

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Held at the Guildhall, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Town Mayor: Cllr. J.W. Walden  
Deputy Mayor Cllr. A.L. Young  
Councillors: S. E. Clarke, C. A. Doherty, G.S. Godbeer P.G. Hayward,  
D.R.H. Hull, Mrs. S.L.N. Leat, D. J. Moore, A.T. Moulding,  
L.A. Rowe, A.E.J. Seward, Mrs. S.R. Spiller and B.R. Watson.

The Town Clerk (Miss H. Kirkcaldie) and the Deputy Town Clerk (Mrs. Z. Adamson-Drage).  
Cty. Cllr. I.L. Hall was in attendance.

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

2017/0415 APOLOGIES: None.

### 2017/0416 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

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

CLLR. YOUNG, IN HER CAPACITY AS GUILDHALL MANAGER FOR WHICH SHE  
DECLARES A PECUNIARY INTEREST, HAS A DISPENSATION TO SPEAK  
ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE GUILDHALL PROVIDED THE  
PECUNIARY INTEREST IS NOT OF OVER-RIDING SIGNIFICANCE

CLLRS. GODBEER AND WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING  
MEMBERS OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF  
THE GOVERNORS OF AXE VALLEY ACADEMY

CLLR. ROWE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEM 27 AS BEING A  
PARENT OF TWO PUPILS AT AXE VALLEY ACADEMY

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

2017/0417 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017: Cllr. Godbeer,  
seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that the minutes be approved and adopted subject  
to that correction. Agreed.

2017/0418 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 – 17/0397 KEEP BRITAIN TIDY INITIATIVE: The Mayor said that the posters had been received and he would be putting them up around the town. Following on from further discussion, Cllr. Hayward proposed that, as a trail, a dispenser for dog waste bags be located at the Weycroft end of the Stop Line Way cycle path. Cllr. Watson seconded the proposal. Agreed.

2017/0419 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2017: Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that these be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0420 CASUAL VACANCY: The Town Clerk had received notification that there had been no call for an election and that the Town Council could proceed to co-opt. Some expressions of interest had been received and it was agreed that these would be considered at the November meeting.

2017/0421 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2017: None.

2017/0422 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017: Cllr. Hayward, Vice-chairman of the Committee, seconded by Cllr. Doherty, proposed that these be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0423 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:  
Dated 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – None.

2017/0424 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017: Cllr. Watson, Chairman of the Committee, seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that these minutes be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0425 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:  
Dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Cllr. Watson reported that the Development Management Committee had agreed to make a site visit to Allwood.

2017/0426 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017: Cllr. Watson, seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that the minutes be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0427 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 2017 - ITEM 7A STOP LINE WAY: - in response to a question from Cllr. Mrs. Spiller, the various ownerships of the land over which the Stop Line Way cycle path passes were outlined.

2017/0428 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - ITEM 5E JUNCTION OF GEORGE STREET AND LYME ROAD: Councillors were unhappy about the County Council response to requests for simple improvements at the junction of Lyme Road and George Street which had been highlighted during the recent closure of Stoney Lane. A letter will be sent to Cty. Cllr. Hall.

2017/0429 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017: Cllr. Godbeer, seconded by Cllr. Hull, proposed that these minutes be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0430 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 : None.

2017/0431 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017: These were not available.

2017/0432 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 : Resolved that this be deferred.

2017/0433 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017: Cllr. Walden, Chairman of the Committee, seconded by Cllr. Seward, proposed that these minutes be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0434 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING:  
Dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Cllr. Watson reported that he felt that the noticeboard at Raymonds Hill needed to be replaced. Cllr. Walden said that all three noticeboards would be considered for replacement in the budget.

2017/0435 MINUTES OF THE BUILDINGS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 : Resolved that this be deferred.

2017/0436 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE BUILDINGS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: Dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Resolved that this be deferred.

2017/0437 MINUTES OF THE RISK AND EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2017 : Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Spiller, proposed that these be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2017/0438 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RISK AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING: Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 – none.

2017/0439 AXMINSTER TOGETHER: Cllr. Moulding reported on a meeting organised by East Devon District Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> September which brought together various stakeholders involved in the community needs of the town. It aims to address community needs and will sit alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. Key priorities identified were social isolation and the need for improved communications between all agencies. The aim is to produce a Community Plan for Axminster using a joint, multi-partner approach.

2017/0440 TOWN FORUM – JUBILEE FIELD: A resident expressed her concerns that the Jubilee Field could become very muddy during the winter and wondered what plans there were to address this problem.

2017/0441 TOWN FORUM – HEALTHCARE MATTERS: Cllr. Hull said that he had raised various community healthcare matters at a recent event in Sidmouth but had not received satisfactory answers as the representatives there appeared to know little about healthcare in rural areas. He commended the work done by Devon Freewheelers. A resident deplored the loss of maternity care facilities at **Honiton**.

2017/0442 TOWN FORUM – GUILDHALL ACCESS: in response to a question, Cllr. Young said that measures relating to access at the Guildhall were being investigated in conjunction with the police and fire service.

2017/0443 TOWN FORUM - REDESIGNATION OF AXE VALLEY ACADEMY:

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS' AT THIS SCHOOL AND HANDED OVER THE CHAIR TO CLLR. YOUNG.

