



Town Clerk: Miss Joy Norris MSc ACIS

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Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held remotely on Thursday 14 January 2021 commencing at 19:00 hrs

Present

Chair: Councillor J Buczkowski

Councillors: E Andrews, R Dietrich,ⁱ G Guest, K Haslett, J Johns, J Lochhead, M Rowe and M Smith.

In attendance

Officers: J Norris (Town Clerk) M Weston (Deputy Town Clerk)

1 members of the press attended the meeting

3 members of the public attended the meeting

187. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor made a number of announcements starting with his attendance at the Christmas Festival on 19 December and thanked the Festival Team along with the Farmers Market and the Walronds for putting on the event.

The Boundary Commission for England have made their final recommendations regarding Mid Devon which would see Cullompton have 6 district councillors. If approved by Parliament the changes will take effect in 2023.

Mid Devon District Council have granted planning permission for the relocation of Cullompton Cricket Club and the relief road.

The Town Council has received notification from MidDevon District Council that the bid for 19 High Street was unsuccessful.

The Mayor urged everyone to follow the government's current advice and stay at home unless it was absolutely necessary and for everyone outside to follow the mantra of "hands, face, space". Cullompton was experiencing a surge in COVID cases and currently has one of the highest infection rates in Devon.

Finally the Mayor reminded everyone that the Town Council currently has 4 councillor vacancies to be filled by co-option and the deadline for the receipt of completed applications is 21 January 2021.

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 19:55hrs and resume at 20:05hrs to enable participation in the clap for carers.

188. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dale.

189. Declarations of Interests

No Declarations of Interest were made regarding any items on the Agenda.

190. Public Participation

This agenda item allows members of the public present at the meeting to raise matters which are relevant to Cullompton.

Speaker 1

1. Payments for authorisation - timers for the Christmas trees – what happens with the old timers as it seems new ones are bought every year?
2. The speaker said that over the years he has asked a number of times for a debate on the precept. The national average increase is 4-6% why 14% in Cullompton? The speaker requested an extraordinary meeting with public to discuss the precept level and let the public be involved in how money is spent in their town.

Speaker 2

1. Within these austere times the Town Council seems to be intent on having a huge spending spree. The market is making a loss but the budget includes money for gazebos. The precept needs to be discussed in more detail with public involvement.
2. No 19 High Street – will the £60,000 allocated to the project be returned into the fund?

191. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020 were considered. (Supporting Paper A to the Agenda)

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

192. Action List

The Action List relating to the Town Council was reviewed and noted. (Supporting Paper B to the Agenda)

193. Budget 2021/2022

The Town Council's budget and financial plans for 2021/2022 including a risk assessment were considered. (Supporting Paper C to the Agenda, also used for Agenda No 8)

RESOLVED that the budget as set out in Appendix A to these minutes with an expenditure of £532,781 to be funded by £71,300 income / brought forward / reserves and the balance by the precept is approved.

194. Precept

The Town Council's precept for 2021/2022 as considered. (Supporting Paper C to the Agenda also used for Agenda No 7)

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Cullompton Town Council precept for the year 2021/2022 is £461,481.00
- (ii) that the amount of money to be requested from Mid Devon District Council is a precept of £461,481.00

195. Medium Term Financial Plan

A Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021/2022 – 2023/2024 was considered. (Supporting Paper D to the Agenda)

RESOLVED to note the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021/2022 – 2023/2024

196. Committees

(i) **Committee Membership**

A request was considered from Councillor Dale to come off the Town Centre and Economic Development Committee and go onto the Cemetery and Town Hall Committee

RESOLVED that Councillor Dale comes off the Town Centre and Economic Development Committee and goes onto the Cemetery and Town Hall Committee

(ii) **Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee - Chair**

Following Cllr Buczkowski's decision to step down as Chair of the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee, the appointment of a Committee Chair was considered.

RESOLVED that Cllr Lochhead be elected as Chair of the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.

197 Youth Services Working Group

Consideration was given to adding Cllr Buczkowski and Cllr Rowe to the core membership of the Youth Services Working Group.

RESOLVED that Cllr Buczkowski and Cllr Rowe are added to the core membership of the Youth Services Working Group

198. Recommendation from the Community Wellbeing Committee – Allotment Policy

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Community Wellbeing Committee regarding the adoption of a revised allotment policy. (Supporting Paper E to the Agenda)

RESOLVED that the allotment policy attached to these minutes as Appendix A is adopted and implemented.

Note: 19:55hrs the meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes

199. Recommendations from the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee - Volunteer Policy

Consideration was given to a recommendation from Policy, Finance and Personnel Committee regarding the adoption of a volunteer policy. (Supporting Paper F to the Agenda)

RESOLVED that the volunteer policy attached to these minutes as Appendix B is adopted and implemented.

200. Payments for Authorisation

To examine and agree the accounts due for payment. (Supporting Paper G to the Agenda)

RESOLVED that the invoices due for payment totalling £26,564.73 gross and the Direct Debits and standing authorisation items of £970.70 be approved.

201. Members Questions

There were no Members' questions.

The meeting closed at 20:16hours

¹ Cllr Dietrich added to list of attendees in accordance with minute 206 Town Council 28 January 2021

Agreed