

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Held at the Guildhall, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Town Mayor: Cllr. J.W. Walden  
Deputy Mayor Cllr. A.L. Young  
Councillors: G. Alderson, 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) was in attendance.

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

The meeting commenced with the inaugural presentation, by the Town Mayor, of the Robin Cross Memorial Award to Alan Geoffrey Enticott in recognition of his dedicated and unobtrusive contribution to the activities of many organisations in the town, such as Axminster Cricket Club at Cloakham Lawns, the annual Carnival and through his regular employment as Caretaker at the Guildhall. Among those present was Mr. Cross's daughter.

Cllr. Hull expressed his regret, echoed by his fellow Councillors, at the demise of Pulmans View from Axminster, a long

2018/0001 APOLOGIES: Cty. Cllr. I.L. Hall.

2018/0002 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

CLLRS. DOHERTY, GODBEER, HAYWARD, HULL, MOORE, 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.

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. MOULDING, 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. HULL DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A GOVERNOR OF ROYAL DEVON AND EXETER NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE FOUNDATION TRUST AND AS BEING A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS: AXMINSTER HERITAGE LTD.

AXMINSTER HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS  
AXMINSTER CHURCHES TOGETHER  
AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

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

ARC BEREAVEMENT, AXMINSTER ARTS, AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE, AXMINSTER AND DISTRICT HOSPISCARE, AXMINSTER HERITAGE LTD., AXMINSTER HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS, AXMINSTER MUSICAL THEATRE, AXMINSTER SKATE PARK, AXMINSTER ARTS, 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

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)

2018/0003 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017:

Cllrs. Hull and Mrs. Spiller said that the minutes did not include reference to the request for details of the minutes referring to approval of an item of work carried out at Pippins.

Cllr. Walden proposed that approval of the minutes be deferred to the February meeting to allow this to be rectified and that the minutes be re-presented with that item included.

Cllr. Hull and Mrs. Spiller also said that no mention had been included of the intention to present badges to former Mayors at the same time as the Robin Cross Memorial Award was made.

Cllr. Walden's proposal was carried.

2018/0004 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017: This item was deferred to the February meeting

2018/0005 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017: Cllr. Watson seconded by Cllr. Hayward, proposed that these be approved and adopted subject to that correction. Agreed.

2018/0006 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:  
Dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – None.

2018/0007 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017: Cllr. Seward, Member of the Committee, seconded by Cllr. Watson, proposed that these minutes be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2018/0008 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – none.

2018/0009 MATTERS OF URGENCY: None.

Cllr. Walden proposed that Agenda Items 14 and 16 be brought forward. Agreed.

2018/0010 TOWN FORUM – DEMISE OF PULMANS’ VIEW FROM AXMINSTER: Cllr. Seward regretted the closure of this local newspaper which had done an excellent job in reporting what had been going on in the town and surrounding district and added that the town needed access to this information and should have a newsletter. Cllr. Walden said that such a newsletter would have to be independent of the Town Council. Cllr. Watson proposed that a letter be sent to the local reporter to thank him for his diligent reporting of Town Council proceedings.

2018/0011 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM REGARDING HOUSING QUALITY IN AXMINSTER: in response to the points made in the letter, Cllr. Hull said that the quality of housing in England was monitored through the National House Builders’ Council and that local Councils had no jurisdiction in this matter. He said he had been pressing the District Council to put pressure on National Government to address this countrywide problem.

2018/0012 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM REGARDING DRAINAGE OF JUBILEE FIELD: A local resident had written regarding the matter of the water-logged condition of the field. Cllr. Hull said that as a result of the Town Council’s request that the field be left as an informal “kick about” recreation area and not be converted to a formal playing field, there was no requirement for the developer to put in any drainage. Cllr. Walden suggested that the developer be contacted and asked to clear the drain. Cllr. Seward recommended that the field be closed on a temporary basis. Cllr. Walden said that the gravel over the French drain needed to be hosed down to remove the layer of mud on top. Cllr. Walden said that he had sent an email to the relevant District Council officers seeking their advice. Cllr. Mrs. Spiller asked whether the Highway Authority had been involved.

