

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.00PM

Present: In the Chair Town Mayor Cllr S. W. Lock
Cllr M. Bushell Cllr D. J. Goodman
Cllr M. J. Kingdon Cllr Mrs C. E. Lock
Cllr Mrs R. McCool Cllr E. J. Moore
Cllr M. R. J. Smale Cllr M. F. Way
Cllr S. K. White Cllr D. Worden

In Attendance: Mr M. G. Gingell Town Clerk
Cllr J Yabsley DCC member attended for part of the meeting.

121/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nil. The Clerk reported that due to staff shortages and annual leave the minutes for the TC meeting held on Tuesday 9 September had not been completed but would be presented for approval at the next TC meeting.

122/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were read out by the Town Clerk:
Cllr Moore – Personal Interest – Item 6 – North Devon District Councillor
Cllr Worden – Personal Interest – Item 6 – NDC Member

123/14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MATTERS OF URGENCY BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Mayor invited Cllr Moore to report the following:
A petition regarding cars parking in Brook Meadow was handed in at the councillors surgery on Saturday 20 September 2014 and will be forwarded to the appropriate authority DCC in due course.

The time being 7 05pm Cllr McCool joined the meeting.

124/14 TOWN HALL FACADE AND PANNIER MARKET ROOF

The Mayor invited Mr Jim Gardner to the meeting, the architect appointed regarding the Town Hall facade and the necessary repair works. The Clerk briefly reported on the pre-contact meeting held with Morgan Sindall and attended by Cllr Goodman. Mr Gardner gave a brief overview of that meeting and the issues raised which need now to be reported to all members. Mr Gardner gave members an update on the contract awarded to Morgan Sindall with particular reference to the paints used on the last repair works carried out under the supervision of Jonathan Rhind architects. Mr Gardner was recommending that a paint stripping testing exercise was required at a cost of £754 which in turn may increase the price of the whole project agreed previously. Members discussed this situation and are concerned regarding the timescale for the project particularly with the Autumn and Winter on the near horizon. It was **RESOLVED** that Mr Gardner be given the approval to commission the paint stripping testing

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works at the cost stated above in order not to delay the programme of works any further.

Mr Gardner was then invited to brief members on his initial investigations regarding the state of the Pannier Market roof and the works required to protect the fabric from further deterioration. Mr Gardner reported that major works were now required following minor repairs over a number of years and was recommending that a full investigatory report and survey is produced to ascertain the full picture of the works required to protect the fabric of this listed and important building. Temporary repairs have started to stop further water penetration and this will protect the building from any winter storms. Members were concerned regarding this situation and Mr Gardner has photographic evidence which he will forward to the Clerk for onward transmission to all members. The Clerk reminded members that this situation has not been overlooked and that English Heritage had in the past refused funding for any repair works. It is only in recent years that funds have been available from the sale of land at Pathfields Business Park. It was RESOLVED that Mr Gardner provides SMTC with the necessary survey report on the Pannier Market roof at a cost to be advised by him in due course. It is hoped that the major works to the roof can be completed during Summer 2015. The Clerk will also investigate with EH to ascertain if any funding could be made available.

125/14 It was RESOLVED to discuss item 13 on the agenda next.

126/14 **CARE CLOSER TO HOME**

The Mayor welcomed Sara Wright to the meeting following the request by Cllr McCool that this item be placed on the agenda. Mrs Wright is from the Northern, Eastern and Western Clinical Commissioning Group and they have commenced with a consultation exercise regarding the above which closes on the 12th December 2014. Mrs Wright gave a brief resume of the above project and members raised many questions regarding the proposals and were very concerned regarding the future of beds at South Molton Community Hospital. The Clerk explained that this item should have not been placed on this agenda as members had not received any paperwork prior to this meeting and therefore had no knowledge of the item listed. Members agreed that this was a very important subject and it was RESOLVED that a separate meeting be arranged in order to discuss the item in more detail and forward any comments by the closing date. The Clerk will arrange for the paperwork in respect of this exercise be forwarded to all members without delay. Mrs Wright was thanked by the Mayor for attending this meeting at short notice.

127/14 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr M Cornelius, Crown Hill, South Molton reported on the above item detailing the dates when public meetings are being held and Cllr McCool reported on the posters being distributed to advertise these meetings. He also reported on his concern regarding the special TC meeting held in early August regarding members comments on the new Draft Local Plan which he had no knowledge

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that this meeting was taking place. He considers that many local people are concerned with the proposed levels of housing development in the town over the next few years.

Mr P Henderson, Editor of The South Molton and District News handed to the Clerk copies of a reply he had compiled in relation to the Grave Turner article published in his September copy. Mr Cornelius reported on this subject which members noted.

Cllr J Yabsley reported that the proposed closure of Beech House had been put on hold due to a recent legal challenge. Cllr Mrs C Lock requested the number of residents currently living at Beech House and Cllr Worden was able to respond. Cllr Bushell requested details of the current road closures by DCC in the area and Cllr Yabsley replied.

128/14 STATE AID – OPTION AGREEMENT WITH NDC

The Clerk reported that in order to proceed with the proposed Option Agreement with NDC for land at Pathfields Business Park for the relocation of the livestock market he was recommending that specialist legal advice should be sought with regards to State Aid. He had made initial enquiries and the sum of up to £1000 would be required to obtain the necessary advice, It was RESOLVED that SMTC does not seek the necessary advice and therefore not proceed with the planned Option Agreement and notify NDC of this decision accordingly.

Cllrs Kingdon and Way abstained during the voting process thereon.

129/14 CLOSURE OF BEECH HOUSE - DCC

Members had discussed this previously when Cllr Yabsley was in attendance therefore it was agreed to move to the next item.

130/14 DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION

It was RESOLVED that the following documents be signed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and witnessed by the Town Clerk:

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot M1605D – Mrs Ley Doyle, 28 Gwythers, South Molton, EX36 4BA

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot M1605C – Mr T. Berry, 18 Parklands, South Molton, EX36 4EW

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot P010 – Mrs Sheila Ackland, 4 Church Lane, Frithelstock Stone, Torrington, EX38 8JL

Exclusive Right of Burial – Plot P011 – Wendy Marie Maston, 6 Hugh Squier Avenue, South Molton, EX36 3DP

131/14 HORSE DRAWN SALES PITCH

Members had previously received an email regarding a request by a Mr S Harrison to site the above in the town centre. Members discussed this proposal and noted that if agreed it would not take place until Spring/Summer 2015. Concern was also raised regarding the effect on other events that take place on an annual basis ie Old English Fayre who use the enhancement. It was

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RESOLVED that the Clerk has a further meeting with Mr Harrison and report back to members in due course.

132/14 **DALC – AGM AND CONFERENCE 2014 – SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2014**

Members noted that the above event was taking place at Westpoint Arena in Exeter and the Clerk has full details for any interested member. An agenda for this event will be forwarded to all members and it was suggested that a member of staff may attend together with Cllr Bushell who is on the DALC Committee.

133/14 **ENVIRONMENT SCHOOL – SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2014**

Members noted that the above event was being arranged by Barnstaple Town Council and if any member wishes to attend please advise the Clerk in due course.

134/14 **MONTHLY ACTION SHEET**

The Clerk reported that he is investigating the above as he wishes to introduce a much improved document that will be forwarded to all members with their agenda for the TC meeting on Tuesday 28th October 2014. Cllr Bushell reminded members that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk have been requested to investigate Performance Monitoring following a recent Staff Committee meeting.

135/14 **CARE CLOSER TO HOME**

This item had already been discussed earlier at member's request.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.41pm.

Chairman

Date