

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE GARDEN ROOM, THE AMORY CENTRE, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 28TH MARCH 2023 AT 7.00PM

Present: In the Chair: Town Mayor Cllr S. Lock
Cllr P. Bishop Cllr M, Bushell
Cllr M. Cornelius Cllr R. Herniman
Cllr M. Hulland Cllr M. Kingdon
Cllr Mrs. C. Lock Cllr. D. Worden

In Attendance: Andrew Coates – Town Clerk
Sophie Billington - Wildanet
Steve Seatherton – South Molton Football Club

1. **PRAYERS**

The meeting was opened in prayer by Reverend Grandey

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Footman, Henderson and Way.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council

28th February 2023

It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved subject to the three amendments being made.

6. **DCC TO REPORT TO MEMBERS**

There was no report from Cllr Yabsley in his absence.

7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Cornelius informed Councillors that he had been posting letters to himself in order to establish how long delivery took. In some instances letters were arriving a week late and he was worried about people voting by post that might miss the deadline, as a result of Royal Mails poor delivery service. Cllr Cornelius also mentioned that Lynton House was only open three days a week in order to handover the nominations for the forth coming election. Cllr Worden said that he would follow this up.

8. **WILDANET CONSTRUCTION WORK IN SOUTH MOLTON**

Amanda Pennington was unable to attend therefore Sophie Billington gave a short presentation to Councillors regarding the build plans for ultrafast-fibre optic-network. This was followed by a question and answer session.

9. **SOUTH MOLTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

Steve Seatherton gave a brief presentation updating Councillors on the current plans for the relocation of the football ground. Councillors thanked Steve Seatherton for all his hard work promoting the football club over the years.

10. REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

- a) Cllr Lock informed Councillors that the Woodlands Committee AGM has been cancelled.
Cllr Worden mentioned that James Sendell would be building a new shed for the Community Gardens in order to replace the one that had been vandalised.
- b) Cllr Worden reported on the District Council, as follows:
 - 1. The last Full Council meeting before the elections took place on March 15th and there was a presentation from South West Water as a result of concerns about sewerage being released into our coast areas and rivers.
 - 2. Cllr Worden took the opportunity to highlight some of the successes and challenges the Council have had in the last four years and it was the last full meeting of several of the senior Councillors who are retiring after May 4th.
 - 3. As you know the Council suffered from a shortage of HGV drivers during Covid but now there is a full complement of drivers thanks to a successful recruitment and in-house training drive.
 - 4. A reminder that No Mow May will continue this year and actually expand with a few new sites.
 - 5. The Council are concerned about the County’s consultation about closing the North Devon Link Service Drop-in centers in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe and cuts to the 18+ homeless service and whose lives are complex and often chaotic in Barnstaple. If this happens it will bring more pressure on the District Council.

11. TOWN CLERK’S REPORT TO MEMBERS

- 1. The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the Town Hall heating had now ceased working completely and that he was obtaining quotes to replace the two boilers.
- 2. Elections – All nomination papers to be in by 4th April 2023. All Councillors remain in office until 9th May 2023 and after that time the Annual Meeting of the Town Council must be held within 14 days in order to appoint new Mayor and Committees.
Cllr Lock mentioned that he would be participating in an interview with Sound Wave Radio on Thursday 30th March 2023.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.03pm

Chairman.....

Date.....