

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00PM

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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 D. Worden  
Cllr M. Way

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

1. **PRAYERS**

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

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman mentioned the sad milestone of 100,000 Covid-19 related deaths as reported today. He also informed Councillors that in South Molton and surrounding Parishes there were only seven reported cases in the week leading up to 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021. He also advised that four fixed penalty notices had been imposed due to Covid-19 breaches.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council

15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes. Cllr Way abstained as he did not attend the previous meeting. Cllr Footman abstained as she was not present at the commencement of the previous meeting.

6. **DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

Cllr Yabsley reported on the following:

- Borners Bridge Section 106 potential refund was in the hands of the Legal Team at DCC.
- The Drain Jetter is currently around the South Molton area.
- Cllr Yabsley had attended a Social Care and Health Scrutiny Meeting and would send the relevant paperwork on to the Town Clerk for circulation to all Councillors.

Cllr Bushell suggested there could be a problem with the drains being blocked in Gas Lane. Cllr Yabsley said he would ask Highways to inspect the drains.

Cllr Footman enquired about the state of the potholes in Parsonage Lane, Cllr Yabsley reported that work is programmed for repair the bottom end of the road.

Cllr Herniman mentioned that the drains on the B3137 were still blocked, Cllr Yabsley replied that Highways were aware of the problem.

Cllr Cornelius mentioned the potholes at the top of New Street linking with East Street, Cllr Yabsley replied that he would mention this to Highways.

7. **EAST STREET DOUBLE YELLOW LINE PROPOSALS**

Cllr Cornelius gave a brief overview of the proposals regarding the parking restrictions in East Street. After further discussion, it was RESOLVED that the Council strongly opposes this proposal. This is because at least five on-street car parking spaces would be lost with this proposal, which is contrary to the recommendations made by the Town Council for the South Molton Car Parking Review which is in the process of being appraised by DCC Highways. It was also suggested that the Town Clerk writes to Stuart Hughes of DCC. For: Cllrs Henderson, Cornelius, Way, Bushell, Footman, Hulland and Worden.

Abstained: Cllr Herniman.

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

- a) Cllr Footman had attended a CCG Public Stakeholder Meeting at which it was advised everything was running smoothly at Northern Devon Health Care Trust. Cllr Worden mentioned that people were delighted that they were now receiving their vaccinations.
- b) Cllr Worden informed Councillors that he had put forward a motion at a NDC meeting regarding virtual meetings that are only legal until May 2021. He suggested that the Town Council write to RT Hon Robert Jenrick in order to extent the time limit. As there were no objections from Councillors the Town Clerk confirmed that he would follow this through. Cllr Bushell informed members that NDC had suffered an income loss during the pandemic and it had been suggested that an actual 10p/week be added to the Band D Council tax in order to fund some of the shortfall. This has not yet been fully ratified by NDC. Cllr Henderson mentioned that he had been interviewed by Local Radio regarding the press release concerning the Town Council precept for 2021/22.

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

The Town Clerk reported on the following:

- Councillors were probably aware that masonry had fallen off a building at the top of South Street opposite the Cheese Larder narrowly missing a one year old child. The incident was reported to NDC Building Control who did visit the building to ensure it was safe. Building Control also stated that they would be writing to the owners of the building.
- That he had received a few comments on the state of repair of Linhay and Bandstand at the Recreation Ground. This is being reviewed and should be repaired in the next few months.
- The Pannier Market – going very well and had 580 visitors on Saturday, with no more than twenty people in the market at any one time.

- Woodland Trees – unable to ascertain who had planted the forty trees at the bottom of the BMX track. Cllr Bushell suggested that The Council issue a Press Release to try and establish who had planted the trees.
- Cllr Bushell commented on the poor state of the windows of the Corn Market building. The Royal Mail currently has the lease of the building, The Town Clerk would review the contents of the lease regarding dilapidations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chairman.....

Date.....