



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 23 March 2017 commencing at 7pm in Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Town Mayor Cllr Rachel Sinclair (in the chair)

Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Martin Smith and Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Daniel Barnes, James Buczkowski, Karl Busch, Iain Emmett, Gordon Guest, Kate Haslett, Janet Johns, Mike Thompson and Richard Thorne

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

Also in attendance: four members of the public.

NOTE: One Minute Silence held to remember the victims of the Whitehall terrorist attack on 22 March 2017.

159. APOLOGIES received and accepted from: Cllrs Camille Harrison (personal) and Chris Standford (work). Also Cllr Rosemary Berry (MDDC) and Cllr John Berry (DCC).

160. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- **Cllr Karl Busch** declared a personal interest in respect of Item 174 as he is a trustee of an external group which is interested in the development of the site.
- **Cllr Mike Thompson** declared a personal interest in respect of the applications for co-option as all the applicants are known to him.
- **Cllr Martin Smith** declared a personal interest in respect of items relating to the John Tallack Youth & Community Centre as he is a trustee and items relating to the Town Team as he is the Chairman.

161. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: To receive questions from member of the public present at the meeting.

(i) Mr S Robertshaw asked what is being done in relation to technology infrastructure for the town. He offered to assist the Council with this.

Concern that Cullompton is missing out on opportunities, need to be aware of what is going on around us and capitalise on the town's location close to the motorway junction.

RESOLVED: That the Council contacts MDDC to ask for a specific timetable for when Cullompton can expect MDDC to identify its needs and opportunities in respect of technology infrastructure

and take action to capitalise on those opportunities. Proposed Cllr Martin Smith, seconded Cllr Karl Busch.

- (ii) **Mr C Snow** asked why he had been labelled a ‘trouble maker’ for asking questions at meetings. *The Town Mayor apologised, on behalf of the Council, if Mr Snow had been made to feel uncomfortable as he was entitled to express his opinions and welcome to come along to both Council and Committee meetings to ask questions.*

162. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 2 March 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

163. ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY COUNCILLORS

- (i) That the Council obtains legal advice about any legal action that can be taken to resolve any of the range of problems currently being experienced by residents of new development. (Cllr Gordon Guest).

RESOLVED: That the Council seeks advice from NALC/DALC about what it is legally able to do in respect of planning matters such as non compliance with Construction Management Plans and problems experienced by residents of new housing, such as defective rendering. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Iain Emmett.

- (ii) That the Council asks Mid Devon to ensure that developers do not remove Devon banks and replace with fencing when building new houses otherwise there will be no natural habitats for wildlife. (Cllr Daniel Barnes).

RESOLVED: That the Council asks Mid Devon to ensure that Devon banks are protected and maintained and that developers do not remove Devon banks and replace with fencing when building new houses otherwise there will be no natural habitats for wildlife. Proposed Cllr Daniel Barnes, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.

164. CO-OPTION: To consider applications to fill current vacancy: Three applications received and circulated. One applicant withdrew his application and left the meeting. The two remaining applicants made short presentations to the Council. A paper vote was taken.

NOTE: Cllrs Mike Thompson and Richard Thorne abstained from voting.

RESOLVED: That William Jones is co-opted to fill the current vacancy.

165. DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING: To consider changing the date (scheduled for 25 May).

RESOLVED: That the date of the Council’s Annual Meeting is rescheduled for Thursday 18 May 2017. Proposed Cllr Martin Smith, seconded Cllr Gordon Guest.

166. REPORTS

- (i) **Town Mayor’s Report:** None

(ii) **Police Report:** None

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

(a) **Mid Devon District Councillor Karl Busch** reported his concerns about MDCC's lack of a plan for Cullompton's economic development. *It was suggested that the Council sets up a sub-committee to look at economic development issues, to be considered at the April meeting.*

(b) **Mid Devon District Councillor Eileen Andrews** reported her concerns about charging Mid Devon tenants for some home repairs such as call outs for leaking pipes. She felt that some allowance should be made for elderly and disabled tenants that are unable to access their consumer unit or stop cock.

RESOLVED: That the Council asks Mid Devon to consider making elderly and disabled people exempt from some call-out/repair charges. Proposed Cllr Daniel Barnes, seconded Cllr Rachel Sinclair.

