DULVERTON
GATEWAY TO EXMOOR

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 13th March 2023 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman: Mrs Christine Dubery; Councillors: Mr Nick Thwaites (DTC & Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.)) Mr Alan Ottey; Mr Bill Gash; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mrs Ann Van Praag; Mrs Alison Crisp; Mrs Frances Nicholson, (Somerset County Council (S.C.C.)), who left at 8.30pm, and Mr Steven Pugsley (S.C.C.) who arrived at 8.35pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:
Mrs Louise Parrish who is ill.

Declarations of Interest: None that have not already been declared.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Cllrs. Mrs Frances Nicholson & Mr Steven Pugsley - S.C.C.

Kemps Way – Potholes: some of the holes have been filled, however there exist more to be dealt with by the Bridge Inn. Cllr Nicholson to pursue.

Exmoor Panel – A meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16th March 2023. Parish representation is strongly encouraged as the remit of the group will change significantly after 1st Aril 2023. Members will be required to consider far wider issues than that of highways, such as health, economic sustainability, education and the voluntary sector. 'Core members' will have the right to vote. However, sub-groups are likely to be formed concerning specific issues, the membership of which will include professionals from the health and education services, and representatives from the voluntary and trading sectors.

Highways Pilot – A review will be undertaken as to the success of the pilot in the near future. Members were informed that Sam Murrell will remain in post for a further year.

Abbots Way – It was reported that two low lights remain broken, creating a very dark walkway to pedestrians.

Highways Diversions – The implementation of diversions is still causing problems. It has been suggested that contractors should be able to access a single document which provides all relevant local information.

Barnsclose Gated Pathway – Felled Oak Tree – It has been reported that a healthy oak tree has been felled. Cllr. Nicholson and the Clerk are to investigate

S.C.C. Planning – Members were informed that Cllr. Mr Pugsley has been elected to sit on this Regional Planning Committee.

E.N.P.A. - Parish Representatives are to be elected during the summer months. Hustings will commence on 31st May 2023 when nominees will be invited to make a presentation.

Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites - S.W.T:

Guildhall Car Park Light – It was reported that this light is now working.

Members noted that this was the final meeting that Cllr. Thwaites would attend in his capacity as a District Council member. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Thwaites, on behalf of all present, for his many years of service pursuing issues raised by this Council.

Minutes of the meetings held on 13th February 2023 and 2nd March 2023 circulated:

RESOLVED: To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting dated 13th February 2023: Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

RESOLVED: To approve and sign the minutes of the extra – ordinary meeting dated 2nd March 2023: Proposed by Mrs Van Praag, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

6904 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6890 Kings Coronation – 6th May 2023:
Two flag poles have been located to be situated in Bank Square and at Kings Corner.
It was agreed that the Town Hall Committee is asked for permission to hang the banner from the Town Hall steps.
LED lights, red, white and blue, are to be place in situe as from 21st April to light various areas in Dulverton including Exmoor Lawns.

RESOLVED: To approve meeting costs of up to £150 to purchase necessary cabling and sockets. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried

6902 All Saints Church – Retaining wall repairs:
The new wall is to be rebuilt.
A meeting has been scheduled with representatives from the PCC and the Rev. Dowell for Thursday 23rd March 2023 to discuss the way forward.
Mr & Mrs Daughtry are to be informed of developments.

6905 Accounts:

Financial Statement – February 2022: See Appendix A

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statement as per Appendix A is approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

Payments for approval: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

6906 Committees:

Minutes to be approved by the relative Committee members and be adopted as part of this meeting:
None.

Members were informed that both Town Management Committee and Grounds Committee meeting are scheduled for 23rd March 2023

6907 Planning:

To approve comments as per Appendix C

RESOLVED: To adopt the comments as per Appendix C as part of this meeting. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

6908 Office Photocopier:

Having considered several quotes from various suppliers members:

Resolved: To accept option 1 to enter into a five year lease agreement with Apogee to supply and maintain a new photocopier. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

6909 Website

Resolved: To approve payment of the annual website costs as follows:

Visit Dulverton:	
Domains & email	*£23.97*
Hosting and SSL	*£101.92*
Sub total	*£125.89*
Dulverton Town Council:	
Domain & email	*£11.98*
Hosting and SSL	*£101.92*
Software license	*£169.95*
Bitdefender	*£12.00*
Sub total	*£295.85*
Total	*£421.74*

Proposed by Mrs Vann Praag, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6910 Exmoor Society:

Resolved: To renew the annual membership at a cost of £25.00. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Thwaites and carried.

6911 Correspondence:
Correspondence noted by members.

6912 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:
None

6913 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Caravan Park – It was reported that the police are currently investigating a major theft of vehicles and equipment from the Caravan Park, which took place at the end of January while it was closed and undergoing maintenance work.

CCTV – Members discussed a proposal to erect CCTV in various places in Dulverton showing the activity taking place in real time, accessible on the internet to tourists etc.; particularly when events are taking place. Members commented that due to the geography of the town it would not be suitable.

Finance Officer Job Vacancy – There has been no response to the advertisement to date. Members were request to promote the vacancy whenever the opportunity arose.

Brushford Housing Development – No further developments were reported.

Antique Valuation Day – The event is to take place in the Town Hall this Saturday, 25th March 2023

Chairman .....