

Cemetery around the new graves. The Town Clerk stated that as a result of this the lower part of the Cemetery, inside the entrance, may not be maintained to the same level.

Mr Herniman asked if he could read out a statement regarding conduct of councillors at meetings. He hoped councillors would not bring any disputes between themselves to the meeting and that they should be acting in the best interest of the town.

Mr Henderson pointed out that the South Molton Business Association does not legally exist at the moment and was wondering what the Town Council would be doing about the Winter Wonderland booking in December. The Town Clerk replied that he had already emailed Mr Walker of SMBA and that he had replied that he would be calling a special meeting of SMBA as soon as possible. The Town Clerk and Mayor had informed Mr Walker that the booking would be reviewed at the end of July.

Cllr Moore asked when the BMX Track would be opening and the Clerk replied that the Council was waiting for the fencing around the track to be completed which should be within the next few weeks.

59/16 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council 28 June 2016

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be unanimously approved.

60/16 **EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL DOCUMENT**

Members noted that an Exclusive Right of Burial document granted on 22 September 2015, in the name of Kevin Andrew and Mrs Carol Ann Rendle, in respect of Plot P023 in South Molton Cemetery had been transferred to Plot P033 with effect from 22 July 2016.

61/16 **NDC'S REFUSE AND GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**

Cllr Moore had requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion and outlined NDC's proposals regarding the introduction of a chargeable garden waste collection service, a weekly food waste collection with a three weekly cycle for normal waste. Cllr Moore informed members that this had not yet been agreed by NDC but that it had been implemented in other areas in Devon. Cllr Moore also mentioned the fact that Bratton Fleming had a composting scheme in the village and suggested that South Molton Town Council should speak to either Rodney Cann or Malcolm Prouse to gather further information on that scheme. Cllr Moore asked that the Clerk circulates the minutes of the NDC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 July 2016 to all members. As per the agenda no resolution was made on this item.

62/16 **CAMPAIGN FOR POSSIBLE HOSPITAL CLOSURES**

Cllr Goodman had requested that this item be placed on the agenda and members noted a report that he had compiled. Cllr Goodman reported on the campaign group that had been formed regarding the possible closure of community hospitals. He asked members if they were happy for him to attend

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any future meetings of the group in order that South Molton is represented and kept up to date with any future developments and this was unanimously agreed.

63/16 REFUGEES IN SOUTH MOLTON

Cllr Foster explained to members the situation as it stands at the moment regarding the Refugee Forum for relocating and housing refugees. A discussion ensued with questions and statements from the floor and the following was RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Council writes to NDC urging them to actively engage in the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. Unanimous
2. That an article is included in the next SMTC newsletter and news from SMTC in South Molton News explaining the scheme and asking anyone with a suitable property likely to be vacant for 5 years to contact the Town Clerk. 6 For 4 Against.

64/16 AMORY CENTRE – ROOM HIRE WITH NDC

Members noted a report compiled by the Town Clerk and it was RESOLVED to accept the proposal that NDC relinquish their lease for the hire of the room adjacent to the Town Clerk's office in the Amory Centre before its expiry date of 2 November 2018. The agreement states that, since the room has been re-let to another organisation, the deal incorporates provision that no financial loss will be suffered by the Town Council and that cover by NDC in the reception area will be guaranteed for the four years from 1 October 2016.

65/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Further to a recent informal meeting with councillors and Maria Bailey in respect of the above it was RESOLVED that Maria Bailey Consultants Ltd be appointed, at a maximum cost of £7000, which can be claimed back from the Government, to proceed with the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan for South Molton. It was further RESOLVED that Cllrs Bushell, Cornelius and Foster be nominated to be part of a Neighbourhood Working Party and the Clerk will ask Cllr Worden if he would also like to be part of this forum.

66/16 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

The Town Clerk apologised to members that due to a break in he had not had time to compile a report but outlined the following:

- a) A break-in had occurred in the Constables Room in the Town Hall and he had been dealing with the Police regarding this matter that afternoon.
- b) The Clerk had managed to establish the buyer of Norringtons Yard and that this was a company called Spirebourne Ltd based in Witheridge, who deal with septic waste. They exchanged last month and are apparently waiting to complete after the present landowner has removed the underground tanks at the property.

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67/16 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- a) Cllr Bushell had recently attended a joint meeting between Somerset and Devon Associations of Local Councils re Heart of the Southwest Devolution prospectus (scheduled for 24 August). He said agreement was required on who would attend (suggesting 5 reps plus the County Secretary and including one rep from the Larger Councils Committee and others around the region) on the status of Devolution deals/proposals.
- b) No issues were raised by North Devon Councillors.
- c) PCSO Paul Whitehouse informed members that crime was still low in the area and that police numbers are still being reduced. He also mentioned that there was a new sergeant for the area on a temporary basis.
- d) Cllr Yabsley informed members that the Police and Crime Commissioner would be addressing DCC on Thursday.
Cllr Yabsley mentioned the Link Road consultation bid and hoped that the Town Council had submitted its own reply to the consultation survey to which the Town Clerk replied that this had already been done.
Cllr Yabsley also mentioned that there was a Devolution meeting this Thursday and that this was hopefully soon to be negotiated with the minister responsible.
Cllr Yabsley advised that Beech House is soon to be placed on the open market.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman

Date