

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE OAK ROOM, THE AMORY CENTRE, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 23RD
NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM

Present: In the Chair: Town Mayor Cllr M. Way
 Cllr M. Bushell Cllr M. Cornelius
 Cllr Mrs J. Footman Cllr R. Herniman
 Cllr M. Hulland Cllr M. Kingdon
 Cllr Mrs C. Lock Cllr S. Lock
 Cllr T. King Cllr D. Worden

In Mr. A. C. Coates – Town Clerk
 Attendance: Mrs Sue Harrison – South Molton in Bloom (SMIB)
 Mrs Sue Sewell – South Molton in Bloom (SMIB)

1. **PRAYERS**

The meeting was opened in prayer by Cllr Worden.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Henderson as he has a DPI on Agenda Item 7 (see below).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Henderson – DPI - Item 7 – Commercial Business with SMIB

Cllr Way – Personal - Item 7 – Sister-In-Law helping with presentation

Cllr Worden – Personal – Item 7 –Member of the SMIB Committee

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman wanted to convey his thanks to the Town Council staff for such a successful Christmas Lights switch on, namely Steve Huxtable, Melanie James, Will Tyack and Matthew Palmer.

The Chairman also mentioned the last Council meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday 14th December 2021 and he asked if the Councillors would like to participate in drinks afterwards. Some Councillors suggested that this was not a good idea due to Covid-19. The Chairman then decided not to hold a drinks reception after the meeting.

Cllr S Lock asked that he mention the Spirebourne Development and the lack of Social Housing as had recently been agreed. Cllr Worden replied that he was very annoyed about the reduction in Social Housing and that Developers were now tending to use the viability card to reduce Social Housing.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council

26th October 2021

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved. Cllrs Bushell, King, Kingdon and C Lock abstained as they were not present at the previous meeting.

6. **DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

Cllr Yabsley was not present at the meeting. However, the following points were made to convey to Cllr Yabsley:

- Paving slabs in East Street and South Street need repairing
- There is always a large puddle by the drop kerb opposite Church Walk steps

7. **SOUTH MOLTON IN BLOOM**

After a presentation given by Sue Harrison and questions by Councillors it was RESOLVED that:

- South Molton Town Council supports SMIB in their endeavours in promoting the Town through their dedicated planting plan.
- The decision to grant monies to SMIB will be deferred until the Budget meeting in early January 2022 in order that Councillors can prioritise expenditure for the next financial year.
- Any monies required from SMIB before the budget meeting should be applied for via a grant application to the Finance Committee.

Cllr Worden abstained.

8. **SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**

It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the motion that was proposed by Cllr Worden.

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

a) Cllr Cornelius attended the recent DALC meeting where three points were mentioned:

- Leader of DCC John Hart was present via Zoom at the meeting
- The possibility of a Unitary Authority for Devon is off the table at the moment
- Footpath monies are available but for urban areas only.

b) Cllr Worden mentioned the following:

- Attending a meeting with John Hart Leader of DCC and the Government regarding working in conjunction with each other.
- NDC has set up a hardship fund for people struggling to pay for real necessities - 220 applications have so far been received.
- Parking in South Molton for Central Park is to be free on Monday 20th December 2021 through to Wednesday 22nd and Friday 24th December 2021 from 4pm and every Thursday commencing from 25th November 2021 from 3.00pm.

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

The Town Clerk reported that he had initiated a "Topple Test" for the Cemetery memorials and on the initial survey it would appear that some headstones may require attention.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32pm

Chairman.....

Date.....