

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2021 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 M. J. Kingdon Cllr Mrs. C. E. Lock
 Cllr S. W. Lock Cllr M. F. Way
 Cllr D. Worden

In Attendance: Mr. A. C. Coates – Town Clerk
 Mrs. C. Bere – Finance Administrator

1. **PRAYERS**

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

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Worden – Personal - Agenda Item 7 –attends the meetings of One Northern Devon

The Town Clerk announced that he would permit a blanket personal interest for all Councillors regarding who had attended meetings of One South Molton (Agenda Item 7).

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed Members that Cllr Jeremy Yabsley would not be present at the meeting today and that he had received an email from him to read out at the meeting regarding Highways issues.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council – Budget

18th January 2021

Town Council

26th January 2021

It was unanimously RESOLVED that both of these minutes be approved. Cllrs Footman and Hulland abstained for the meeting on 18th January 2021 as they were not present at that meeting. Cllrs King, Kingdon, C Lock and S Lock abstained as they were not present at the meeting on 26th January 2021.

6. **DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

In Cllr Yabsleys absence the Chairman read of the following:

- The Link Road improvements are separately funded from the annual Highways Maintenance Budget.
- No reduction in funding from DCC for Public Transport post lockdown
- New junction Mole Ridge Way/ North Road – adoption and progression of TRO in process.
- East Street TRO process - recommendation for ND Hatoc Meeting on 3rd March 2021 is not to progress with the DCC recommendation.

- New Toucan pedestrian crossing funded by Developer top end North Road by Hacche Lane.
 - Borners Bridge S106 contributions – Jeremy Yabsley has emailed the Lawyer dealing with the case requesting a briefing.
7. 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 unanimously RESOLVED that the meeting return to open session.
8. **POOR MOBILE SIGNAL IN SOUTH MOLTON AREA**
Cllr Footman requested this Item because she had been advised that patients in the South Molton Hospital were finding the mobile signal in the area to be very poor and were unable to make contact to friend and relatives. It was generally agreed that the mobile signal in that West Area of South Molton is very poor from EE and Three. It was unanimously RESOLVED that a letter is sent to EE and Three notifying them of the poor signal and the effect on the local community copying in Selaine Saxby MP (for North Devon). The Council also unanimously RESOLVED that the hospital are contacted to suggest that they might provide coverage with broadband to order to facilitate mobile calls through the wifi network for patients.
9. **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**
- a) None.
 - b) Cllr Worden advised that there would be a Full Council meeting on 24th February to set the Council precept, it was expected to be confirmed that it would be increased by 10p a week. He also mentioned that the Future High Street Funding for Barnstaple had been highlighted in the press. Cllr Worden also commended the work that Sue Harrison had done on organising this year's South Molton in Bloom, drawing on the support from many in the Community.
10. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO MEMBERS**
- The Town Clerk advised that NDC have expressed an interest in setting up a testing and vaccination centre in South Molton. He advised that he had suggested to NDC that the Pannier Market and The Amory Centre Car Park could be made available.
11. **NOMINATION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2021/2022**
The Mayor requested nominations for the above:
It was RESOLVED that Cllr M Way be the Mayor of South Molton for the ensuing municipal year 2021/2022. For: Cllrs Henderson, Herniman, King Kingdon, S Lock, C Lock and Way. Against: Cllrs Bushell and Hulland.
Abstained: Cllrs Cornelius, Footman and Worden.

It was further RESOLVED that Cllr S. Lock be the Deputy Mayor of South Molton for the ensuing municipal year 2021/2022. For: Cllrs Henderson, Herniman, King, Kingdon, S Lock, C Lock and Way. Against: Cllrs Bushell and Hullah.

Abstained: Cllrs Cornelius, Footman and Worden.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting return to open session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.52pm

Chairman.....

Date.....