Cllr. Moulding outlined the history behind the development of sixth form educational provision at the school. The following points were raised by members of the public:

- a) That closure of the sixth year will discourage parents from sending their children to the school in the first place.
- b) That many parents see consider colleges a better option for post 16 education.
- c) That the situation has been affected by the fact that Axminster children can go to other schools such as Woodroffe and Colyton.
- d) That the decision is very short-sighted given that Axminster is a growth town.
- e) That people should attend the public meeting to be held at the school the following evening.
- f) That under-funding of post 16 education by central government has been a factor and it was no longer viable to cross-subsidise that from funding allocated to earlier years.
- g) That the decision was a failure to see the greater picture and once lost the situation would not be reversed.

Cllr. Young then closed Town Forum.

2017/0444 REDESIGNATION OF AXE VALLEY COLLEGE: the following points were raised by Councillors:

- a) That the loss of the hard-won sixth-form provision was a black day for the community.
- b) That moving pupils between schools was time wasting and expensive.
- c) That Axe Valley College is outwith local authority control.
- d) That education was under-funded by central government.
- e) That consideration be given to adopting the Beaminster/Bridport school model.
- f) That parents were already looking at whether they could move their children to through schools.
- g) That Government policy is to look for larger sixth forms and this was being achieved by creating multi-academy trusts.
- h) That sixth form across the two school would be feasible.
- i) That the best staff will leave as they want to teach in an 11- 18 school and not one without a sixth year.
- j) That no clear indication had been set out as to how the proposed £500,000 saving could be

achieved by withdrawal of sixth year provision.

Following lengthy discussion, Cllr. Moulding proposed that a letter be sent to the school governors setting out the Town Council's objections and calling for consideration to be given to the creation of a broad provision of sixth year education across the Holyrood and Axe Valley schools. Cllr. Rowe seconded the proposal. Carried.

Cllr. Walden resumed the chair at this point and all but two members of the public left the meeting.

2017/0445 MATTERS OF URGENCY: None.

2017/0446 ROBIN CROSS MEMORIAL AWARD: it was resolved that nominations be in writing. These will be discussed in committee in December and the presentation made early in 2018.

2017/0447 POLICY REVIEW WORKING PARTY: agreed that membership will comprise Cllrs. Young, Doherty and Clarke along with the Town Mayor.

2017/0448 FINANCIAL MATTERS – PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED:

Cllr. Moulding, seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that the schedule of payments for September be approved. Agreed.

2017/0449 FINANCIAL MATTERS – BANK RECONCILIATIONS FOR AUGUST: Cllr. Young, seconded by Cllr. Rowe, proposed that this be signed. Agreed.

2017/0450 FINANCIAL MATTERS – TO REPORT MATTERS APPROVED BY TOWN MAYOR OR COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: None.

2017/0451 FINANCIAL MATTERS – TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR GRANTS: None.

2017/0452 FINANCIAL MATTERS –PARISHES TOGETHER FUND –DEVON AIR AMBULANCE TRUST NIGHT LANDING PROJECT: The Town Clerk said that £1400 remained to be allocated. She said that two other parish councils were considering vehicle activated signage. Cllr. Walden said that he did not feel that this was appropriate as a shared project as there were sufficient sites in Axminster.

Cllr. Hayward said that it could be given to one of the other parishes to extend the Air Ambulance Night Landing project. Cllr. Moulding seconded by Cllr. Rowe proposed that a letter to this effect be sent to Kilminster Parish Council as a site there would be more accessible than the Cloakham site to residents on the west side of Axminster. Agreed.

2017/0453 FINANCIAL MATTERS - QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT: Over all, expenditure was only 5% over budget but income had been below budget. Mrs. Adamson-Drage's report was noted.

2017/0454 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Mrs. Adamson-Drage said

that the external auditor's report had been received. The investment proposals had been approved by the Buildings and Finance Committee and she was working on drafting the budget. She said that changes to the current account arrangements had yet to be finalised.

2017/0455 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: after discussion it was agreed that the first three applications, from groups based at Pippins, be deferred pending the Town Council making a decision as to the future of Pippins. Quotes were being obtained for building condition surveys.

Application iv - Walking Netball towards new equipment – resolved that this be deferred.

CLLR. HAYWARD DECLARED A PECUNIARY INTEREST, AS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THE EVENT BEING RUN BY THE APPLICANT, IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND LEFT THE CHAMBER.

Following discussion it was resolved that the request from Axminster Wellbeing Centre for funding to cover the hire of the Guildhall for a quiz night be refused.

CLLR. HAYWARD RETURNED TO THE CHAMBER.

2017/0456 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Cllr. Walden reminded those present of the closure of the A35 at Hunters' Lodge for the next two nights.

2017/0457 TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS: the Town Mayor had undertaken the following engagements since the last meeting:

Attended the Axminster Carnival.  
Attended the funeral of Mr. G. Mills.

2017/0458 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: These had been circulated and no questions were raised regarding the content.

2017/0459 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE: Cllr. Moulding reported that a meeting of the steering group was scheduled for the following week to go through the plan in readiness for its submission to the District Council.

2017/0460 CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Letters Received
- b. Meetings
  - i. D.C.C. Highway Conferences – suggestions for agenda items
- c. Reports Received - the following reports are available for consultation in the office:
  - i. East Devon L.A.G. Minutes
  - ii. Healthwatch Devon.

The Deputy Mayor 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.

2017/0461 STAFFING MATTERS: The Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on the position regarding pensions. Cllr. Mrs. Spiller, seconded by Cllr. Walden proposed that contributions for all staff be back dated. Agreed.

Signed ..... Date.....

