



Minutes of a meeting of Cullompton Town Council held on Thursday 10 January 2019 commencing at 7pm at Cullompton Town Hall

Present: Cllr Iain Emmett (in the chair) and Cllrs: Eileen Andrews, Kerry Baldwin, Ian Findlay, Janet Johns, Kate Haslett, Will Jones, Lloyd Knight, Liza Oxford-Booth, Michael Oxford, Martin Smith, Mike Thompson and Aisha Troake*.

Also in attendance: three members of the public.

Judy Morris: Town Clerk

*As Cllr Aisha Troake had not completed her Register of Interests form within the 28 day's allowed for this she did not take part in voting and left the meeting before the Part 2 business was transacted.

It was noted that the meeting is being recorded.

- 129. APOLOGIES** received and accepted from Cllr Jordann Barge (unwell) and Cllr Gordon Guest (personal).
- 130. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** None at this stage of the meeting.
- 131. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** Chris Snow asked the following questions:
- (i) When does the Council intend to update spending over £500 on website? *Clerk responded that the last quarters payments over £500 will be posted on the website the next day.*
 - (ii) Is this council still a quality council as per your stationery headings? *Clerk confirmed that the Council is not a Quality Council.*
 - (iii) Does this council have the General Powers of Competence? *Clerk confirmed that the Council does have the General Power of Competence.*
 - (iv) Could you please tell the public and councillors what that means? *Clerk provided a very brief explanation of what the General Power of Competence means.*
 - (v) Do you keep a record of supervisor / management visits to council property? *Clerk confirmed that the Council does not keep a record of supervisor/management visits to council property.*
 - (vi) Why does the clerk get involved in debates? Surely that is not allowed: *Town Mayor explained that the Town Clerk is sometimes asked to provide advice on a matter.*

- (vii) Have all councillors had basic training / or advanced training? *Town Clerk explained that some Councillors have attended training that is relevant to their Committee/Council work.*
- (viii) Does the council keep a list of councillors and their training? *Town Clerk confirmed that the Council does keep a list of training attended by Councillors and staff members*
- (ix) Why do councillors propose illegal use of project money as a loan to another working group? *Clerk explained that this was mistake.*
- (x) Do councillors understand their liabilities / accountability for public spending? *Councillors confirmed that they do understand their liabilities/accountability.*

132. MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meetings held on 13 December 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Liza Oxford-Booth, seconded Cllr Janet Johns.

133. COUNCIL VACANCY: To consider applications for co-option One application received from Ian Findlay, Ian made a short presentation to the Council and a paper vote was taken.

RESOLVED: That Ian Findlay is co-opted to fill the vacancy left by James Buczkowski.

NOTE: Ian Findlay signed the Declaration of Office and joined the Council.

134. REPORTS

Town Mayor: Reported that the Post Office has recently appointed a new Post Master, Post Office to remain in its current location but no date for re-opening yet.

He then made the following statement:

"I wish to clarify the position regarding the letter sent to a minority number of councillors prior to the meeting on 13th December. The author confirmed it was not sent to all councillors or the Clerk. It was described as a lobbying letter & was not a communication to the Town Council. The letter was misrepresented at the meeting and after on social media - this cast a shadow of doubt over the role played by the Clerk & Mayor. I personally feel that this needs to be addressed & clarified which I am doing here.

Further this was reinforced & compounded by a comment on social media which related to & suggested a political movement & development of cliques in the council. I wish to point out that other local town councils have such groupings which is perfectly acceptable however this Council has no such political group controlling a majority group or controlling business. Indeed from knowing other councillors there are affiliations and support for a very wide span of views; Green, Independent, Liberal, Conservative, Humanist etc.

The decisions we take are all majority decisions based on an open vote, there are to my knowledge no pre meetings or private meetings or any whip process to control voting. I believe that Council staff & councillors are within their rights to receive a public apology & request a process to scrutinise other activities detrimental to the council "

He then read some quotes from the Cullompton Moan & Groan Facebook page about the ongoing scrutiny of an individual member of staff by a member of the public.

- (i) **Any other meeting reports:** Cllr Lloyd Knight reported that there is a meeting of the Larger Local Councils Committee on 14 February.

135. RESOLUTIONS: List to review: Noted.

RESOLVED: That the list of resolutions is edited before the next meeting and all completed matters removed in order to shorten the document. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Kerry Baldwin.

136. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS: To receive the Minutes of the following Committees and Working Groups and approve the recommendations contained therein:

- (i) **Planning & Licensing Committee** meeting held on 13 December: Noted
(ii) **Town Centre & Economic Development Committee** meeting held on 6 December 2018: Noted

NOTE: Cllr Mike Thompson asked about an offer from a member of the public to pay for the flagpoles to be erected in High Street (in the area of the War Memorial) and the Town Clerk confirmed that the offer will be considered at the next meeting of the Town Centre and Economic Development Committee on 7 February.

