

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 25 JULY 2017 AT 7.00PM

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

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

59/17 **PRAYERS**

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

60/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cornelius, Foster and Lewis.

61/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were read out by the Town Clerk:
Cllr Mrs C. Lock – Personal Interest – Item 10 – On the Committee of Twinning
Cllr S. Lock – Personal Interest – Item 10 – Chairman of Bad Bevensen
Twinning

62/17 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nil.

63/17 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public asked how often the Town Hall windows were cleaned. The Town Clerk replied 'infrequently'.

64/17 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Extra Ordinary Town Council 22 June 2017

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved. Cllrs Worden and Yeo abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

Town Council 27 June 2017

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved. Cllr Yeo abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

65/17 **POLICE AND DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

- a) No Police were in attendance.
- b) Cllr Yabsley reported on various highway issues that were being addressed at the moment which included the resurfacing of The Gavel; the barrier at the bottom of Churchwalk steps; the raised crossing at the C of E Primary School and the works to be undertaken on the drains and blocked gullies in the parish.
Cllr Bushell also asked that Cllr Yabsley liaise with the Town Clerk regarding the abolishment of Business Rates for local councils.

Continued ...

66/17 **DOCUMENT FOR EXECUTION**

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

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot P40 – Capt Andrew Mills – 7A Church Street, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex, CO6 1TU

67/17 **BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

Cllr Worden reported on the above and it was RESOLVED that the suggestion of a further District Councillor for South Molton parish be passed on to the Boundary Commission. It was also agreed that Mill on the Mole should be brought in as part of South Molton parish for the North Devon District Boundary Review purposes. 4 For, 3 Against, 1 Abstained.

68/17 **FINGER SIGN ON ENHANCEMENT**

Following lengthy discussion on the above issue, and after several amendments to the resolution to proceed with the installation of the finger sign on the enhancement, the substantive motion was rejected by Councillors and therefore no motion was carried. 5 Against, 3 For, 1 Abstained.

69/17 **LOCAL PLAN**

Members noted that the revised Local Plan for North Devon and Torridge 2011-2031 “Schedule of Further Proposed Main Modification” had been received for consideration. There were two amendments suggested to convey to North Devon Council as follows:

- i) That one field in Limers Lane be allocated as a Football/Sports Hub
- ii) That the minimum amount of houses be increased by 250 to accommodate the new school intake. 7 For 2 Abstained.

70/17 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**

The Town Clerk reported on the following items:

Town Hall Flagpole – awaiting new fixings and contractors to lower the existing pole.

Spraying and Hedge Cutting – the kerb weeds at New Road and North Road have been sprayed with weedkiller and the hedge up to Pathfields Park roundabout will be trimmed on Friday.

Linhay Repairs – these should be completed by the end of next week weather permitting.

Tapestry in New Assembly Room – a protective ultra-violet film has been placed over this tapestry to protect from UV light.

Old Recycling area – the open day for the new games area will now be held on 19 August at 11am with the press and Leader of NDC in attendance.

Baker Estates and Land off Gunswell Lane – Council is still awaiting final response from Baker Estates regarding the land off Gunswell Lane.

Professional advice will be sought once a response is received.

Pathfields Business Park 4 – awaiting quote from Alan Dart Groundworks for the costs of the infrastructure road.

Continued ...

Pathfields Business Park 4 Tender – this will be ready for submission to interested parties on the week commencing 7 August 2017.

71/17 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- a) Cllr Bushell mentioned that at a recent DALC meeting he had discussed the fact that local councils should not be burdened with the cost of Business Rates especially on non-commercial properties.
- b) Cllr Worden said that at a recent District Council meeting the problem Modern Day Slavery was discussed and that people should keep an open eye for any such occurrence.

72/17 **COUNCILLORS PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Bushell asked the Council to support him on his initiative to negate the requirement for Local Councils to pay business rates on non-commercial properties. Councillors were broadly in agreement with this and would support Cllr Bushell in his initiative. Cllr Bushell also asked the Town Clerk to look into becoming a member of Devon Communities Together.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.34pm.

Chairman

Date