

APPENDIX A



MINUTES of a Meeting of Cullompton Town Council held on

Thursday 26 October 2017 commencing at 7pm at Cullompton Town Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Iain Emmett (in the chair)

Cllrs: James Buczkowski, Gordon Guest, Kate Haslett, Janet Johns, Liza Oxford-Booth, Martin Smith, Mike Thompson and Richard Thorne.

Also in attendance: Cllr Nikki Woollatt (MDDC) and approximately 30 members of the public.

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk.

86. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs: Eileen Andrews (personal), Daniel Barnes (personal) and Rachel Sinclair (personal). Also Cllr Rosemary Berry (MDDC) and Cllr John Berry (DCC).

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

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

(i) Tracy Sellens: reported her concerns about anti-social behaviour at Tufty Park, particular concerns being noise levels and intimidation of younger children. She asked the Council to consider putting a curfew on the park, and presented a petition, signed by 18 nearby residents, which states as follows:

“To stop groups of teenagers coming into Tufty Park causing anti-social behaviour and to put a curfew in place. We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act to stop anti-social behaviour in the area of Tufty Park, Cullompton.

PCSO Jonathan Sims reported that the Police have received 13 police logs since 13 May 2017 about anti-social behaviour at the park. On the occasions when the Police have attended they did not come across any anti-social behaviour. Unfortunately the Police do not have the resources to attend every time there is a complaint.

Cllr Martin Smith offered to talk to the young people.

The Town Mayor thanked Mrs Sellens for bringing this matter to the attention of the Council and explained that the Council will consider how best to deal with it in liaison with the Police and other organisations.

- (ii) **Mr Mark Hiscox** asked the Council to consider taking responsibility for Culm Lea play area. This request was supported by approximately 20 residents from Culm Lea all present at the meeting. He explained that the residents have been asking Mid Devon District Council to reinstate a fence since its removal in February 2017.

It was explained that the Council will be considering this request later in the meeting and it was

RESOLVED: To move Agenda Item 10 to this stage of the meeting to enable to residents to hear the debate and then leave the meeting if they wished to.

- 89. CULM LEA PLAY AREA: To consider request that responsibility is transferred from Mid Devon District Council to Cullompton Town Council:** Report circulated with the agenda, MDDC are willing to lease the play area to the Town Council and also give the Town Council control of the s.106 funding available to improve the play area.

Cllr Mike Thompson expressed concern about additional pressure on the Town Council finances, he felt that this was “double taxation” and not value for money for the local Council Tax Payer. However Cllr Gordon Guest felt that the Town Council could probably arrange for a new fence to be erected a lot cheaper than MDDC and still have quite a lot of money left for play equipment. Also the Town Council has a successful record in obtaining grant funding for play areas.

It was felt that it is central government that has put councils in a situation where services are being passed to the Town Council but that we need to do what’s best for the people that live in our community.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council takes responsibility for Culm Lea play area with the proviso that the Town Council has control of the s.106 funding provided by Devonshire Homes for the improvement of the play area. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Martin Smith.

NOTES

1. It was noted that s.106 Funding cannot be spent on play area maintenance.
2. Cllr Mike Thompson asked that it be recorded that he had grave concerns about the Council’s future spending.
3. Cllr Mike Thompson requested a recorded vote. Voting was as follows:

FOR: Town Mayor Cllr Iain Emmett and Cllrs: James Buczkowski, Gordon Guest, Kate Haslett, Janet Johns, Liza Oxford-Booth, Martin Smith and Richard Thorne.

ABSTENTION: Cllr Mike Thompson

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Hiscox and all the Culm Lea residents for attending and they left the meeting.

90. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Section two)

- (i) **Mrs Webb** asked the Council if it had approved changes to the Cemetery and Installation of Memorials policies as her family would like to install a kerbing set around a side by side (double) plot.

It was explained that this item was due to be discussed later in the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Item 9(iii) is brought forward to this section of the meeting to enable the family to hear the debate and then leave the meeting if they wished to. Proposed Cllr Janet Johns, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

91. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2017 and approve the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 3 October 2017 are noted and the recommendation contained therein to revise the Cemetery Policy and the Policy for the Installation of Memorials at Cullompton Cemetery are approved. Proposed Cllr Janet Johns, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

NOTE: General Purposes Committee now need to confirm the charge for the installation of a double kerb set in Cullompton cemetery.

92. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (section three)

(i) **Mr Chris Snow** reported his concerns with regard to the Town Council website.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council obtains clarification from the Devon Association of Local Councils and its solicitor about what information it is legally obliged to publish on its website. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr James Buczkowski.

93. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on 28 September 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

94. RESIGNATION: To receive notification that the Council now has a vacancy due to the resignation of Camille Harrison and note that there will an election on 30 November 2017 to fill the vacancy left by Karl Busch.

RESOLVED: That the Council sends a letter of thanks to Camille Harrison for the contribution she made to the Council and the Town during her time as a member of the Council. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

95. DATE OF DECEMBER MEETING: To consider changing the date of the December meeting to Thursday 14 December 2017.

RESOLVED: That the December Town Council meeting is held on Thursday 14 December 2017 (instead of the scheduled date, 28 December 2017).

96. REPORTS:

(i) **Town Mayor:** The Town Mayor reported that he had attended two shop openings in the town in the past week and that five new businesses had opened in the town centre during October. He opened the town's Food & Drink Festival on 14 October and had enjoyed walking around meeting people.

(ii) County/District Councillors.

Mid Devon Councillor Nikki Woollatt's report included:

- Meeting next Friday for the Garden Village Steering Group.
- State of the District Debate on Monday 6 November to discuss the future of policing in Mid Devon.
- Discussion with Cllr Mike Thompson about report to MDDC Cabinet dated 7 March 2017 which states that the Town Council used its pedestrian sweeping machine for less than two hours per day. He considered this statement to be incorrect as the Town Council had used the street cleaning machine for about 6 hours per day until it was taken away. Cllr Woollatt agreed to take this up with MDDC.

(iii) Police: PCSO Jonathan Sim had been called away from the meeting but had left crime figure reports with the Town Clerk. Details were read out and noted.

(iv) Any other reports.

(a) Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Gordon Guest circulated an up-date report to all those present, this included dates of future Neighbourhood Plan meetings.

97. BUSINESS AND FINANCE:

(i) To approve payments for September 2017

RESOLVED: That payments totalling £52,049.02 for September 2017 are approved. Proposed Cllr Janet Johns, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

NOTE: Cllr Mike Thompson queried a payment to Exeter Road for £363.60, Clerk will look up the details and get back to Cllr Thompson with the relevant information.

(ii) To review and note Financial Statements for September 2017. Noted

(iii) TAP Fund: To consider support for Bradninch Town Council's application for replacement windows at West End Hall.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports Bradninch Town Council's TAP Fund application for replacement windows at West End Hall. Proposed Cllr Gordon Guest, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

(iv) Grant Request: To consider application from Cullompton Community Association for £200 towards the 10% match funding required to access grant from Viridor to purchase a new grass tractor mower.

RESOLVED: That, as the Town Council has funding available in its "Grants" budget, it makes a contribution of £200 to the Cullompton Community Association towards the 10% match funding required to access a grant from Viridor to purchase a new grass tractor mower. Proposed Cllr James Buczkowski, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

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

(i) Planning & Licencing Committee meetings held on 28 September and 12 October: Noted

- (ii) **Traffic & Environment Working Group** meeting on 26 September: Noted
- (iii) **General Purposes Committee** meeting held on 3 October: (Considered at Item 91). Noted.
- (iv) **Policy Review Working Group** meeting on 3 October: Noted
- (v) **Community Wellbeing Committee** meeting on 10 October including the following recommendation: That the Council investigates effective traffic calming for High Street, Fore Street and Exeter Hill, including pedestrian safety on crossings.

- (vi) **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 10 October are noted and the recommendation is deferred back to the Committee to draft letters to Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council about effective traffic calming for High Street, Fore Street and Exeter Hill, including pedestrian safety on crossings. To include request for developer contributions.

- (vii) **Christmas Lights Event Working Group** meeting on 11 October: Noted.
- (viii) **Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee** meeting on 17 October

NOTE: Cllr James Buczkowski declared a personal interest in respect of Item (a) below as he is the trustee of another youth organisation.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee held on 17 October are noted and the recommendations are approved as follows:

- (a) That the Council retains the JT Centre balance of £5813.24 in order to cover the £2,500 budget shortfall for youth services in 2017/18 and to assist with the cost of future youth service provision.
- (b) That grant payments are approved as follows:
 - Friends of the Library: £85.00
 - Cullompton Family Centre: £250.00
 - The Woodmill Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust: £300.00

(ix) **St Andrews Car Park Working Group** meeting held on 16 October: Noted

99. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Devon Air Ambulance: Newsletter.
- (ii) Devon County Council: Highways Parish & Town Council conference at Willand Village Hall on Friday 10 November.
- (iii) St Andrews Church: Remembrance Sunday Service, 12 November at 10am followed by procession to the War Memorial.
- (iv) Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice: Grant report form.
- (v) Resident St John Court: Concern about lack of street name plate which has led to difficulties with deliveries etc.

100. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 23 November 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____