

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2017 AT 7.00PM**

Present: In the Chair Town Mayor Cllr S. W. Lock
Cllr M. Bushell Cllr M. Cornelius
Cllr D. J. Goodman Cllr Mrs J. Foster
Cllr M. J. Kingdon Cllr Ms T. Lewis
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.

150/16 **PRAYERS**

In the absence of the Mayors Chaplain the meeting was opened in prayer by Cllr Worden.

151/16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lewis.

152/16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were read out by the Town Clerk:

Cllr Bushell – DPI – Item 7 – Brother has consulted with Mr Tucker

Cllr Cornelius – Personal Interest – Item 7 – Drink in The George

Cllr Goodman – DPI – Item 9b) – Chairman of South Molton Hospital League
of Friends

Cllr Kingdon – DPI – Item 15 - My land agent is involved.

DPI – Item 16 – My land agent is involved

Cllr Way – DPI – Item 15 – Interested in purchasing some land

Cllr Worden – Personal Interest – Item 7 – Know applicant

153/16 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil.

154/16 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident asked whether there were any plans to tidy up the area where the old recycle shop used to be situated as it was looking very untidy. The Town Clerk replied that SMTC were in the process of negotiating a licence agreement with NDC so that the Molton Meddlers be given permission to paint the walls and remove the rubbish at that site.

155/16 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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It was unanimously RESOLVED that these minutes be approved subject to Minute No 138/16 (Public Participation) being amended with an additional comment to read "Cllr Bushell invited people to attend the Neighbourhood Plan

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meeting to be held on Monday 6 March 2017". It was also agreed that Minute No 146/16b) (Representatives to report on meetings attended) be amended to read "£80,000 per annum".

It was agreed that Item 14d) on the agenda be considered next.

156/16 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- d) Cllr Yabsley reported that purdah was now effective due to the Devon County elections and as a result Cllr Yabsley would take questions only. Cllr Bushell asked about the replacement of the railings at the bottom of Church Walk Steps to which Cllr Yabsley replied that this was all in hand.

Cllr Bushell declared a DPI in the following item and left the meeting.

157/16 **HIRE OF PART OF THE ENHANCEMENT**

Members noted that Mark Tucker of the George Hotel had requested that the Town Council considers giving him permission to hire an area on the enhancement for the period April to September for 7 days a week from 10am to 9pm each day. This would allow tables and chairs, plus a coffee cart, to be placed on the enhancement. It was unanimously RESOLVED that this request be approved. Members also noted that a fee for this request has already been agreed by the Finance Committee.

Cllr Bushell re-joined the meeting.

15816 **NORTH DEVON WARD BOUNDARIES**

Cllr Worden reported on the proposed changes to ward boundaries within the North Devon District and it was agreed that Councillors should start thinking about the proposed changes and that this should be discussed at a later date in the future.

159/16 **'SAVE OUR HOSPITAL SERVICES'**

- a) Cllr Worden reported on the demonstration being held on Saturday 1 April 2017. A march would take place from Central Park to the hospital where there would be a red ribbon displaying "don't close our hospitals".

Cllr Godman declared a DPI in the following item and left the meeting.

- b) Members noted a copy of a letter from Bideford Town Council requesting support for the above initiative. It was unanimously RESOLVED that SMTC would wait until there were more concrete proposals regarding the funding requirement. Councillors did make it clear that they are concerned about potential hospital closures.

Cllr Goodman re-joined the meeting.

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160/16 **ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION**

It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Town Council would recognise local achievements by means of a letter from the Town Council but that each individual put forward for a letter be considered by Council for approval. Cllr Bushell then put forward four people for consideration by members, Solo pilot Miss Ellie Carter – unanimously approved, footballer George Friend – unanimously approved, female jockey Liz Kelly – 9 For 2 Abstained and cake designer Karolina Andreasová – unanimously approved.

161/16 **SOUTH MOLTON ART DESTINATION**

Following a recent informal meeting, when members discussed the document produced by Peter Newell, a resolution is now required to recognize this document and to agree to form a small working party of Councillors and other interested parties to progress this initiative. It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept this document and members also asked that congratulations be passed to Peter Newell who worked hard in compiling the final Art Destination report. It was further RESOLVED that Cllrs Bushell, Cornelius, S. Lock and Worden be appointed to form a Working Party to take this initiative forward.

162/16 **CARNIVAL 2017**

Cllr Way asked if members would be interested in participating in this years Carnival event. It was agreed that this item be placed on an agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

163/16 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**

The Town Clerk reported on the following:
Quality Status – Town Clerk reported that he would be putting South Molton Town Council forward for the first stage in becoming accredited as a Quality Town Council. He mentioned that should the Council receive this accreditation SMTC would be the first Town Council in North Devon to achieve this under the new regime.

164/16 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- a) Cllr Bushell thanked the Council for helping with the Neighbourhood Plan newsletter and he reported that the Neighbourhood Steering Party has been well attended by other interested parties. The next meeting is to be held on 3 April 2017 at 6.30pm in the Amory Centre.
Cllr Bushell also reported on the recent NALC Conference when he and the Town Clerk were in attendance. Items which were of interest at this event were: Business Rates increase and the lobbying of the Government in this matter; Planning Workshop attended plus Quality Status and Employment Law Workshops.
Cllr Foster thanked Cllrs Moore and Worden for helping to create a Forest School in the Community Woodlands.
Cllr Foster also mentioned the new Public Space Protection Orders which will include control of dogs and which will be coming into effect later this year.
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- b) Cllr Moore reported that he had been to an Overview and Scrutiny meeting where the future of PCSO's was discussed. Cllr Moore also mentioned the potential closure of Chivenor and informed members that there is a possible problem regarding accommodation for marines at Plymouth and that no deal had yet been agreed for the future of Chivenor.
Cllr Worden mentioned that the Town Clerk had received a letter from Shaun Sawyer, Chief Constable of D & C Constabulary, but that Cllr Worden had only received a letter from Alison Fernandez, Police & Crime Commissioner.
- c) Sgt Dan Brenchley read out an email from Inspector Roger Bartlett who is due to retire on 21 April thanking the Town Council for their support over the years and it was suggested that the Town Clerk writes to Inspector Bartlett recognising the work he has done in the area.
Graham James informed members that his role was now a Response Officer and the Council thanked Graham for his hard work policing in South Molton.
- d) Cllr Yabsley had reported to members earlier in the meeting.

165/16 It was RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business by virtue of relating to legal-commercially sensitive matters and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council.

168/16 It was RESOLVED that the meeting return to open session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.28pm.

Chairman

Date