



**MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council
held on
Thursday 22 June 2017 commencing at 7pm at Cullompton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr Iain Emmett (in the chair)

Cllrs: Daniel Barnes*, James Buczkowski, Camille Harrison, Kate Haslett, Rachel Sinclair, Martin Smith, Mike Thompson and Richard Thorne.

Also in attendance: Cllr John Berry (DCC) and one member of the public

*In attendance for part only of the meeting

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk

- 33. APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received and accepted from: Cllrs: Eileen Andrews (personal), Karl Busch (personal), Gordon Guest (personal), Janet Johns (personal) and Will Jones (work) , Also Mid Devon District Councillor Rosemary Berry (meeting).
- 34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllrs: James Buczkowski, Kate Haslett, Rachel Sinclair, Mike Thompson plus the Town Clerk declared a personal interest in respect of the presentation by Barclays Bank as they are all Barclay's customers.
- 35. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** To receive questions from member of the public present at the meeting: None
- 36. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 1 June 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Martin Smith.
- 37. CLOSURE OF BARCLAYS BANK: Presentation by and discussion with Andrea Edge, Acting Community Banking Director:** Andrea Edge was accompanied by Michael Watts, the bank's Community Banking Director for Cornwall and Devon. He made a presentation explaining the reasons for the decision to close the Cullompton branch from September which included:
- Customer behaviour changing significantly, people changing the way in which they buy goods and services and also more widespread use of direct debits.
 - This has led to a significant reduction in footfall in the branch and means that is not viable to continue to keep the branch open.

- Research has shown that 50% of the branch's customers are already using other branches locally.
- It will be possible to pay cheques and cash in at the post office. Cheques will take two additional days to process. Barclays have a facility whereby high volumes of cash can be collected direct from the customer.

Cllr Daniel Barnes joined the meeting

- The bank has done a lot of work 'behind the scenes' to help vulnerable customers.

Cllr Mike Thompson stated his concerns about the impact on elderly and vulnerable customers and also the lack of consultation. He explained that houses are being built rapidly, with the town likely to double in size. Those people will require banking services and he asked that the bank reconsiders its decision to close the branch.

Michael Watts explained that the decision will not be reversed, the various factors had been taken into account before taking the decision and there is no opportunity to change it.

- Vulnerable customers will be able to use telephone banking which is 24/7 and has a voice recognition facility.
- The building is not owned by Barclays Bank and the lease will be disposed of through a managing agent. There are currently 2 parties interested.

Michael Watts and Andrea Edge were thanked for attending and they left the meeting.

NOTE: The members of the Youth Council joined the meeting and introduced themselves.

38. REPORTS

- (i) **Town Mayor:** Cllr Iain Emmett reported his attendance at:
- Excellent cocktail party at Hillesdon House to raise money for the Swimming Pool Campaign and Art House project.
 - Raising the flag for Armed Forces Day at Phoenix House.
 - Presentation by Tesco of c.£300 from book sales to the 'Save Cully Play Parks' Group for Head Weir Road play area.
 - Consultation in the Town Hall on Friday 23 June re NW Urban Extension proposals.

NOTE: Cllr Rachel Sinclair declared a personal interest in respect of discussion relating to parking restrictions in Brook Road as she works for Aldi.

- (ii) **County/District Councillors:** Devon County Councillor John Berry congratulated the Town Mayor on his recent appointment. He has been appointed to the following Committees: Health & Adult Care Scrutiny, Estates and Farms, Highway and Traffic Order Committee (HATOC) and Blackdown Hills. Discussion ensued about parking restrictions in Cullompton and closure of hospital beds in Seaton, Axminster and Honiton.
- (iii) **Police:** Police report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Noted.
- (iv) **Garden Village Meeting held 24 May 2017:** Report prepared by Cllr Gordon Guest. Noted
- (v) **Culm Valley Dementia Action Alliance (Councillor Janet Johns):** Noted, ask Cllr Janet Johns for a quick verbal report at the next meeting.
- (vi) **Any other reports.** None.

39. BUSINESS AND FINANCE: To approve Financial Statements for April/May 2017

RESOLVED: That approval is declined and deferred until the next meeting in order to clarify issues with the year end close down of the 2016/17 accounts.

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 25 May and 8 June 2017: Noted
- (ii) **Christmas Lights Working Group** meeting on 5 June 2017: Noted
- (iii) **Community Wellbeing Committee** meeting on 13 June

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 13 June 2017 are noted and the recommendation that Terms of Reference as detailed in the minutes are adopted is approved.

NOTE: The Committee were asked to review the Emergency Plan at its next meeting. It was also suggested that a simulation exercise is arranged.

RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks is recorded to town council staff for the way in which they look after the cemetery, flower beds etc.

40. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- (i) **IT project: To consider support for project as presented at the Council meeting on 1 June 2017.**

RESOLVED: That this item is deferred for a written report.

- (ii) **Construction Management, Knowle Lane: To consider response from MDCC:** Response discussed, concern that the general tone of the letter was that “there is nothing Mid Devon can do”. It was felt that this was an appalling response, and that Mid Devon are ‘letting people down’ and appear to have no enforcement powers.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the letter is forwarded to Neil Parish MP, Devon County Councillor John Berry, the Chief Executive of Mid Devon District Council, the Chairman of Mid Devon District Council and the Leader of Mid Devon District Council. Include a covering letter listing all the resident’s concerns and explain that this is the support we are getting. Everyone making excuses and nothing being done to resolve the problems. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor to approve the letter before it is sent. Proposed Cllr Rachel Sinclair, seconded Cllr Mike Thompson.

41. MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY COUNCILLORS

- (I) **Cllr Will Jones: That the police are asked to monitor speed of traffic in Honiton Road.**

RESOLVED:

1. That this item is passed to the Traffic & Environment Working Group for consideration.
2. That the Council investigates training for traffic speed testing.

NOTE: That Traffic & Environment Working Group to be asked to look at visibility at zebra crossings and speeding in Millennium Way.

42. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Mid Devon District Council:** Changes to domestic and recycling collection rounds. Noted
- (ii) **Estimate for replacing broken glass panel in bus shelter:** Clerk asked the Council to approve an estimate for £153.55 plus VAT as the work was needed urgently due to jagged glass in the frame.

RESOLVED: That the estimate of £153.55 plus VAT for replacement of glass in a bus shelter in Willand Road is approved. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

- (iii) **Mid Devon District Council:** Closure of customer services facility at Hayridge.

RESOLVED: That the Council joins with Crediton Town Council to object to the closure of the customer services facility at the Hayridge from 24 July 2017.

- (iv) **Member of the public:** Management of St Andrews car park.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk does not enter into any further correspondence with the member of the public and explains that the Council will be reviewing the management of the car park. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Rachel Sinclair.

- (v) **Mid Devon District Council:** Air Quality Management meeting, 6 July 2017. Noted
- (vi) **Mid Devon District Council:** Fencing around play areas. Noted
- (vii) **Local resident:** Concern about proposals to construct a road through the CCA Fields: Agenda item for the next meeting.
- (viii) **Mid Devon District Council:** Newsletter.
- (ix) **Love Cully Weekend:** Scheduled for first weekend in September.
- (x) **Outdoor Cinema Event:** Cullompton Rugby Club, Saturday 24 June, hope to see some of you at the event.

43. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 27 July 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____