

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Held at the Guildhall, on Monday 10th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Town Mayor: Cllr. J.W. Walden
Councillors: G.S. Godbeer, P.G. Hayward, D.R.H. Hull,
A.T. Moulding, L.A. Rowe, Mrs. S.R. Spiller, M.D. Symes and B.R.
Watson,
Cty./Dist. Cllr. I.L. Hall

The Town Clerk (Miss H. Kirkcaldie) and the Deputy Town Clerk (Mrs. Z. Adamson-Drage).

11 Members of the public. 1 representative of the Press.

2017/0282 APOLOGIES: Deputy Mayor, Cllr. A.L. Young and Cllrs. S. E. Clarke, C. A. Doherty, Mrs. S.L.N. Leat,

2017/0283 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

CLLRS. GODBEER, HAYWARD, HULL, MRS. SPILLER AND WATSON, ALL DECLARED PERSONAL INTERESTS AS BEING MEMBERS OF THE AXMINSTER GUILDHALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEMS RELATING TO THE GUILDHALL.

CLLRS. GODBEER, WALDEN AND WATSON EACH DECLARED PERSONAL INTERESTS AS BEING MEMBERS OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

CLLR. HAYWARD DECLARED A PECUNIARY INTEREST AS CLERK TO ALL SAINTS PARISH COUNCIL AND CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCILS AND IN RESPECT OF HAVING A SPOUSE WORKING WITHIN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (IN RESPECT OF WHICH HE HAS A DISPENSATION TO SPEAK)

CLLR. MOULDING DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

ARC BEREAVEMENT, AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE, AXMINSTER AND DISTRICT HOSPISCARE, AXMINSTER HERITAGE LTD., AXMINSTER HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS, AXMINSTER MUSICAL THEATRE, AXMINSTER PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP, AXMINSTER REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD, AXMINSTER TOWN CRICKET CLUB, CLOAKHAM LAWN SPORTS CENTRE, CLOAKHAM LAWN SPORTS CENTRE LTD., CLOWANCE CHARITABLE TRUST, FRIENDS OF AXMINSTER CHURCH, LYME REGIS GOLF CLUB,

TONY COLES CHARITABLE TRUST, VIRTUE AND HONOUR LODGE NO 494, CONSERVATIVE PARTY, CONSERVATIVE CLUB, EAST DEVON CONSERVATIVE GROUP, DEVON COUNTY CONSERVATIVE GROUP, MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLORS' ASSOCIATION.

HE ALSO DECLARED THAT AS THE PARENT OF A DISABLED ADULT SON HE HAD AN INTEREST IN MATTERS RELATING TO DISABLED ACCESS AND BENEFITS

2017/0284 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th JUNE 2017: Cllr. Godbeer pointed out that the names of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had been recorded incorrectly. Cllr. Watosn, seconded by Cllr. Moulding, proposed that the minutes be approved and adopted subject to that correction.

2017/0285 POLICE REPORT: in a written report it had been stated that there had been 44 crimes in June this year compared with 42 for the same month in 2016. A meeting will be held in September regarding to discuss speeding in Lyme Road.

2017/0286 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Hall reminded members of the traffic problems which would arise from the forthcoming closure of Stoney Lane to allow the demolition of Green Lodge and safety improvements in Stoney Lane.

Barclays Bank had sent notification that it would be closing its Axminster Branch in October.

Referring to Hospital Bed issues, Cllr. Hall said that a Special Meeting would be held on 25th July at which it was hoped the Clinical Commissioning Group would have the response to the 14 questions it had been given earlier in the year. In the meantime, efforts were being concentrated on keeping the hospital site in full use with additional health related services.

Regarding the intended sale of the former Magistrate's Court, Cllr. Hall said that he had received requests that this be used as an area of green space. Cllr. Walden pointed out that the County Council had a duty to obtain the best value it could from the sale of land and that allocation of green space within the site would be a matter for discussion once any purchaser submitted a planning application.

In response to a question from Cllr. Hull it was stated that the land by Loretto Road was not part of the present widening scheme in Stoney Lane but would be part of a future scheme, possibly also using land from Pippins. Cllr. Moulding said that such a scheme might include the creation of a roundabout at the south end of Stoney Lane.

