

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM

Present: In the Chair: Town Mayor Cllr P. J. Henderson
 Cllr M. Bushell Cllr M. Cornelius
 Cllr Ms. J. Footman Cllr R. Herniman
 Cllr M. Hulland Cllr Ms. T. King
 Cllr Mrs C. E. Lock Cllr S. W. Lock
 Cllr M. F. Way Cllr D. Worden

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

1. **PRAYERS**

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

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Kingdon.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Bushell – Personal Interest – Agenda Item 9 – Chairman of Arts destination Group.

Cllr Worden – Personal Interest – Agenda Item 9 – Member of Arts destination Group.

Cllr Cornelius - Personal Interest – Agenda Item 9 – Wife organising 'Deep Roots Festival'.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

6. **DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

Cllr Yabsley DCC was not present at the meeting but the Town Clerk read out an email from Cllr Yabsley regarding the link through to Station Road and the relevant TRO/advertising which is now being applied for.

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council – Budget Meeting	14 th January 2020
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Town Council	28 th January 2020
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Town Council – Extra-ordinary	13 th February 2020
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It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved as follows:

14th January's Town Council Budget Meeting – 10 For, Cllr Bushell abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

28th January's Town Council Meeting – 10 For, Cllr Cornelius abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

13th February's Town Council Extra-ordinary Meeting – 10 For, Cllr Bushell abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

8. **GRACE FOR POLLINATORS**

Naomi Buck gave a short presentation regarding a community action group that is campaigning for wildflowers and green spaces around South Molton. At the end of the presentation Cllr Worden congratulated Naomi for all her hard work committed to this project.

9. **OLDE ENGLISH FAYRE**

Stella Levy from the Arts Destination Group gave a short presentation regarding the Deep Roots Festival and it was RESOLVED that the Town Council should manage the Olde English Fayre element (crowning of the Queen and Mayor's lunch/buffet) and that this should take place on the same weekend as the 'Deep Roots Festival'. 10 For, 1 Against.

10. **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Cllr Worden reported that the Climate Change week would involve (amongst other things) a Plastic Free Open Evening in the Library and Tree Planting at Quince Honey Farm. Cllr Worden said that he hoped that many parishes would participate in these events.

11. **COMMUNITY GUARDIANS**

The Mayor reported that he and the Town Clerk had had a meeting with the Dog Warden: Ray Jones and it was suggested that South Molton could trial a scheme where a lead group of Community Guardians would identify and report any dog fouling to the Dog Warden.

12. **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Cornelius reported that the DALC meeting had been cancelled.

NDC Cllr Bushell reported to members that the Swimming Pool Grant would be on the next NDC agenda. Cllr Worden then added that the Swimming Pool item would be taken to the Strategies Committee and that a business plan is required from 1610 in order for a grant to be considered.

NDC Cllr Worden informed members that the setting of the NDC Council Tax charge would be discussed at the next NDC meeting and the recommendation was for a £5 per year increase for band D properties.

NDC Cllr Worden also mentioned that the Corporate Peer Review for NDC is being held this week.

13. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**

The Town Clerk had nothing to report.

14. **NOMINATION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2020/2021**

The Mayor requested nominations for the above and following a show of hands:

It was RESOLVED that Cllr P. Henderson be the Mayor of South Molton for the ensuing municipal year 2020/2021. 9 For 2 Abstained.

After the nomination the Mayor asked that a line should be drawn under any personal conflicts and that all Cllrs should work together for the betterment of South Molton.

It was further RESOLVED that Cllr S. Lock be the Deputy Mayor of South Molton for the ensuing municipal year 2020/2021.

The initial voting was a tie between Cllr S. Lock and Cllr M. Hulland with 5 votes each and 1 abstention. Consequently, the Mayor had the casting vote.

After some deliberation it was agreed that the decision would be made by tossing a coin with the result as above.

Cllr Ms J. Footman left the meeting at this point.

15. COUNCILLOR'S PARTICIPATION

Cllr Worden was investigating the viability of a footpath through to Quince Honey Farm. He asked that the Town Clerk look into the land owned by the Town Council that was alongside the road to Quince Honey Farm.

Cllr Worden also mentioned that at a Plastic Free meeting that he attended, it was suggested that a water fountain could be placed in the centre of South Molton. The Town Clerk mentioned that this had been previously looked into and that he would pursue it further.

Cllr Mrs C. Lock mentioned that she was thinking of organising a Teddy Bear's Picnic in the Central Play Park on Saturday 13th June. She also informed members that the official opening of Sellick Court would take place on Friday 28th February at 2pm.

The Town Clerk read out an email from Cllr Ms J. Footman regarding the following issues:

- Parking in West Street
- Delays to the opening the of the Mole Ridge Way junction onto North Road
- Best British Pannier Market Ceremony

Cllr Ms J. Footman and Cllrs would like to give their deepest congratulations for the work of the Pannier Market team for reaching this final.

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.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting return to open session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.24pm

Chairman.....

Date.....