- (iii) **Community Wellbeing Committee** meetings held on 11 December and 19 December including the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meetings held on 11 December and 19 December are noted and that the recommendations are approved as follows:

- (a) That in the Spring Festival edition of the Crier, there should be an article included (not a 'pull-out') which highlights that there is a Council Election coming up and which informs the reader of what being a Councillor entails.

RESOLVED: That, due to the short timescale between the Spring Festival and the election, instead of including the information about the Council election in the Crier it produces a leaflet to encourage people to stand in the Town Council election on 2 May. Proposed Cllr Iain Emmett, seconded Cllr Kate Haslett.

- (b) That, as the results of the first Garden Village consultation is due at the end of January, this should be mentioned in the Crier.

RESOLVED: That Mid Devon District Council is requested to write an article for inclusion in the March issue of the Cullompton Crier with regard to the Garden Village initiative. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Iain Emmett.

- (c) That, as the results of the Relief Road consultation are due at the end of January, this should be mentioned in the Crier.

RESOLVED: That Mid Devon District Council are requested to write an article for inclusion in the March issue of the Cullompton Crier with regard to the Relief Road consultation. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Iain Emmett.

- (d) Cllr. Johns suggested that a post advertising that the Crier is due to be distributed (in the near future) is added to Facebook and should include a note to any prospective advertisers.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council advertises, on its Facebook page, when the Crier is due to be published and encouraging local businesses to advertise. Proposed Cllr Janet Johns, seconded Cllr Liza Oxford-Booth

- (iv) **Youth Services Working Group** meeting held on 18 December: Noted

137. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

- (i) **Speed Watch Scheme: To receive update:** The Devon & Cornwall Speed Watch scheme is currently under review, until the review is completed no new schemes will be accepted.

RESOLVED: That as there will be a Town Council election in May 2019 that the Council defers Joining the Speed Watch Scheme under after the election. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Will Jones.

- (ii) **Bus stop, Tiverton Road: To receive details of new location:** Concern that the new location is very close to the School Crossing Patrol.

RESOLVED: That the Council writes to Devon County Council Highways & Traffic Order Committee (HATOC) querying the revised location for the bus stop as it is close to the School Crossing Patrol. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Iain Emmett.

NOTE: Cllrs Eileen Andrews and Iain Emmett declared a personal interest in respect of the following item as they are both United Charities Trustees.

- (iii) **Cullompton United Charities: Concern about speed of traffic along Honiton Road and request for suitable warning sign.**

RESOLVED: That the Town Council writes to Devon County Council in support of the request by Cullompton United Charities for speed warning signs in Honiton Road. Explain in the letter that the Council has previously requested speed limit repeater signs but that previous requests were rejected by Devon County Council. Proposed Cllr Eileen Andrews, seconded Cllr Kerry Baldwin.

138. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) **Campaign to Protect Rural England:** Newsletter. *Noted*

- (ii) **Mr M MacIlroy:** Status of Shortlands Lane. *Noted*

- (iii) **Mid Devon District Council:** Local Plan Review Examination to be held at Phoenix House 14/15/19/20 February. *Noted*

- (iv) **Mid Devon District Council:** Annual State of the District Debate, 24 January. *Cllr Will Jones offered to attend on behalf of the Town Council.*

- (v) **Mid Devon District Council:** Local Government Boundary Commission review meeting 30 January 2019. *Noted, invite Deputy Town Clerk to attend.*

- (vi) **Mid Devon District Council:** Newsletter. *Noted*

(vii) Royal Garden Party: Nominations for ballot required by 23 Jan. *If any Councillor would like to be nominated for the ballot then please let the Clerk know.*

(viii) Mid Devon District Council: Offer to attend Town Council meeting, either public or in private session, to provide an update on the relief road consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accepts MDDC offer to attend the Town Council meeting on 24 January 2019 to provide an update on the relief road consultation.

NOTE: Cllr Eileen Andrews apologised for not attending recent meetings due to severe illness. She thanked Cllrs Janet Johns, Lloyd Knight and Mike Thompson for their kind assistance during her period of illness.

RESOLVED: that due to the sensitive nature of the business to be discussed, the following item is 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 Will Jones, seconded Cllr Lloyd Knight.

139. COMPLAINT: To review complaint relating to Head Weir Road play area and agree way forward. Details of the complaint and a background report had previously been circulated to all Councillors. Discussion about ways to minimise any anti-social behaviour associated with the play area.

RESOLVED: That, as the Council would not want to start a precedent, this matter is referred to the Council's solicitor with a request the he reviews the complaint and then writes to the complainant. Proposed Cllr Mike Thompson, seconded Cllr Iain Emmett.

140. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 24 January 2019 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** _____