

MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23 April 2019
at 7.30pm at The Quaker Meeting House, Bancks Street, Minehead**

The meeting was digitally recorded

Present:

Mayor: Cllr N Hercock

Councillors: Cllr P Bolton, Cllr L Culverhouse, Cllr O Harvey, Cllr S Heard, Cllr A Kingston-James*, Cllr J Malin, Cllr M Smith, Cllr R Thomas*, Cllr T Venner*

(* denotes WSC Councillor)

Councillors in attendance: Cllr Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council)
Cllr Mandy Chilcott (Somerset County Council)

Members of the Public and Press

10 members of the public

1 member of the press

Officers in Attendance:

Ms J Bashford (Clerk)

Mr B Howe (Deputy Clerk)

Mrs J Notley - Minute Taker

The Clerk, Jenny Bashford, reminded all present that the meeting was being digitally recorded and provided microphones for speakers and requested any filming be kept to the meeting only

1233. Apologies for absence [LGA 1972 s 85 \(1\)](#)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr R Dinnick, Cllr G Everett, Cllr S Slade and were accepted.

Absent: No apologies had been received at the time of the meeting from Cllr A Parbrook, Cllr J Parbrook and Cllr G Miele.

1234. 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

| Member | Item | Interest | Time Period | Speak/ Vote | |
|---------------------|------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cllr Kingston-James | All | WSC Councillor | 2019 | Yes | Stayed in the room, spoke and voted |
| Cllr Thomas | All | WSC Councillor | 2019 | yes | Stayed in the room, spoke and voted |
| Cllr Venner | All | WSC Councillor | 2019 | 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

1235. To agree the Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 26 March 2019 - minutes to be agreed by Councillors who were in attendance

The Clerk provided an update to Councillors on Minute number 1221 regarding Council's weed killing activity for 2019. Councillors were advised that investigations had been carried out and revealed that

- The budget set for weedkilling by MTC for 2019 had been based on the previous year's activity
- A quote received to do the work by the same company was £6,000 but this would involve the use of Glyphosate
- An enquiry had been made to MTC insurers about the use of this active ingredient and the advice is that it is still registered and can be used
- Alternatives to glyphosate had been looked into and the comparative costs established as being £40,000
- Councillors were advised that the budget approved for the year 2019/20 could not accommodate an increased rise in costs for this activity of £34,000

There followed a debate on the issue. Cllr Harvey felt that areas being treated with glyphosate should be coned off to prevent public access

Recommendation: that Councillors agree to the quote provided and the use of glyphosate for 2019/2020, to avoid a lot of complaints from residents, but that every effort should be made to work with Forum 21 and other partners to research more sustainable alternatives and, if necessary, increase the budget accordingly for 2020/2021

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Kingston-James

RESOLVED with 9 in favour and 1 abstention that Councillors agree to the quote provided and the use of glyphosate for 2019/2020, but that every effort should be made to work with other partners to research more sustainable alternatives and, if necessary, increase the budget accordingly for 2020/2021

Referring to Minute no 1225 Cllr Venner reported that he had transferred most of the balance, leaving £211, from Santander to the NatWest bank account

Proposed: Cllr Smith

Seconded: Cllr Bolton

RESOLVED with all in favour that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 26 March 2019 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record

1236. To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 2 April 2019 - minutes to be agreed by those councillors who were in attendance and signed by Chair of the Committee

Cllr Smith updated the meeting on the complaint she had submitted to the new District Council regarding the failure to publish Minehead Town Council comments on planning applications on the District Council website. She reported that in connection with the recent application for development on Beacon Road no reference to it being in a conservation area had been made either by the applicant or the planning officer. The planning officer was now expecting the application to be withdrawn

Proposed: Cllr Smith Seconded: Cllr Thomas

RESOLVED with all in favour that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 2 April 2019 be signed as a true and correct record by the Chair of the Planning Committee

