases in small business rate relief and removal of business rates for public conveniences had been discussed. If members have any issues that they would like him to raise at a future meeting then please let him know. He is currently writing a s.106 report which he hopes to put before the Council in the near future.

- (v) **Mid Devon Planning meeting:** Cllr Gordon Guest reported on a meeting held immediately prior to a MDDC Planning meeting on 26 August to discuss revised plans for Knowle 2. He was disappointed to report that most of the issues raised by the Council had been ignored.

**65. BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

- (i) **To approve the Financial Statements for July 2015.**

**RESOLVED:** That the Financial Statements for July 2015 are approved and payments totalling £26,904.83 for July 2015 are approved.

**RESOLVED:** That Agenda Item 10(i) is brought forward and dealt with at the same time as the item below.

**66. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT:**

- (i) **Zebra Crossings in Fore Street: To receive petition requesting a change to pedestrian controlled crossings for reasons of public safety.**
- (ii) **To bring to the Council's attention to concerns relating to the pedestrian crossings in the town centre (Cllr Brett Lewis).**

Discussion about upgrading the crossings and whether a pelican crossing would cause traffic to back-up. It was felt that visibility at the crossing at the bottom end of Fore Street is currently obscured by scaffolding and that the scaffolding around the Manor House Hotel is also a problem.

It was suggested that warning signs are erected reminding pedestrians to wait until vehicles coming from both directions have stopped before stepping onto the crossing.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the petition is forwarded to Devon County Council Highways asking that, whilst scaffolding is in situ, signage is erected to remind people not to step onto the crossing until vehicles coming from both directions is stopped. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.
- (ii) Once the scaffolding has been removed from both the Manor House Hotel and the building adjacent to the crossing ask Devon County Council to carry out a traffic assessment to decide on a long term permanent solution to the problem. Proposed Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Anthony Buczkowski.
- (iii) Write to all the local pre-schools, nursery schools and schools in the parish and ask that pupils are provided with road safety advice. Copy to the Road Safety Officer.
- (iii) **Mid Devon District Council: Grass cutting consultation: To set up a working group to draft response (required by 30 September).**

**RESOLVED:** Councillors: Anthony Buczkowski, Gordon Guest, Martin Smith and Mike Thompson offered to form a working group to prepare a response to the Mid Devon grass cutting consultation for consideration at the Council's next meeting on 24 September

- (iv) **To consider request that the Council offers the Rifles Regiment the Freedom of Cullompton**

The motion that Council offers the Rifles Regiment the Freedom of Cullompton was passed (5 for 5 against with 2 abstentions) on the casting vote of the Chairman with the proviso that the Council was able to make pass this resolution as it had been pointed out by a Councillor that a two-thirds majority is required if the Council wishes to offer Freedom of the Town to a regiment.

**NOTE:** The Local Government Act 1972 s.248 and s.249 (5) as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) states as follows: "A local council and charter trustees may admit as honorary freemen or honorary freewomen persons of distinction and those who have rendered eminent service to the place or area. This must be done at a meeting specially convened for the purpose and requires a two thirds majority of those voting.

The motion was therefore null and void.

**(v) Christmas car parking: Mid Devon is offering free car parking in Forge Way car park on Saturday 5/12/19 December plus one additional day to be agreed with Cullompton Town Council.**

**RESOLVED:** That the Council requests Sunday 6 December as its additional free parking day in Forge Way car park as this is the date of the town's Christmas event and Hayridge car park will be closed. It was further

**RESOLVED:** That Devon County Council are asked to suspend the parking restrictions on its on-street parking places on Sunday 6 December between 8am and 6pm. (6 for, 4 against with 2 abstentions).

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

**(i) Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 28 July**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 28 July 2015 are noted and the following recommendations are approved.

- (a) That the Council applies for a TAP Fund grant of £1,000 to purchase a case for a defibrillator to be installed on the exterior wall of the Hayridge Centre. Proposed Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson.
- (b) That the Council applies for a TAP Fund grant of £4,000 to assist with the cost of installing Christmas lights in Cullompton Town Centre. Proposed Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Chaim Ebanks.

**NOTE:** Cllr Anthony Buczkowski reported that it may be possible to obtain some funding for the defibrillator case from another source. If this is the case then the amount requested from the TAP fund will be reduced.

**(ii) Planning Committee meetings held on 23 July and 13 August:** Noted

**(iii) Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 11 August.**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 11 August 2015 are noted and the Smoking Policy as attached to those minutes is adopted as the policy of the Council.

**68. CORRESPONDENCE**

- (i) Cullompton Rangers: Grant report form. *Noted*
- (ii) Mid Devon District Council: Application to designate a Neighbourhood Plan area for Tiverton and Halberton. *Noted*
- (iii) MPC Mark Goulding: Community Speed Watch. *Clerk to find out how long the training for the speed watch scheme will take.*
- (iv) Devon County Council: Grass cutting. *Noted*
- (v) St Andrews Church: Contribution to PA system very much appreciated but due to repairs to the church having recently started there may be a delay in getting the new equipment installed. *It was agreed to approve the delay in purchasing the new PA System.*
- (vi) Member of the public: Concern about speeding traffic along the new section of Swallow Way. *Noted*
- (vii) Mid Devon District Council: NW Cullompton masterplanning – Second Consultation (deadline for response: 1 October 2015). *Noted*

**RESOLVED:** That, due to its confidential nature, the following item is dealt with as Part 2 business and in accord with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 the press and public are requested to leave at this point and the next section of the meeting is conducted in private. Proposed Cllr Anthony Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson.

**RESOLVED:** That as it was 9pm the meeting is extended until 9.15pm to enable discussion of the final agenda item. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Anthony Buczkowski.

**69. ST ANDREWS CAR PARK**

- (i) To consider matters relating to the management of the car park (report tabled at the meeting).

**RESOLVED:** That the above item is deferred until the Council's next meeting on 24 September 2015.

**70. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 24 September 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_