

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2015 AT 7.00PM

Present: In the Chair Town Mayor Cllr S. W. Lock
Cllr M. Bushell Cllr D. Goodman
Cllr M. J. Kingdon Cllr Ms T. Lewis
Cllr E. J. Moore Cllr M. F. Way
Cllr S. K. White Cllr D. Worden

In Attendance: Mr M. G. Gingell Town Clerk
Cllr J. Yabsley Devon County Council
NBM PC Graham James Devon and Cornwall Police
Mr A. Collyer Trustee South Molton Swimming Pool Trust

213/14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs C. Lock, McCool and Smale

214/14 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were read out by the Town Clerk:

Cllr Goodman – Personal Interest – Item 5 – I am an ex governor of Infant School and my daughter is a governor at Junior School

Cllr Kingdom – DPI – Item 6 – Specific reference to new school – I am an adjoining land owner

215/14 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MATTERS OF URGENCY BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Way raised the issue of the new cemetery extension and questioned why no landscaping or the creation of paths has been carried out. The Clerk responded and will treat it as a matter of urgency in consultation with the Mayor. Any scheme suggested will be subject to the approval of the full Town Council.

216/14 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Town Council 12 January 2015

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved.

217/14 **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Central Park Working Group 4 December 2014

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved and their recommendations be adopted.

218/14 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr M. Cornelius, Crown Hill, South Molton wished to raise the following three issues:

1. Planning Committee meetings – He reported that there were several planning applications that had not been presented to the committee due to no meeting being held on Tuesday 13 January 2015. The Clerk had reported the situation to the chairman who was fully aware of the circumstances and due to only one Continued...

application being outstanding the Clerk had written to all relevant members for their views and only one reply was received stating no objections.

2. DCC Consultation exercise on the reduction in bus services – He reported on his concern that two services serving South Molton could be axed under plans by DCC. The Clerk reported that he had that day received an email from DCC on this subject and this item will be placed on a forthcoming TC agenda.
3. New Primary School – At this juncture Cllr Kingdon declared a DPI on this subject and left the meeting. Mr Cornelius reported on his concerns regarding the proposals for the above on a site in Exeter Road and the possible problems with the catchment areas.

Much discussion followed and the Mayor invited Cllr Yabsley to respond in detail regarding catchment areas and DCC's school place planning policy which is item 15 on this agenda.

Mr A. Collyer Grasspath, Charges, Brayford – Trustee of South Molton Swimming Pool Trust. Mr Collyer was in attendance with a second trustee a Mrs Burgess in order to answer any queries raised by members on Item 11 of this agenda.

Rev A. Jarvis – Mayor's Chaplain. Mr Jarvis was pleased to learn of the recent success by SMCC in securing significant funding from the EFA to replace the current Community College and was wondering if this would mean a sixth form being established. DCC Cllr Yabsley responded and gave members the up to date position and confirmed that there will not be a sixth form introduced. It is hoped that one contractor will be appointed for both new educational establishments.

Cllr Yabsley suggested that the chair of governors of SMCC Mr A. Conibear be invited to the TC meeting on Tuesday 24 February 2015 when the principal Mr A. Finney is attending to address members.

The Mayor invited Cllr Yabsley to report on any other items of interest from DCC and he briefly reported on the capital works programme for roads and highways together with the planned cuts in bus services. At this juncture Cllr Yabsley left the meeting and Cllr Kingdon rejoined the meeting.

219/14 **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 P013 – Mrs Irene Cox, 8 Jury Park, South Molton, EX36 4DW

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220/14 **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE PARADE**

At the request of Cllr Moore it was RESOLVED that this item be discussed in committee at the end of the meeting.

221/14 **DOG FOULING**

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Cllr Worden who reported further on his concern that this continual problem was increasing. Cllr Worden had received several emails on the subject from local residents.

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Members noted that there was only one dog warden to cover the whole North Devon area which made the job of policing the problem almost impossible. Members accepted that this is a problem that can never be controlled because of irresponsible dog owners.

222/14 DISABLED CAR PARKING SPACES IN TOWN CENTRE

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Cllr Worden who had received a complaint from a resident of the town. Much discussion followed on this subject and the Clerk reminded members that extra provision had been made in the Pannier Market following members previous request. No further action deemed necessary.