1237. To receive Community Building report

The Deputy Clerk updated the meeting that:-

- The old council chamber furniture had been advertised on ebay but had not sold. Councillors were invited to propose ideas for suitable disposal of these items
- 29 April 2019 a new storage container would be delivered to the recently refurbished Rose Garden site. The Christmas trees, lights and decorations would be moved from the Football Club and stored there.
- Meetings had taken place with the project manager and quantity surveyor covering the project costing details to ensure the contract price is kept under the £900k set by Minehead Town Council. A couple of prices remained to be agreed by all parties before the contract was signed by the Clerk and the Mayor/Chairman of the Council, on 30 April 2019. It was very important the contract was signed and the works started as all secured funding streams are now asking for progress reports as there are deadlines for drawing down the funds
- After 19 May 2019 the construction would start (following the football festivals)
- The Deputy Clerk had drafted a letter of comfort for Minehead Football Club and Minehead Town Council to sign to ensure that the Football Club vacate the old building and the lease on the old building was relinquished when the new facility was completed. The letter also contained information on VAT status and the running of a bar facility. Legal advice was being taken on all documentation
- The Deputy Clerk confirmed again that Minehead Town Council would not be committing any more money than the £300,000 allocated in the 2019/2020 budget to the project

- During the 2019/2020 financial year, regular reports would be presented to Council monitoring spending against the Town Council's budgeted contribution to the project

1238. To receive Reports:

- Police

PC Sam Donati (Beat Manager) updated the meeting on reported crime in Minehead since the last meeting:-

- 65 incidents since last meeting
- Neighbourhood Watch scheme is being rejuvenated
- Community speedwatch – any willing volunteers to get in touch with the PCSOs
- Safe places scheme - a new scheme where a book of photographs of elderly and vulnerable people is held at Minehead police station to expedite searches when people went missing - more information available at Minehead Police station.

- Somerset County Council

Cllr Christine Lawrence Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care provided an update on County Council developments to the meeting including:

- The County Council had agreed three priorities in their Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Somerset
 1. People, families and communities take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing
 - 2: Families and communities are thriving and resilient
 - 3: Somerset people are able to live independently
- Cllr Lawrence asked the meeting to be mindful of loneliness in the older generation which is prevalent in Minehead
- Invited Minehead Town Council to contribute to compiling a list of events and activities that could be provided to doctors for referral purposes
- 12,900 Solar panels have been installed in Somerset, with the highest number installed being in West Somerset
- Literacy Festival to take place on Saturday 27 April 2019 at the Methodist Hall
- There were 419,744 people eligible to vote in West Somerset

Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, updated the meeting on County Council finances as follows:-

- Setting the budget for the County Council had been challenging and resulted in a revenue budget of £780 million, including an extra 1% increase for Adult Social care and £8 million in extra funding for care providers
- A capital investment programme of £89 million invested in the county next year, including £13.5m for secondary and primary schools, £700,000 for Special Educational Needs facilities and more than £6m for economic development projects. These included the Council's programme of enterprise centres for

small businesses to expand and provide new jobs, such as a planned new facility in Bruton and a potential innovation centre in Taunton

- Highways, traffic management and engineering projects would see investment of £57m for projects including Bridgwater's Colley Lane (£3.8 million), Junction 25 of the M5 (£1 million), the Taunton Toneway Corridor (£1.5 million), as well as the ongoing work filling potholes across the County
 - £20 million extra would be going into Children's Services
 - Cllr Chilcott also informed the meeting that a new housing facility for workers at Hinkley Point had opened in Bridgwater at the old Cellophane factory
 - Roadworks had started at Junction 25 (Taunton) on the M5
- **The Mayor, Cllr Norman Hercock** informed the meeting that he had been invited to, and participated in, the West Somerset Railway opening for the 2019 Season which was filmed and recorded for Points West and the Inside Out programme. He thanked Councillors and all the Council staff for their time and effort in what had been a difficult year for the Council.

1239. To receive a payments schedule for invoices - value under £1,000 and value over £1,000

To authorise payments in the payments schedule

Proposed: Cllr Venner

RESOLVED with all in favour that the payments schedule be approved for payment

1240. To adjourn the meeting for Public Inclusion (Standing Order No 1c)

No-one had asked to speak

1241. To resolve to exclude members of the press and public [Public Bodies \[Admission to Meetings\] Act 1960](#)

Proposed: Cllr Bolton

Seconded: Cllr Malin

RESOLVED with all in favour to close the public part of the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm.

1242. Confidential items