

Axminster Town Council

Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
10am – 12 noon

Mayor: Cllr Jill Farrow
Town Clerk: Paul Hayward

www.axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk



THE GUILDHALL
WEST STREET
AXMINSTER
DEVON
EX13 5NX

Tel. 01297 32088

Email: Clerk@axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk

Axminster Town Council: Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the FULL Council

Approved MINUTES on 13th February 2023; Part ONE version (Redacted).

Held in person on Monday 30th January 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Farrow (JF) (Chair), Sedgewick (AS) (Vice-Chair), Brooker (ABr.), Holt (SH), Huskisson (AH), Leat (SL), Lippett (RL), Paice (EP), Spurway (MS), Steadman (BS) and Walden (JW) (*Meeting was deemed quorate*).

Town Clerk, Paul Hayward (TC). Sarah Jackson (SJ) (Council Administrator).

Invited guests:

Matt Young (Treasurer Guildhall Management Committee (GMC) & Trustee) (MY)
Karen Taylor (Trustee GMC) (KT)
Tim Leat (Trustee GMC) (TL)
Leigh Conley (Guildhall Manager) (LC)
No other members of the public in attendance.

Chair highlighted the building fire precautions and alerted those present to the fire exits.

Public Forum session.

No public speakers. Chair closed the Public Forum session at 7.05pm

EFC23/001

To note members of committee present:

Attendance at meeting shown above.

EFC23/002

To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence and reasons therefore:

Cllr. Birnie. Absence noted and reason and apology approved (conflicting engagement).
Cllr. Bourne. Absence noted and reason and apology approved (conflicting engagement).
Cllr. Burrough. Absence noted and reason and apology approved (conflicting engagement).
Proposed by Chair, seconded by SL. Resolved unanimously.

Continued overleaf.

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EFC23/003

To note members of committee not otherwise present and to receive any other apologies for absence:

MM absent. Noted.

EFC23/004

To receive any declarations of interest from members of the committee in relation to items of business on this agenda and to note any dispensations previously afforded:
A declaration at this point does not preclude the need for members to declare any additional interests that may arise during this meeting.

The dispensations previously afforded to Cllrs. Birnie, Farrow and Leat were noted.
No other declarations made.

EFC23/005

To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960: None raised by committee members other than to note agenda item EFC23/009 (IC) which was already tabled for Part Two consideration.

EFC23/006

To consider any matters considered as urgent by the presiding Chair and to receive any Chair's announcements:

None raised.

EFC23/007

To note the date of the next Ordinary meeting of the FULL Council:

Monday 13th February 2023 at 7pm at the Guildhall. Noted.

EFC23/008

AS proposed that under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972 the public, (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Seconded by Chair. Resolved.

Continued overleaf.

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The meeting moved into closed session (Part Two). Recording of meeting was stopped to ensure a full Part One recording was available. The Part Two session was also recorded.

Part TWO business to be considered.

The Chair proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to permit the continued presence of the four invited guests and to allow them to participate in the forthcoming discussions. Seconded by SH. Resolved unanimously.

EFC23/009 (IC)

To consider various matters pertaining to the Axminster Guildhall, as set out below: *This matter is deemed confidential due to the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be discussed particularly in respect of the legal, financial and employment matters that such a debate will entail.*

After receiving all relevant reports and presentations from those present, and after subsequent lengthy debate & discussion, it was proposed by JW, seconded by EP, that delegated authority be afforded to the Clerk, MY and TL, in conjunction with the Chair of the Council and the Chair of the Operations Committee, to proceed with further investigations, negotiations and research into potential changes to the governance arrangements of the Guildhall in conjunction with the GMC. Resolved unanimously. Clerk: please note and action accordingly.

Finally, the Clerk asked for consent to expend up to £2000 to undertake repairs to the water heater in the dressing room which had recently become unusable and which could not be repaired due to its age. Expenditure proposed by Chair, seconded by SH. Resolved unanimously.

Delegated authority afforded to the Clerk to carry out replacement/repair as judiciously as was possible.

With no further business to deal with, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Signed Date: 13th February 2023

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ATC Approved Minutes FULL Council Extraordinary meeting 30/01/2023