DULVERTON
GATEWAY TO EXMOOR

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors: Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Ann Van Praag, who left at 8.30pm; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mrs Allison Crisp and Mr Steven Pugsley,(Somerset Council(S.C.)), who left at 7.35pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:
Cllrs. Mr Alan Ottey who is on holiday, Mr Nick Thwaites and Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.C.).

Declarations of Interest: None

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:
Following the AGM held last month the Chairman took the opportunity to thank members for their continuing hard work and support

Questions for Somerset Council Councillors:

Cllr. Mr Steven Pugsley:

1) Caravan Club – It was confirmed that the Caravan Club is going to take over the maintenance of the land adjacent to The Gardens from local residents.
2) LCN AGM – 6th June 2024 – The meeting was dominated by two issues concerning highways and Magna South West. Ms Christine Boland (Magna) was questioned regarding the following issues:
   a) Damp issues in various properties which remain untreated.
   b) The revision of the 'lettings policy', including the problems regarding the unsuitable housing of residents, particularly those not accustomed or able to adapt to rural life.

   Cllr. Mr Pugsley requested that any problems raised by Magna tenants are forwarded to him.
3) Salt Bags – Cllr. Pugsley suggested that it may be preferable if the salt bags are left in situe as they will have to be re-sited as early as October. He will pursue the issue with S.C.
4) Recycling Centre –There have been no further developments concerning the closure proposals.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2024 as circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

7076 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

7062: Barnclose – South West Water Proposals:
A site meeting was held on 29th May 2024 and involved Cllrs. Mrs Dubery, Mr Thwaites and Mr Ottey, and two representatives from South West Water.
It was confirmed that the works will be completed as anticipated by 31st May 2024.
Various proposals regarding the positioning of a permanent access track were considered. It was determined that a proposal to move the temporary track to the left of the play area, creating enough room to reposition the existing play equipment, be investigated. This could be enhanced if land situated at the top of the site which is currently unused, believed to be owned by Magna, is obtained. Several items of play equipment were identified as either not used by children or due to the condition could not be moved successfully. South West Water is to investigate the purchase of the land from Magna and the source contractors who design play areas etc.

7070 Exmoor Society Annual Membership Renewal:
Upon receiving further information and after discussion it was:

RESOLVED: To overturn the resolution as per Minute 7070 and not renew the annual membership. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

7066 Annual Insurance Renewal:

RESOLVED: To pay the annual insurance renewal premium at £1,063.23. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

7077 Accounts:

Financial Statement – May 2024: See Appendix A

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

Payments for approval – May 2024: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mrs Vann Praag, seconded Mrs Dubery and carried.

7078 Receipts & Payments Summary & for the Year Ending 31/03/24:

Members were presented with the Receipts & Payments Summary for year ending 31/03/24.

7079 End of Year Bank Reconciliation:

RESOLVED: To approve the Bank Reconciliation, year ending 31st March 2023. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

7080 Annual Governance Statement - Year Ending 31st March 2024:

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Governance Statement, Year Ending 31st March 2024. Proposed by Mrs Crisp, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

7081 Annual Accounting Statement - Year Ending 31st March 2024:

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Accounting Statement, Year Ending 31st March 2024. Proposed by Mr Rawle, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk, Finance Officer and Administration Officer whose hard work had resulted in a good internal audit report.

7082 Committees & Sub Committees:

Minutes to be approved by the relative Committee members and be adopted as part of this meeting:

a) Dulverton Partnership Meeting – 5th June 2024

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Dulverton Partnership Group Meeting held on 5th June 2024. Proposed by Mrs Crisp, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

Members thanked the Chairman, Mrs Christine Dubery, without whose hard work the Music Festival held on 25th May would not have taken place.

7083 Planning Applications:

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

7084 Councillor Co- Option:

No further developments. The vacancies continue to be well publicized.

7085 Dulverton School:

Members were asked to consider DTC involvement in the future of the Darwin Building & Swimming Pool.

Concern was raised regarding the housing of the Exmoor Food Bank upon closure of the Darwin Building, which is in very poor condition due to lack of maintenance. Members were informed that the Clerk is currently making enquiries to E.N.P.A. regarding facilities that may be available. It was also suggested that the organisation apply for funding from parishes whose residents benefit from the facility.

After lengthy debate concerning the swimming pool, during which members were informed that it would cost between £30,000 and £40,000 annually to maintain, it was agreed unanimously that it would not be financially sustainable for DTC to accept responsibility for the facility. This decision also took into account the lack of changing and toilet facilities, as well as the anticipated use of the pool by a comparatively small population.

7086 West Somerset Flood Group:

Members were informed that the membership fees go towards the funding of the West Somerset Flood Group website.

RESOLVED: To renew membership at an annual fee of £5.00. Proposed by Mrs Crisp, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

7087 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

7088 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Heritage Centre AGM – Attended by Cllr. Mrs Rawle who reported that the mosaic has been refurbished and looks lovely.

7089 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Defibrillator – The Clerk was requested to publish new posters identifying where the facility is situated.

Both the Administrative Officer and a Council Member have been approached by a resident who has expressed concerns over various issues including the maintenance of the cemetery and town centre.
The Clerk was requested to write to the individual concerned inviting him to attend a future council meeting and address members who are happy to accept a collective responsibility for the issues raised. Alternatively he is welcome to address his concerns directly to the Clerk in future.

Chairman .....