2017/0287 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

Cllr. Moulding said that the District Council was reviewing all its fire-safety procedures. He said that there had been a successful start to the new recycling arrangements. Members of the public had spoken to Councillors regarding the obstruction of narrow pavements by recycling bins throughout the week, not simply on collection day. Retention of the facilities in Combeville Lane Car Park will be

reviewed.

Cllr. Hull said that he feared that Central Government may increase the levy it charges on tenants' rents.

Cllr. Hall said that a meeting of the Axminster Together Group would be held on 8th September to try to co-ordinate various activities in the town to improve networking and funding.

2017/0288 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: the Town Mayor said that the Annual General Meeting of the Care Service would be held at the end of the following week and all members were invited.

2017/00289 TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS: the Town Mayor had attended the following events:

The inaugural Cherry Fayre to fund raise for Light Up Axminster and the Axminster Cricket Club Summer Fete.

2017/0290 TOWN FORUM – TRAFFIC PROBLEMS: a resident spoke strongly about the problems caused in the town by heavy goods vehicles going through town in terms of their intimidating size and the pollution. Cllr. Hull said that he had been campaigning for decades to get a North-South by-pass to divert through traffic from the town centre.

Cllr. Walden referred to the recent announcement that Government was making funding available for by-passes and said that this Town Council. Cllr. Watson suggested that if additional funding was available then consideration should be given to taking a northern by-pass off at the bottom of Gammons Hill. Cllr. Moulding said that the recent report from the Traffic Consultant and from Devon County Council had listed many reasons why that was a more costly alternative.

A member of the public deplored the fact that dispute between the developers was stalling the existing proposals. Cllr. Moulding said that there was a possibility that the road aspects of the proposed development could be taken forward as a stand-alone project and the County Council had a scheme prepared. Cllr. Mrs Spiller felt that the opportunity should be taken to get the most future-proofed solution for the town and pointed out that many residents wanted a by-pass that was not dependent on financial contributions from expanding the town.

Following further discussion, it was resolved that the Town Clerk should send a letter to the relevant Government Minister expressing an interest in the funding and the question of the by-pass route be put on the August Agenda.

2017/0291 TOWN FORUM – HIGHWAY MATTERS: A resident endorsed the need to for a by-pass and the request for funding. He also raised his concerns regarding traffic volume and speeds in Lyme Street and Lyme Road and the gridlock which will result from the closure of Stoney Lane.

2017/0292 TOWN FORUM – HEALTH SERVICE MATTERS: A member of the public deplored the failure of the Clinical Commissioning Group to supply the County

Council with the information it had requested and urged Cllr. Hall to speak up for the town at the meeting to be held in late July.

2017/0293 TOWN FORUM – PARISHES TOGETHER FUNDS: Speaking on behalf of Light Up Axminster, a member of the group said that he had been in discussion with Colyton Parish Council that the two put in a joint submission to use these funds to buy Christmas Lights.

It was resolved that the relevant agenda item be brought forward for discussion at this point.

Cllr. Hayward pointed out that another possible proposal for these funds was for a Night Landing Sites for the air ambulance. He thought that both projects could be done.

In response to a question from Cllr. Walden, it was stated that a place for storage of the lights had been agreed.

Following further discussion, the way forward was agreed to be that Light Up Axminster should submit evidence that it had raised sufficient funds for the Town Council to release the £2000 reserve earmarked for Christmas Lights. Cllr. Mrs. Spiller reminded those present that any contractors doing work should supply evidence that they had got all relevant permissions and insurance from those involved and that installation is done by suitably qualified contractors. Cllr. Moulding proposed that Axminster match any funding put forward by Colyton in respect of purchase of Christmas Lights. Agreed. The matter of night landing sites will be discussed at a later date.

2017/0294 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2017 – 17/0254 AUDIBILITY: Cllr. Hayward said that he was still in the process of obtaining quotes.

