

# MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 7.30 pm  
at The Quaker Meeting House, Backs Street, Minehead**

### **Present:**

Mayor: Cllr N Hercock

Councillors: Cllr P Bolton, Cllr L Culverhouse, Cllr R Dinnick, Cllr O Harvey, Cllr J Malin, Cllr G Miele, Cllr S Slade, Cllr L Smith, Cllr. R Thomas\*, Cllr T Venner\*

(\* denotes WSC Councillor, \*\* denotes SCC Councillor)

### **Members of the Public**

Cllr M Chilcott\*\*

Cllr A Hadley \*

38 members of the public

2 members of the press

### **Officers in Attendance:**

Minute Taker (Mrs J Notley)

The Mayor, Cllr Hercock, welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated the two new councillors, Cllr Bolton and Cllr Slade.

Cllr Hercock then called for nominations, in the absence of Cllr Everett, for a Deputy Mayor for the meeting. Cllr Thomas was proposed by Cllr Malin, seconded by Cllr Harvey and appointed with all in favour

### **853. Apologies for absence [LGA 1972 s 85 \(1\)](#)**

Apologies for their absence had been received from Cllrs G Everett, A Kingston-James, A Parbrook, J Parbrook and M Smith

**854. Declarations of Interest** In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members

To receive and record any declarations of interest in respect of any matters included on the Agenda for consideration at this meeting

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Speak/Vote</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	
Cllr R Thomas	All	WSC Councillor	2018	yes		Stayed in the room, spoke and voted
Cllr T Venner	All	WSC Councillor	2018	yes		Stayed in the room, spoke and voted

**(i) Dispensations** In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of Members

None

**855. Adjournment of Meeting for Public Inclusion in accordance with Standing Order No.1c**

**Subject to standing order 1(c), members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda**

**The period of time which is designated to public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes**

Mr Michael Burke had asked to speak. He asked the Council if it would like to join with the community in a new era of openness where people would feel more confident of proper management of the body and gain the support of the public. The Mayor said everyone needed to move forward and to help one another.

- 856.** Cllr Venner said the Council should not go ahead with the meeting because there was no Proper Officer in place and a new Clerk was still to be appointed. Councillors debated at length the proper procedure. Cllr Malin put forward a motion that “the Mayor immediately notifies West Somerset Council, Taunton Deane Council and Somerset County Council that Minehead Town Council is unable to continue its day-to-day operations legally and within the framework of its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations without a Proper Officer, following the resignation of the Clerk on 4 June 2018. The Council requests (a) that an officer with appropriate experience be seconded on a part-time basis, with full costs being met by the Council, or (b) that a qualified clerk be appointed on a temporary basis (not less than three months) until a replacement has been recruited. The Mayor undertakes to keep all councillors informed of progress”. Cllr Malin called for a named vote and was seconded by Cllr Venner.

For: Cllrs Venner, Malin, Bolton, Slade, Culverhouse, Hercock  
Against: Cllrs Harvey and L Smith  
Abstentions: Cllrs Miele, Thomas and Dinnick

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor immediately notifies West Somerset Council, Taunton Deane Council and Somerset County Council that Minehead Town Council is unable to continue its day-to-day operations legally and within the framework of its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations without a Proper Officer, following the resignation of the Clerk on 4 June 2018. The Council requests (a) that an officer with appropriate experience be seconded on a part-time basis, with full costs being met by the Council, or (b) that a qualified clerk be appointed on a temporary basis (not less than three months) until a replacement has been recruited and that the Mayor undertakes to keep all councillors informed of progress.

The Mayor said he would attempt to arrange a meeting the following week to carry out the rest of the business on the Agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.04pm.