



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 13 April 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, Camille Harrison, Kate Haslett, Janet Johns, Will Jones, Mike Thompson and Richard Thorne

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

Also in attendance: Chris Shears and Stephen Walford (MDDC) plus two members of the public.

176. APOLOGIES received and accepted from: Cllr Gordon Guest (unwell)

177. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None at this stage of the meeting.

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

- (i) Mr Chris Snow expressed concern with the contents of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2017 as they made no reference to any comments/objections made at Item 164 (Co-option). He felt that more information should have been recorded.

The Clerk explained that the Minutes are a record of the decisions made at the meeting, they are not intended as a verbatim report of any discussion that takes place.

- (ii) Mr Chris Snow asked if the Council was aware of Local Government Act 1972, Section 117 which requires officers to declare an interest in any contract proposed to be entered into by the Council in which he/she has a pecuniary interest, whether direct or indirect.

The Clerk will investigate and clarify.

NOTES

- 1. Cllr Eileen Andrews** declared a personal interest in respect of the following item as she is Vice-Chairman of the Cullompton Community Association (CCA).

2. **Town Mayor Rachel Sinclair** declared a personal interest in respect of the following item as she works for Aldi.
3. **Cllr Will Jones** declared a personal interest in respect of the following item as his grandparents own land through which the proposed Eastern Distributor Road may cross.

179. PRESENTATION BY AND DISCUSSION WITH CHRIS SHEARS, MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER: Chris Shears presentation included:

- Proposals to construct an Eastern Distributor Road (EDR) through the CCA Fields. It was stressed that the plan submitted to the Local Plan Inspector and published on the MDDC website is not the final design and, if the principle is accepted, then the final route is likely to change.
- Opportunities to provide a formal recreation space on land at the CCA Fields, following the construction of EDR, also protect some land as a wildlife habitat.
- The EDR and Garden Village proposals provide opportunities to explore different uses for some areas including Longbridge Meadow Industrial Estate, Alexandria Industrial Estate and also opportunities to re-open the railway station and create a transport hub.
- The re-opening of the station could provide a catalyst to attract additional infrastructure.
- Potential to redevelop the Aldi/Old Tannery sites.
- The courts off Fore Street provide opportunities to create interesting spaces in the town centre.
- Enhance walking and cycling routes to the town centre, create interesting routes around the town.
- Improve signposting to let people know what is behind the shops and buildings e.g. Walronds garden.
- Attract high-end shops into the Higher Bullring area.
- MDDC willing to work with the Town Council to investigate the potential of the Harlequin Valet site.

Councillor comments included:

- Consider relocating the station in the Longbridge Industrial Estate area as this is a quicker route into the town centre and has the potential to enable a spur off the main railway line.
- Ensure that the infrastructure is in place before the Garden Village takes-off.
- Ensure that there is alternative recreational land if part of the CCA Fields is lost to a new road. Suggested alternative is land between Millennium Way and the M5.
- Consider how initiatives fit with the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.
- Consider hydro-activity, take control of energy generation and water management.
- Concerns about the proposed route for the road but acknowledgement that the town needs a relief road.

- 180. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 23 March 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Martin Smith, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

181. ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- (i) **To receive response from Neil Parish MP re funding for Schools:** Disappointment that there has been no communication between Devon County Council and MP. **Noted.**
- (ii) **MID DEVON TOWN AND PARISH CHARTER: To approve response:**

RESOLVED: That the Council's response includes the following comments (Proposed Cllr Kate Haslett, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson).

- Strong on general wellbeing but concerns that MDDC does not always listen to local councils and local opinion. As the town goes into the Garden Village process would like an assurance that a vision will be agreed by the town, concern that the town has been let down by MDDC and will be again. e.g. design of second section of Swallow Way.
- Would like to see more of the town's District Councillors at Council meetings, written reports are fine but helpful to have Councillors present to listen to the views of the Town Council and feed back to Mid Devon.
- Better feedback when views are not upheld/acted upon.

(iii) **MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY COUNCILLORS**

- (i) **That the Council clarifies the role of Town Councillors on outside bodies (Cllr Mike Thompson):** Discussion included the role of the Town Team and meetings arranged and attended by individual Council members without consulting the Town Council.

RESOLVED: If any Council member wishes to arrange a meeting with an outside body then this should be with the agreement/resolution of the Town Council and the meeting arranged by the Town Clerk. Proposed Cllr Eileen Andrews, seconded Cllr Iain Emmett.

Discussion about written reports to be submitted to the Clerk and circulated with the agenda pack. To be formalised at the May meeting.

182. FINANCE

- (i) **Devon Association of Parish Councils** To approve payment of Devon Association of Local Councils subscription (£902.00 plus VAT).

RESOLVED: That the Council pays the annual subscription of £902.00 plus VAT to the Devon Association of Local Councils. Proposed Cllr Daniel Barnes, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

- (ii) **South West Councils:** To approve payment of subscription for employment support/advice (£369.00 plus VAT).