2017/0295 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2017 – 17/0236 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LONG SERVICE: In response to a question from Cllr. Watson, The Mayor said that ways of marking this were still being investigated.

2017/0296 MATTERS OF URGENCY: None.

2017/0297 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING: Dated 12th June 2017 – Cllr. Watson, seconded by Cllr. Hayward, proposed that these be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0298 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING: Dated 26th June 2017 – Cllr. Hayward, seconded by Cllr. Watson, proposed that these be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0299 MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING: Dated 28th June 2017 – Cllr. Watson pointed out that at item 7c the word paths should read plots. Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Hull, proposed that these be approved and adopted subject to that correction. Agreed.

2017/0300 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS: none.

2017/0301 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – SEAT AT CEMETERY: Cllr. Mrs. Spiller asked which budget the new seat at the Cemetery would come from. Cllr. Walden replied that he felt that it would come from the Amenities budget. It was agreed that the existing plaque be retained but not put on the new seat.

2017/0302 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – PLANTERS: Cllr. Hayward questioned provision of planters for what is a privately owned site. This matter will be discussed in committee.

2017/0303 FINANCIAL MATTERS – APPROVAL OF MAY EXPENDITURE: details had been circulated to all Councillors.

Cllr. Hayward, seconded by Cllr. Godbeer, proposed that the payments be approved.
Agreed.

2017/0304 FINANCIAL MATTERS – MATTERS APPROVED FOR EXPENDITURE BY TOWN MAYOR OR COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: None.

2017/0305 FINANCIAL MATTERS – REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL HELP: Cllr. Hayward, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Spiller, proposed that the next two items be dealt with in committee as they related to tenants. Agreed.

2017/0306 FINANCIAL MATTERS - RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT: The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been sent off and the notice displayed. Re-investment of reserves is in progress. Review of Tractor insurance will be dealt with in committee. The quarterly budget report was noted. The bank reconciliation for April was approved.

2017/0307 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS – WORKING PARTY: It was resolved that the members be Cllrs. Hayward, Mrs. Leat and Mrs. Rowe.

2017/0308 PROPOSAL TO EMPLOY A YOUTH WORKER: Cllr. Mrs. Rowe reported that the present Chairman /Leader of the Youth Club would be standing down in October and that if no one comes forward to replace her then the group would fold. She proposed that a youth worker be employed to avoid this risk.

Cllr. Mrs. Spiller said that what was needed was a Youth Leader not a Youth Worker. A working party comprising Cllrs. Walden and Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. Spiller will meet to look at this matter.

2017/0309 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: Cllr. Moulding said that the plan was almost ready to pass on to the Planning Consultant for final checking

prior to scrutiny by the District Council.

2017/0310 CASUAL VACANCIES: No elections had been requested so the vacancies will be advertised for co-option.

2017/0311 STAFFING AT SPORTS HALL: Cllr. Walden said he was concerned about public safety should Leisure East Devon decide to withdraw staff from the Sports Hall. The Town Clerk will make enquiries.

2017/0312 CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Letters Received
 - i. Environment Agency/D.C.C. re flood protection measure at Millbrook
 - ii. Various regarding condition of play areas on new development sites.
- b. Meetings
- c. Reports Received - the following reports are available for consultation in the office:
 - i. East Devon L.A.G. Minutes
 - ii. Healthwatch Devon.

Cllr. Rowe 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. Agreed.

2017/0313 RENEWAL OF TRACTOR INSURANCE: It was resolved that the quotation from Zurich for 1 year be accepted.

2017/0314 WATER SUPPLIER: It was resolved to continue with South West Water. Consideration will be given to installing percussive taps at Pippins and regulating the flow in toilet cisterns.

2017/0315 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL HELP – AXMINSTER CHURCHES TOGETHER AND R.I.S.E.: Cllr. HULL DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO AXMINSTER CHURCHES TOGETHER.

It was proposed that both these requests be deferred pending further information being obtained. There was considerable discussion regarding the funding needs of user organisations at Pippins and the benefits they bring to the local community and the need for them to understand that the Town Council cannot offer premises at no cost and that if there is a need for funding support then an official request must be made.

Signed Date.....