

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 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 S. W. Lock  
Cllr E. J. Moore Cllr M. F. Way  
Cllr D. Worden

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

107/17 **PRAYERS**

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

108/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Kingdon and C. Lock

109/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were read out by the Town Clerk:  
Cllr Cornelius – Personal Interest – Item 16 – Wife is a Trustee of the pool.  
Cllr Goodman – Personal Interest – Item 12 – Owner is a friend.  
Granddaughter works there.  
Cllr S. Lock – Personal Interest – Item 8 – Relation  
Personal Interest – Item 12 - Friend

110/17 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed members that the Budget Meeting had been set for Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 6.30pm in the Amory Centre.

111/17 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised by members of the public.

112/17 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council 24 October 2017  
It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved. Cllr Worden abstained as he was not present at the last meeting.

113/17 **POLICE AND DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

- a) No Police were in attendance.
- b) Cllr Yabsley was not in attendance.

It was agreed to consider Item 12 on the agenda next as a representative of Quince Honey Farm was in attendance

114/17 **QUINCE HONEY FARM**

Members noted a copy of a document from Quince Honey Farm in support of

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their proposed relocation. It was RESOLVED that a Working Party be set up to report back to the Full Town Council in order to maximise the full potential for South Molton for the re-location of Quince Honey Farm. It was further RESOLVED that this Working Party consists of a representative of the Arts Destination Group, the South Molton Business Association, Shop Local Shop Unique, Cllrs Foster and Cornelius and Mr I. Wallace from Quince Honey Farm. 4 For 3 Against

The time being 7.20pm Cllr C. Lock joined the meeting.

**115/17 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 P48 – Mr Kevin Nicholls, 33 Exeter Gate, South Molton, EX36 4AN

**116/17 COUNCILLOR ADVOCATE SCHEME**

Members noted that The Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez, Is looking for one nominated person within each Council to act as the link between the Council, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the local Police team. It was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr Worden be appointed to act as a Councillor Advocate.

**117/17 FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS**

Cllr Worden had proposed the following motion: 'That the Town Council expresses its concern that the Government's recent announcement of 'fair funding' for schools results in a further real term cut for many schools in North Devon, including South Molton Community College. Accordingly Council calls on the MP for North Devon to actively seek an improvement to the level of funding for our schools for 2018/19' It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept this motion with the additional comment that extra spaces for children in the future should also be considered.

**118/17 ELECTION OF TOWN COUNCILLOR**

Members noted that an election will be held on 11 January 2018 and it was Unanimously RESOLVED that the District Council be advised that we do not require Poll Cards to be issued.

**119/17 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**

The Town Clerk reported on the following:  
The Town Clerk reported that the 'Staircase Tax (Communal Areas)' brought in by a Supreme Court ruling had been rescinded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Autumn Statement. This means that the Town Council should receive a rebate of approximately £6000.

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The Town Clerk also reported that the Pathfields Business Park Phase 4 was awaiting re-submission of the grant of £217,000.

120/17 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- a) Cllr Bushell had attended a NALC meeting and the issue of Business Rates for Councils was brought up at this meeting and this was being lobbied as it was considered unfair for Councils to pay Business Rates on certain properties Cllr Bushell informed members that a Postcard Initiative would be held in the Parish Church which was being organised by members of the Arts Group. Cllr Bushell informed members that the Arts Group was also looking at potential websites as an Arts Destination for South Molton.
- b) Cllr Worden reported on the recent Sports Hub Committee meeting which proved very positive with many organisations present. Cllr Worden had recently attended a Crime Prevention Panel meeting and he mentioned that more representatives were needed to sit on this panel. Cllr Worden mentioned that the Police had given a presentation recently regarding internet scams. The Town Clerk was requested to forward the information regarding this.

121/17 **EASEMENT**

It was RESOLVED to grant an easement through the Transfer Station (South Molton Metals) to connect a water pipe from Lime Way 2 Abstained – Cllrs Cornelius and Moore

122/17 **SOUTH MOLTON SWIMMING POOL**

Members noted a brief report from the Town Clerk and it was unanimously RESOLVED to accept his suggestion of awarding grants for South Molton Swimming Pool as follows:  
2018/19 - £6000.00; 2019/20 - £5000.00; 2020/21 - £4000.00

123/17 **COUNCILLORS PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Bushell mentioned electric points for charging cars in South Molton. The Town Clerk advised that he was already reviewing this.  
Cllr Worden wished to thank everyone for such a good evening on the recent Christmas Lights Switch on.  
Cllr Moore mentioned that parking fines that had arisen during the Christmas Light Switch on and the Sunday Antiques Market.

Cllr Yabley joined the meeting and he reported on potholes in the town and stated that it was up to residents to report potholes before any action was taken by DCC.

124/17 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.

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126/17 It was RESOLVED that the meeting return to open session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.36pm

Chairman .....

Date .....

**TOWN COUNCIL – 28 NOVEMBER 2017**

**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

**APPENDIX A**

125/17 **LAND AT NORTH ROAD**

Members noted a report from Savills detailing the history of the problems encountered with this parcel of land. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Town Council tries to negotiate the best price for the land and if not successful that the Council would wait until the end of the Option Agreement before any further consideration or action be taken. The Town Clerk pointed out to members that there could be a potential problem with the Council land being land locked during the development. Members noted this.