

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.00PM

Present: In the Chair Town Mayor Cllr S. W. Lock
Cllr M. Bushell Cllr M. Cornelius
Cllr Mrs J. H. Foster Cllr D. J. Goodman
Cllr Mrs C. E. Lock Cllr E. J. Moore
Cllr M. F. Way Cllr D. Worden
Cllr Mrs S. Yeo

In Attendance: Town Clerk Mr A. C. Coates.

68/16 **PRAYERS**

The meeting was opened in prayer by the Mayor's Chaplain.

69/16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Kingdon and Lewis.

70/16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

71/16 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Goodman advised members that he thought it would be a good idea to write to the North Devon Healthcare Trust, the CCG and our local MP regarding the possibility that has been put around in the press that the A & E., the Stroke and the Maternity units at the hospital may shut. Cllr Goodman suggested that in this letter we state it would be ridiculous to close these units, especially as the North Devon Hospital covers remote areas in Devon. Cllr C. Lock also suggested that we also write to the Health Secretary. Members were in agreement that this should be done.

72/16 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No matters were raised by members of the public.

73/16 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council 26 July 2016

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved. Cllr Worden abstained as he was not present at the meeting of 26 July 2016.

74/16 **DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION**

It was RESOLVED that the following documents be signed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and witnessed by the Town Clerk:

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot P34 – Mr Kevin and Mrs Carol Ann Rendle, 6 Paramore Way, South Molton, EX36 4BW

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot P36 – Mr Roger B. Searle – 6 Parsonage Lane, South Molton, EX36 3AX

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Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot P23 – Mrs Dorothy Greenslade, Elliott House, Filleigh, Barnstaple, EX32 0RL

75/16 Cllr Worden had requested that the following issues be placed on the agenda for members consideration and the following was RESOLVED:

- a) That no resolution be made on placing bollards at the South Street end of Queen Street.
- b) Following discussion and information gathered by the Town Clerk on the composting scheme at Bratton Flemming it was RESOLVED to investigate further the possibility of installing a composter in South Molton and arranging a visit to Bratton Flemming with the Town Clerk and some councillors.
- c) That we write to the County Council and ask for enforcement action to be taken where utility companies have failed to make good where the highways and pavements have been dug up and not replaced properly.
That the Town Council registers its dissatisfaction with the state of the pavement slabs in the centre of South Molton and ask the Highways authority to re-examine the process involved in determining pavement defects bearing in mind the number of accidents they are causing and the cost to the NHS.
That letters be written about this to Councillors Stuart Hughes, David Whitton and Jeremy Yabsley with copies going to Richard Sables, Bob Short and our MP.

76/16 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**

- a) Norringtons Yard Area – the Town Clerk informed members that he had asked NDC to look into the Council purchasing the land where the old Recycle Shop used to be. NDC are in the process of valuing this for best value and the Town Clerk will bring this back to full Council once a figure has been discussed.
- b) Fire in Central Park – the Town Clerk reported that on Sunday night there was a fire at the Skatepark in Central Park where part of the outside fencing was totally destroyed. The Police have been informed and a crime number given and the Clerk reported that the Town Council staff would be replacing the fencing later this week.
- c) Town Hall & Pannier Market – The Town Hall and Pannier Market scaffolding will all be taken down by the end of next week. The Clerk reported that there are still some outstanding drain issues separate from the main contract which will require discussion by the Council.
- d) Pannier Market Toilets – The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council have taken over the cleaning of the toilets as from 26 September 2016 and that they would be inspected periodically during the day and he also reported that the new toilet next to the disabled toilet has now been open 24 hours a day for several weeks.
- e) Pathfields Business Park Phase 4 – The Town Clerk reported that the Council had formally applied for funding for the roadway on its part of the land at Bucknell Way the amount being for £1 million. The Council was informed yesterday that there are 20 applicants chasing the same fund so the Council may not be

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successful. If this is the case, the Council will need to do a business plan to establish whether the project is viable in its present form.

- f) Neighbourhood Plan – the next meeting which will be one of the first public meetings will be held on Saturday 22 October 2016 at 10am in the Town Hall.
- g) Local Government Finance Settlement – In this consultation which continues until 28 October 2016 the main relevant questions are regarding the possibility of capping the precept increase for Town and Parish Councils. The consultation is suggesting that the items to be discussed are that the larger precepting authorities (£500,00 or more) will have to hold a referendum to increase the precept over 2%. This therefore will not affect South Molton Town Council. However there is Clause 3.3.6 which states the Government “may extend the referendum principles to all local precepting authorities”. The Town Clerk intends to say ‘no’ to Clause 3.3.6 as he believes Town Councils should have flexibility as the bottom tier of local government regarding their own precept especially as services have been devolved from District and County levels.
- h) Tourist Information Centre – The Town Clerk reported that the new committee of the TIC decided that the TIC is not financially sustainable going forward. It was agreed to pass the website over to the Town Council for a trial period together with the leaflets and some of the surplus stock which would be displayed in the foyer of the Amory Centre. There would be no extra cost to the Council for this interim measure but if it works well at the Amory Centre the Town Clerk would bring it back to the full Council for further discussion. The Town Clerk informed members that the Council had put in £13,950.00 over recent years and the Finance Committee have considered the finances of the TIC on several occasions. The TIC Committee did stress it was nothing to do with the Council that they had decided to wind up the TIC in South Molton.

77/16 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- a) Cllr Bushell reported that the DALC Annual Report mentioned a report compiled by the Town Clerk regarding the outdoor gym equipment in Central Park. He also mentioned that the DALC AGM would be held on 11 October to include break-out discussion groups to include relevant topical issues.
Cllr Goodman reported that the PIP Centre in Central Park would now be sub-letting to a local charity.
Cllr Foster mentioned that she and Cllr Worden had attended the Care Commissioning Group EGM on 31 August which was widely thought was to do with the closure at North Devon Hospital but was in fact to sign off their own closure of community beds and that this document was no longer relevant.
Cllr Foster also mentioned the Wetlands Group and advised that the grant deadline had passed so the group had withdrawn from this round of funding.
Cllr Foster told members that Devon Wildlife Trust was still working with the group.
- b) Cllr Moore attended the North Devon Homes AGM whereby it was reported that the new office would soon be opening at the Amory Centre in South Molton.

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- c) Graham James mentioned that there had been a few incidents recently with windows being smashed and intruders in some businesses in South Molton. The police were anxious to keep crime down in South Molton at its low level and he also mentioned that there had been some parking issues within the town. The next meeting of the Crime Prevention Panel would be held on 19 October.
- d) Cllr Yabsley was not in attendance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chairman

Date