

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM

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

73/17 **PRAYERS**

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

74/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C. Lock.

75/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

76/17 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed members that the Mayor, Cllr Christine Lock, was looking after her father in Barnstaple Hospital who was seriously ill and asked that the Council passes on their regards.

77/17 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised by members of the public.

78/17 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved. Cllrs Cornelius and Lewis abstained as they were not at that meeting.

It was agreed that Item 8b) on the agenda be considered next.

79/17 **POLICE AND DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

- b) Cllr Yabsley informed members of the ongoing highways works in the area. He also mentioned that the problems with drains in South Molton would be addressed as and when the contractors were in the near vicinity. He did ask that a list of problem drains be forwarded on to him. Cllr Worden also mentioned about the School Funding for the Community College which was the lowest percentage increase in the whole county.

80/17 **RIVER TAW FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**

Mr Ian Blewett from RTFA was in attendance and addressed members outlining

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the aims of the association and reported on the potential threat of pollution in our local rivers due to the increased housing development proposed. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to South West Water in order to clarify the sewerage issues discussed and to obtain assurances that the sewerage and drainage infrastructure would be able to cope with the increase in the number of houses in South Molton.

81/17 **POLICE AND DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

- a) Inspector Paul Searle addressed members on the future policing personnel in South Molton, the policing of the Link Road and the concept of County Lines. A question and answer session followed.

82/17 **DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION**

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

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot Q3 – Mrs Janice Watkins, Fort House, 36 East Street, South Molton, EX36 3DF

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot L1491 – Mrs Jennifer Elizabeth Aker, Northcott, Cooks Cross, South Molton, EX36 4AW

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot P42 – Mrs Elsie Stone, 63 Hugh Squier Avenue, South Molton, EX36 3DP

83/17 **NORTH DEVON LINK ROAD**

Cllr Worden extended his sympathy to all those who had recently lost their lives on the Link Road and thanked the 'Blue Light' services. He requested that the Town Clerk writes to Devon County Council requesting a meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport and other interested parties. It was unanimously RESOLVED that this proposal be accepted.

84/17 **WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**

Cllr Worden reported that he had received several complaints regarding missed collections and it was suggested that the Clerk write to the Leader of NDC asking him to come to a meeting with Councillors.

85/17 **BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

Cllr Worden reported on the proposed changes by the District Council for the new wards to be submitted to the Boundary Commission and he informed members that the proposal was to include Filleigh and Mill on the Mole with South Molton ward seats. Cllr Bushell commended NDC for taking on the proposals as agreed by South Molton Town Council at their last meeting by increasing the number of District Councillors for this area from two to three.

86/17 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**

Due to time constraints the Town Clerk did not report fully on certain items although these items had been included within the Councillors Weekly Report. Downpipes in Pannier Market – a drainage company had been out today to

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quote to blast the pipes which were blocked and which caused the flash flooding a few weeks ago.

The Town Clerk also reported that the Asbestos removal from 1 East Street and the renovations of the gents toilets would commence on or around 11 October 2017.

87/17 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- a) No reports were received by Councillors.
- b) North Devon Councillors Moore and Worden did not report on any issues.

88/17 **COUNCILLORS PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Worden informed members that the School Funding for the Community College in South Molton was increasing by 0.5% this year and by 1% the year after which was the lowest increase in the whole of the County and represented £160,000 a year less than the national average. It was suggested that the Town Clerk writes to DCC asking for an explanation as to why South Molton was receiving less than the rest of the County. It was also agreed that this item be placed on the agenda of the November Town Council meeting.

89/17 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.

91/17 It was RESOLVED that the meeting return to open session..

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.54pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....