(iv) **South West Regional Conference** (attended by Town Clerk and Cllr Richard Thorne). Found the conference to be very informative.

(v) **Any other meeting reports:**

(a) **Neighbourhood Plan workshop** held on 22 March at the Hayridge, written report to be submitted.

(b) **Highway meeting:** Cllr Martin Smith reported that he had been invited to a highway meeting with the local MP. Will bring a full report to the next meeting.

(c) **Cullompton Community College:** Cllrs Rachel Sinclair and Daniel Barnes reported their attendance at an assembly with Years 7,8 and 9.

167. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

(i) **To approve the Financial Statements for February 2017**

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £23,298.26 for February 2017 are approved and the Financial Statements for February 2017 are approved.

NOTE: Include an update on the community asset transfer of the John Tallack Youth & Community Centre on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

(i) **Planning & Licencing Committee** meeting held on 2 March: Noted

(ii) **General Purposes Committee** meeting held on 21 February: Noted

(iii) **Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee** meeting on 21 February 2017: Noted

(iv) **S.106 Working Group** meeting on 22 February: Noted

(v) **Town Team meeting** held on 2 March 2017: Noted

(vi) **Community Wellbeing Committee** meeting on 14 March 2017: Noted

169. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

(i) To receive response from Devon County Council re highway infrastructure matters: Noted

(ii) To receive response from Mid Devon District Council re garage measurements and constructing a new road around the back of Knowle Lane: Noted

(iii) To receive response from Health & Safety Executive re visit to Kingfisher Reach: Noted

- (iv) To receive response from Devon County Council re repairs to Public Right of Way at Highbanks.

RESOLVED: Contact DCC to find out what they are going to do about the path at Highbanks as it won't be long before the section of footpath is too narrow to use. Cllr Guest offered to draft a letter. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

- (v) To receive response from MDDC re removal of play area fence at Culm Lea.

RESOLVED: That Mid Devon is asked to review their policy with regard to removal of fence as several complaints have been received about dog mess in the play area. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.

- (vi) To receive confirmation that Cllr Nikki Woollatt has requested that an item is placed on the agenda for the next MDDC Planning Policy Advisory Group meeting to discuss a policy that requires developers to adhere to their Construction Management Plans. Noted

- (vii) To receive response from Neil Parish MP re funding for Schools. *Deferred until the next meeting.*

RESOLVED:

1. That Items 170, 171 and 172 are deferred until the next meeting. Proposed Cllr Daniel Barnes, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson.
2. Extraordinary Town Council meeting to be held on Thursday 13 April to deal with any business remaining from this meeting.

170. MID DEVON TOWN AND PARISH CHARTER: To approve response. *Deferred.*

171. MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY COUNCILLORS

- (i) That the Council clarifies the role of Town Councillors on outside bodies (Cllr Mike Thompson). *Deferred.*
- (ii) To consider inviting MDDC Economic Development Officer to a future meeting to make a presentation (Cllr Kate Haslett). *Deferred.*

172. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Any correspondence received after the date of this agenda. *Deferred.*

RESOLVED: That as it was now 9pm to extend the meeting for no more than half an hour. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Martin Smith.

RESOLVED: That due to the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be discussed the following items are dealt with as Part 2 business and, in accord with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the 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 Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Daniel Barnes

173. To consider and approve signing of lease for land at Knightswood, Cullompton for siting of container and consider estimate for legal advice. Clerk reported that MDDC has rejected the Council's request that Clause 3.19 which states as follows: *"On completion of*

this lease to pay to the Landlord the sum of five hundred pounds (£500) by way of contribution to the legal and surveyors' costs incurred by the Landlord in the negotiation preparation and completion of this lease" is removed from the lease.

RESOLVED: That the Council continues to object to the clause being included in the lease as it considers that it will be paying £225 per year rent which can be used to cover the administration costs. Write to the Chief Executive.

174. To consider draft briefing document for feasibility study. Presentation by members of the Council's Public Convenience Working Group.

RESOLVED: That the Public Convenience Working Group continues to investigate the various options and applies to MDDC for funding for a feasibility study provided that there is no cost to the Council. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Eileen Andrews.

175. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 13 April 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____