223/14 SOUTH MOLTON SWIMMING POOL

This item had been placed on the agenda following a recent TC meeting and requests received from several members. The indoor pool is currently run as a registered charity by a team of trustees and similar to many other swimming pools it is run at a loss despite its popularity. The trustees require substantial funds to pay for repairs and improvements and funding from NDC has reduced in recent years. Cllr Worden has made enquiries with NDC to ascertain if Section 106 monies would be available to support the facility but this looks very doubtful. Much discussion followed and the Mayor invited to Collyer to answer members questions. Mr Collyer gave a brief resume on the current situation and it was RESOLVED that he and any other trustee be invited to a TC meeting in order to give a full presentation of the subject and agree a way forward. It was also RESOLVED to form a Working Party made up of Cllrs Bushell, Moore, Way and Worden together with Mr Collyer and any other interested trustee. Mr Coates, the council's RFO has also indicated that he would assist in the financial position as an advisor. The Clerk will arrange the above as soon as possible.

224/14 CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT AREA – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FROM NDC

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of both Cllr Moore and Cllr Worden following recent press coverage on the comments made by Cllr Worden at a previous meeting. Cllr Worden had prepared a statement and read out its content to all members. Cllr Moore responded by quoting comments made by Cllr B Greenslade in his capacity as Leader of NDC. Cllr Moore was very concerned regarding these comments and stressed the need to correct Cllr Greenslade that SMTC have always supported the relocation of the cattle market to Pathfields Business Park. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards a letter to Cllr Greenslade as requested above in order to clarify the situation. Members are concerned regarding the future use of the above area and their vision for the prosperity of the town. It was RESOLVED that an Extra-Ordinary TC meeting be arranged in order to debate this situation and when considered appropriate invite Cllr Greenslade and officers from NDC to a meeting to discuss the TC's recommendations for this area.

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225/14 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Cllr Worden who was suggesting that a local celebrity switches on the above in December 2015. Members were delighted with the lights in 2014 which are improving every year. Cllr White was pleased to report that Lady Arran had commented on the lights expressing her delight with the town centre display. It was RESOLVED that in conjunction with the Business Association the TC investigate this suggestion together with other attractions in the town centre on a date to be confirmed.

226/14 **ROYAL GARDEN PARTY – JUNE 2015**

The Clerk was requesting the name of the person nominated to attend the above event at Buckingham Palace. DALC are requesting names by the 4 February 2015 and it was RESOLVED that the current Mayor Cllr Stephen Lock is nominated for the June 2015 event and then the Mayor elected each municipal year is automatically nominated unless he or she does not wish to attend.

227/14 **DCC SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING**

Members noted copy correspondence received from a parent living in the parish and agreed that this subject had been previously covered when DCC Cllr Yabsley was in attendance. It was also agreed that this subject was beyond any control that the TC could influence and Cllr White reminded members of the event in the Assembly Rooms on Wednesday afternoon 28 January 2015 regarding this subject.

228/14 **COMMUNITY WOODLAND EXTENSION**

The Clerk reported on the following regarding the above:

1. Woodland Management Plan – All stakeholders had been consulted and Mr Holtom has forwarded a draft version to the Forestry Commission for their comments.
2. Proposed BMX Track – Mr Holtom has referred this suggestion to the Forestry Commission and is awaiting their comments.
3. Tenders received for cutting the boundary hedge between the Recreation Ground and the Community Woodland – 2 tenders received in the sums of £2080 from Mr M. Dallyn and £2262 from Mr J Croft.

Mr Dally could not start for some time due to other work commitments but Mr Croft could start on the 29 January 2015 if appointed. It was RESOLVED to appoint Mr Croft and accept his tender price of £2262.

Cllr Kingdon gave a brief update regarding the on-going improvements to both the existing and the new extension to the Community Woodlands. Members noted these details and that these works were covered by the grant monies from the Forestry Commission.

229/14 **MONTHLY ACTION SHEET**

Members noted the updated Monthly Action Sheet which had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Bushell requested that a further meeting of the Community Buildings Sub-Committee be held as soon as possible. Cllr Moore reported on

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his concern regarding the Health Centre and the possibility of losing the funds allocated for this project. Cllr Goodman responded and brought members up to date. Cllr Moore suggested that the new school could now be removed due to the recent procurement of land at Exeter Gate.

230/14 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- a) Cllr Worden – recent meeting of the Sports Network Group – updated members on the progress with reference to the Football Club and their concern over the recent Planning Inspector giving consent for the creation of an Anaerobic Digester.
- b) Nil.
- c) PC Graham James gave a brief resume of recent policing matters including the launch of project 'Jessica'.
- d) Cllr Yabsley had left the meeting earlier.

231/14 Due to the time being 9.00pm and the allocated time of two hours being reached it was RESOLVED to continue with agenda item 8 in committee as previously agreed.

232/14 It was RESOLVED that under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

234/14 It was RESOLVED that the meeting return to open session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman

Date