

MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 12 July 2018 at 7.30 pm
at Minehead First School, Townsend Road, Minehead**

Present:

Mayor: Cllr N Hercock

Councillors: Cllr P Bolton, Cllr L Culverhouse, Cllr R Dinnick, Cllr G Everett, Cllr O Harvey, Cllr J Malin, Cllr G Miele, Cllr A Parbrook, Cllr J Parbrook, Cllr S Slade, Cllr M Smith, Cllr R Thomas*, Cllr T Venner*

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

Members of the Public

Cllr M Chilcott**

Cllr A Hadley *

25 members of the public

1 member of the press

Officers in Attendance:

Minute Taker (Mrs J Notley)

864. Suspension of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for items 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3

Recommendation: that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be suspended to consider the following items

The Mayor, Cllr N Hercock, called for the suspension of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to consider items 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

Proposed: Cllr Miele **Seconded:** Cllr Thomas

RESOLVED with all in favour that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be suspended.

- 1.1 **Recommendation:** that Bryan Howe is appointed to the role of Temporary Clerk for an initial period of three months starting immediately

The Mayor said he had had discussions with Bruce Lang of West Somerset Council who had suggested two people to fill the roles of Temporary Clerk and Temporary Finance Officer.

Proposed: Cllr Slade

Seconded: Cllr Harvey

RESOLVED: with all in favour that Bryan Howe is appointed to the role of Temporary Clerk for an initial period of three months starting immediately

- 1.2 **Recommendation:** that Andy Giles is appointed to the role of Temporary Finance Officer/Assistant Clerk for an initial period of three months starting immediately

Proposed: Cllr Malin

Seconded: Cllr Thomas

RESOLVED: with all in favour that Andy Giles is appointed to the role of Temporary Finance Officer/Assistant Clerk for an initial period of three months starting immediately

- 1.3 **Recommendation:** that the sum of £15,000 be vired from the budget for Clerk's salary to Professional Fees

The Clerk explained that the £15,000 was not a sum of money to be spent but an amount to be moved from one pot to another, so that Mr Howe and Mr Giles would be paid consultancy fees which would be deducted from the budget set aside for the Clerk's salary and would cover the three month review period.

Proposed: Cllr M Smith

Seconded: Cllr Dinnick

RESOLVED: with all in favour that the sum of £15,000 be vired from the budget for Clerk's salary to Professional Fees

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reinstated

Bryan Howe introduced himself as someone who had worked for Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils and had carried out audits for smaller authorities. Andy Giles introduced himself and said he had worked for West Somerset Council for 30 years and also Lynton Town Council as Finance Officer. He had worked with Bryan before and they carry out parish council audits together.

Bryan Howe informed Council that meetings would now be recorded digitally and that recordings would be destroyed once minutes had been approved. He also told the meeting that the public were permitted to film proceedings but must sit at

the front and the film the meeting but not the public. Cllr Venner thanked Mr Howe and Mr Giles for putting their names forward to help Minehead Town Council on a temporary basis and said he would do his utmost to resolve all outstanding issues.

865. Apologies for absence LGA 1972 s 85 (1)

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Kingston-James*, L Smith and Christine Lawrence**

866. 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. Cllr Venner said he thought every councillor should state their interest individually at each meeting

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Speak/ Vote</u>	
Cllr N Hercock	10	Member of West Somerset Railway	2018	yes	Stayed in the room, spoke and voted
Cllr J Parbrook	All	WSC Councillor	2018	yes	Stayed in the room, spoke and voted
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

867. (a) To confirm the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 22 May 2018 be signed as a correct record LGA 1972, Sch12 para41 (1) (already circulated)

Minute 809: Cllr Venner said he and Cllr Malin did not propose and second the nominations for Chair and Deputy Chair of the Finance Committee. This should be altered to :

“Proposed: Cllr Dinnick **Seconded:** Cllr J Parbrook”

Cllr Malin asked if there was a minute of the Confidential item at the end of the Agenda. He was told there was such a minute and he could come in to the Council Offices and see it there

Proposed: Cllr Everett **Seconded:** Cllr Thomas

RESOLVED with 11 in favour and 2 abstentions that, subject to the alteration, the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 22 May 2018 be signed as a correct record

(b) To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 13 June 2018 be signed as a correct record LGA 1972, Sch12 para41 (1) (already circulated)

Proposed: Cllr Malin **Seconded:** Cllr Thomas

RESOLVED with 11 in favour and 3 abstentions (councillors absent from that meeting) that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 13 June 2018 be signed as a correct record