RESOLVED: That the Council pays the annual subscription of £369.00 plus VAT to South West Councils.

183. 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 23 March 2017: *Noted*
- (ii) **General Purposes Committee** meeting held on 21 March: *Noted*
- (iii) **Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee** meeting on 21 March 2017: *Noted*
- (iv) **S.106 Working Group** meeting on 22 February

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the S.106 Working Group meeting held on 22 February 2017 are noted and the following recommendations are approved:

- (a) That Mid Devon is asked to allocate play area funding from proposed development off Knowle Lane towards the improvement of Cross Parks Neighbourhood Park. (Proposed Cllr Janet Johns, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson).
- (b) That the Council's priority play areas and public open space project list is approved as follows: (Proposed Cllr Will Jones, seconded Cllr Daniel Barnes).
 - **Linear Park:** S.106 Funding available for youth shelter and fitness/youth equipment.
 - **Culm Lea:** S.106 Funding available for improvements to Culm Lea play area.
 - **Rivermead:** Badly in need of upgrade, small area, could use available s.106 funding plus grants.
 - **Upcott Field:** Scheme to be developed.
 - **Cross Parks:** MUGA, scheme to be developed.
 - **Public Rights of Way:** Widen path between Station Road and Higher Mill (find out if this is an acceptable use of s.106 play areas and public open space funding).
 - **Public Rights of Way:** Highbanks/Old Hill improvement to footpath to improve accessibility (find out if this is an acceptable use of s.106 play areas and public open space funding).

(v) Traffic & Environment Working Group meeting held on 14 March 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Traffic & Environment Working Group meeting held on 14 March 2017 are noted and the proposal to ask DCC to consider including parking restrictions on the Rivermead/Duke Street junction from the junction going towards ABC Nursery in the 2017/18 parking order is approved. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Rachel Sinclair.

(vi) S.106 Working Group meeting held on 5 April 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the s.106 Working Group meeting held on 5 April 2017 are noted and the followed following recommendations are approved. (Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Camille Harrison).

- That the s.106 Working Group and the Public Convenience Working Group are combined to form the Development and S.106 Working Group to bring forward projects for the town and community and
- that the Council appoints a volunteer Economic Development Officer to take an active interest in economic development matters relating to Cullompton.

NOTE: Discussion with regard to the role of Economic Development Officer, suggested that this is renamed Economic Development Champion so that it is clear this is a voluntary role.

RESOLVED: That the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee is delegated to draft the terms of reference for the role of Economic Development Champion. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Will Jones.

184. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

- (i) Technology infrastructure:** To receive response from MDDC and agree any action required.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk requests clarification from MDDC of the meaning of the final sentence of the response. Proposed Cllr Kate Haslett, seconded Cllr Rachel Sinclair.

- (ii) **Planning legal advice: To receive response from NALC/DALC and agree any action required.** *Noted*
- (iii) **Devon banks: To receive response from Mid Devon District Council with regard to protection of Devon banks.** *Noted*
- (iv) **John Tallack Youth & Community Centre: Update report:** Discussion about charging for admission to the youth sessions as young people are just hanging about outside so that they don't need to register and pay a £1. Suggestion that the charge becomes a donation, so that everyone is able to register without the need to pay. Cllr Mike Thompson requested that the Council is provided with a breakdown of the income and expenditure for the JT Centre.

NOTE:

1. Agenda item for a Town Council meeting to review the Income and Expenditure before any funds are transferred to the John Tallack Youth & Community Centre.
2. Councillors were invited to a youth club open evening at the JT Centre on Monday 24 April at 7.30pm.

RESOLVED: That as the time is 9pm, extend the meeting until 9.15pm in order to complete the agenda. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Daniel Barnes.

- (v) **Forge Way Car Park Survey: To receive results report**

Cllr Karl Busch left the meeting.

RESOLVED: Cllr Camille Harrison and Chris Standford offered to analyse the data. Council happy to accept this offer.

185. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Involve:** Grant report. *Noted*
- (ii) **Healthwatch Newsletter:** *Noted*
- (iii) **Email from local resident re omission of information about the CCA Fields in the Crier:** Make CCA aware that the Council is happy to include articles in the Crier.
- (iv) **Town website, automated response to email enquiries still not working:** Clerk to make enquiries.

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 Janet Johns.

PART 2

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS WERE REQUESTED TO LEAVE BEFORE THIS SECTION OF THE MEETING COMMENCED

186. To consider and approve signing of lease for land at Knightswood, Cullompton for siting of container and consider estimate for legal advice. The Clerk reported that MDDC were not willing to waive the £500 contribution towards legal and surveyors' costs incurred in the negotiation, preparation and completion of the lease.

RESOLVED: That the Council agrees to the terms and conditions and signs the lease. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Iain Emmett.

NOTE: The Clerk apologised to Cllr Mike Thompson for providing him with incorrect information in relation to the Council's Standing Orders (Clause 25).

187. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 27 April 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____