

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH MOLTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE TOWN HALL, SOUTH MOLTON ON TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 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 Mrs C. E. Lock
 Cllr E. J. Moore Cllr M. R. J. Smale
 Cllr M. F. Way Cllr D. Worden

In Attendance: Mr M. G. Gingell Town Clerk
 Mr A. C. Coates Deputy Town Clerk/RFO

245/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Lewis, McCool and White.

246/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were read out by the Town Clerk:
Cllr Goodman – Personal Interest – Item 5 – Daughter works at Community
College

**247/14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MATTERS OF URGENCY
BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Way suggested that a site meeting should be held at the new cemetery
extension in order to discuss landscaping ideas and the creation of new paths.
The Clerk has written previously to all members on this issue and received little
response.

248/14 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Town Council 10 February 2015
It was RESOLVED that these minutes be approved.

249/14 PROPOSED NEW SOUTH MOLTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Mayor welcomed the Principal of SMCC Mr A. Finney to the meeting
together with the chair of governors Mr Comerford. Mr Finney reported on the
recent success in obtaining substantial funds from the Educational Funding
Agency to build a new senior school in South Molton. Mr Finney gave a brief
overview of the current situation including recent meetings with BAM the
appointed contractors and his vision for the new school. It is hoped that
completion will be in summer 2016 and welcome students both old and new in
September of that year. An open evening will be arranged in order for the
residents of the town to view the proposal. A short question and answer session
followed and Mr Finney and Mr Comerford were thanked by the Mayor for
attending this meeting and wished every success in the future.

250/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr M Cornelius, Crown Hill, South Molton. Mr Cornelius queried the situation
regarding the authority obtaining the 'General Power of Competence'. The Clerk

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reported that he had submitted his paper on the subject but had been notified that he had not passed due to one wrong answer. The Clerk is in the process of re-submitting his paper on the subject.

Mr Cornelius also asked if the Town Council would be seeking Foundation status in the newly launched Local Council Award Scheme. The Clerk reported that he had registered the authority with NALC and stressed that the new council membership will have to assist in the process as it will be very time consuming. Mr Cornelius also wished to report that he considered the Town Council's website had been vastly improved and was now far easier to navigate and obtain information.

251/14 **NDC – NEW LOCAL PLAN**

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of the two ward members of NDC Cllrs Moore and Worden who were both concerned regarding the reduction in the allocation of industrial/employment land in South Molton. Cllr Worden read out a statement prepared by Mark Alcock Senior Planning Policy Officer at NDC. Both ward members reported on this situation and informed members that the Local Plan would soon be presented to the relevant Minister for approval. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Worden requests to NDC that an extra hectare be included within the Local Plan for the possible relocation of the livestock market to Pathfields Business Park.

252/14 **MAYOR CHOOSING CEREMONY – JUNE 2015**

The Clerk reported further on the above following his recent email to all members on the subject. The Clerk explained the process following Election Day on Thursday 7 May 2015 and the need to have the Annual meeting of the TC within 14 days of this date. The Clerk suggested that this meeting takes place on Tuesday 19 May 2015 when the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be appointed. Members noted these details for future reference.

253/14 **ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Central Park Working Group 15 December 2014

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

254/14 **WAND – WORKING ADVOCACY IN NORTH DEVON**

The Clerk had recently forwarded an email to all members on the above subject and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards an email of support for this organisation on behalf of the Town Council.

255/14 **SUPERFAST BROADBAND FOR SOUTH MOLTON**

The Clerk had recently forwarded an email to all members regarding the above which he had received from WildWestNet. In order to supply faster broadband an aerial would need to be sited on the roof of the Town Hall and the Clerk has written to the planning department at NDC to enquire if planning consent is required and was awaiting a reply. Several members were also concerned

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regarding mobile phone coverage in the area which is very poor in some parts of the parish. The Clerk will keep members up to date regarding the above and will report back when considered necessary.

256/14 **SOUTH MOLTON PANNIER MARKET**

Members had previously received copies of reports compiled by staff member Mr M Ray regarding the above and his vision to improve the footfall and image of the twice weekly market. Members noted these details and Cllr Worden suggested that these reports be discussed at a meeting of the Pannier Market Sub-Committee and stressed the need to work with the Business Association in order to promote the town and its Image. Members were pleased to receive these reports and it was RESOLVED that Mr Ray be formally congratulated in his new role and his efforts to improve both the Thursday and Saturday markets with in particular the special day events planned.

257/14 **TOWN HALL ROOF/PANNIER MARKET ROOF**

The Clerk was pleased to report that Morgan Sindall have started to prepare for the works to the front facade of the Town Hall and extra scaffolding is being erected. Our appointed architect Mr J Gardner has commenced with his investigations regarding both the Pannier Market roof and the Town Hall roof. He has also visited all the other property owned by the authority and will be forwarding an estimate for providing building condition surveys in due course. Cllr Mrs C Lock suggested a form of banner could be made to ensure that the public are aware that the museum is open as usual. This could be attached to the front of the scaffolding. Morgan Sindall will be responsible for signage to ensure that motorists can access the car park from the bottom end in Southley Road.

258/14 **MONTHLY ACTION SHEET**

Members noted the details regarding the above and the Clerk and the RFO answered points raised by members. The Clerk has updated the document where relevant.

259/14 **REPRESENTATIVES TO REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- a) Cllr Worden -Tourist Information Centre – recent meeting where concern was expressed regarding their future operation in East Street and a suggestion was made that subject to approval they could possibly use the foyer and entrance at The Amory Centre. The current officer Mr G. Chanter will be retiring in March 2015.
Cllr Goodman – Larger Local Council's Sub-Committee at Exeter. Cllr Goodman has forwarded a brief report to all members by email. He also reported on the election process for all prospective candidates.
- b) Cllr Worden – Section 106 monies of £3500 towards the new gym equipment in Central Park should be approved at a forthcoming NDC meeting. No increase in council tax element from NDC for new financial year commencing April 2015.
- c) No police in attendance.
- d) Cllr J Yabsley was not in attendance.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.04pm.

Chairman

Date