(c) To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 22 June 2018 be signed as a correct record LGA 1972, Sch12 para41 (1) (already circulated)

Cllr M Smith said Minute 850 should be altered to read “Cllr M Smith was concerned about the project **not** being handed to someone on a tendering basis”

Proposed: Cllr J Parbrook **Seconded:** Cllr Dinnick

RESOLVED with 11 in favour and 3 abstentions (councillors absent from that meeting) that (subject to the alteration) the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 22 June 2018 be signed as a correct record

d) To confirm the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 26 June 2018 be signed as a correct record LGA 1972, Sch12 para41 (1) (enclosed with Agenda)

Proposed: Cllr Malin **Seconded:** Cllr Bolton

RESOLVED with 10 in favour and 4 abstentions (councillors absent from that meeting) that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 26 June 2018 be signed as a correct record

868. Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31 March 2018

Recommendation: Council to agree the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31 March 2018

Cllr Venner proposed, seconded by Cllr Malin, an amendment that box 1 on the Governance Statement should be altered from ‘Yes’ to ‘No’.

Proposed: Cllr Venner **Seconded:** Cllr Malin

Votes: 6 for, 7 against, 1 abstention

The amendment fell.

Mr Giles explained the significance of the Yes and No boxes. He felt box 3 should be a No because of the complaint to the External Auditor. He said the Council had taken steps to address the particular issue of concern and these had

been communicated to the external auditor. He had prepared a statement showing what action had already been taken and what steps would follow. He also thought Yes was the appropriate answer to box 1, but councillors should decide for themselves what was the right answer for them. Mr Giles that the No answer in box 3 was because there had been an issue of concern and Minehead Town Council were going to let the External Auditor know what it was doing about this. Cllr Venner said he could not support the Governance Statement and would vote against it. He called for a named vote

Recommendation: Council to agree the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31 March 2018

Proposed: Cllr Dinnick

Seconded: Cllr J Parbrook

In favour: Cllrs Everett, Harvey, M Smith, A Parbrook, J Parbrook, Miele, Dinnick and Thomas (8)

Against: Cllr Culverhouse, Bolton, Hercock, Slade, Venner and Malin (6)

RESOLVED that Council agrees the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31 March 2018

869. Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending 31 March 2018

Recommendation: Council to agree the Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending 31 March 2018

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Miele

RESOLVED with all in favour that Council agree the Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending 31 March 2018

870. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor, Cllr Hercock, said he had been to the induction of Reverend Viv Henderson as the new minister of Minehead United Reformed Church. It had been a pleasure to meet her and he had said a few words welcoming her to Minehead. He had asked her to come along to a meeting

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Everett, said on 8 June she had attended the "Volunteers of the Year" awards ceremony organised by Engage (West Somerset). It had been an honour to present the Volunteer Group of the Year award to Minehead Hospital Volunteers. As the MTC representative on Minehead Hospital League of Friends she knew at first hand the great work these volunteers do. At an informal ceremony on 12 June she had represented the Mayor and Town Council by cutting a ribbon to open Minehead's new Maritime Mile attraction along the sea front. This was the start of an ambitious project and thanks should go to Minehead

Coastal Community Team for all their hard work on the Enterprising Minehead project

871. Report from Environment Committee

Cllr Thomas said this is a new committee which came into existence on 22 May. It had held one meeting on 14 June and elected Cllr Kingston-James as Chair and Cllr Thomas as Deputy Chair and would be holding a second meeting the following week.

872. 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 Alex de Mendoza had asked to speak in his capacity as Chair of the Minehead Rail Group which was working to achieve a rail link from Minehead direct through to Taunton. He asked Minehead Town Council to write a letter in support of the Rail Group, declaring its interest and saying it was prepared to work with the Rail Group towards this end.

873. Report from Amenities & General Purposes Committee on proposed Rail Link

Cllr Harvey gave a statement about the importance of being involved and having a voice on public transport. He hoped Council would go one step further from giving approval in principle to the working rail link and write a letter offering to lend support to the Rail Group. Cllr Venner said he felt he ought to declare an interest in that he had shares in First Group. He felt that the Council should do things very much by the book and put the subject of a letter supporting the Rail Link on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Harvey said he would prepare a statement for the next meeting. Cllr Miele said he would like to support Cllr Venner.

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Miele

RESOLVED with all in favour that a supporting letter for the Rail Group should be discussed at the next Full Council meeting

The meeting closed at 8.23 pm.