2018/0013 FINANCIAL MATTERS – PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED:

Cllr. Hayward, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Spiller, proposed that the schedule of payments for December be approved. Agreed.

There was some discussion regarding the format in which this information was presented and Cllr. Rowe will discuss this with the Deputy Town Clerk.

2018/0014 FINANCIAL MATTERS – BANK RECONCILIATION FOR NOVEMBER:  
Cllr. Hayward, seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that this be signed. Agreed.

2018/0015 FINANCIAL MATTERS – TO REPORT MATTERS APPROVED BY TOWN  
MAYOR OR COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: None.

2018/0016 FINANCIAL MATTERS - FUNDING REQUESTS: None.

2018/0017 FINANCIAL MATTERS –PARISHES TOGETHER FUND –DEVON AIR  
AMBULANCE TRUST NIGHT LANDING PROJECT: Councillor Hayward  
reported that this had been signed off.

2018/0018 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER’S REPORT: Mrs. Adamson-Drage said  
that the precept request had been submitted. She had been continuing the invoicing of  
tenants and preparing for transfer of bank accounts

2018/0019 FINANCIAL MATTERS – PROGRESS AGAINST BUDGET: Cllr. Mrs. Spiller  
asked for detail regarding an item listed as a Guildhall New Asset. Mrs. Adamson-  
Drage said that she would look into this and send her the information. In response to  
further question from Cllr. Mrs. Spiller, the Deputy Clerk said that the higher cost of  
broadband provision at Pippins in comparison to the Guildhall related to work on  
improving the service at Pippins.

2018/0020 FINANCIAL MATTERS – MEMBERS ALLOWANCES: Cllr. Walden  
proposed that Councillors should continue to undertake their duties without claiming  
any allowances other than travel or refreshment where appropriate. Cllr. Hull  
seconded the proposal. Carried.

2018/0021 TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS: the Town Clerk said that various  
local road closures were pending.

2018/0022 TOWN MAYOR’S ENGAGEMENTS: the Town Mayor had undertaken the  
following engagements since the last meeting:

Attended Rotary Christmas Lunch  
Attended Axe Valley Academy School Carol Concert  
Attended various Christmas services at the Minster  
Called in during the latter part of the Christmas Lunch event at the Guildhall to take the  
opportunity to thank volunteers.  
Visited local care homes on Christmas Day to thank staff and meet residents.

2018/0023 REPORTS RECEIVED FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: Councillors had  
been dealing with items raised by individuals.

2018/0024 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Cllr. Hall reported that he had been  
dealing with items raised by individuals but added that progress was being made with  
broadband provision via Gigaclear.

2018/0025 RELOCATION OF SANDBAG STORAGE: Cllr. Walden explained that this had  
become necessary as their present site had been sold. Cllr. Mrs. Spiller asked that the

box be raised off the ground to prevent the wood rotting. The Deputy Town Clerk said that it was made from treated marine plywood and should be water resistant. The Town Clerk added that various people were aware of the code required to access the contents.

2018/0026 CORRESPONDENCE – ROYAL GARDEN PARTIES: it was resolved that Cllr. Mrs. Spiller be nominated.

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.

2018/0027 QUOTATIONS RECEIVED: not available

2018/0028 TENANCY MATTER: the Town Clerk reported that the solicitor had advised that the assets of the outgoing tenant should be handed directly to the incoming tenant. She will contact the outgoing tenant regarding this matter. Cllr. Mrs. Spiller proposed that all items on the inventory be passed over directly from the outgoing tenant to the incoming tenant without any involvement of the Town Council. Cllr. Godbeer seconded the proposal. Carried.

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

