

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Held at the Guildhall, on Friday, 22nd June 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Town Mayor: Cllr. J.W. Walden  
Deputy Mayor Cllr. A.L. Young  
Councillors: A.E. Bourner, C. A. Doherty, P.G. Hayward,  
D.R.H. Hull, Mrs. S.L.N. Leat, M. Mynard and A.J.E. Seward.

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

0Members of the public. 0 representative of the Press. 0 representative of the Devon and  
Cornwall Police.

2018/0241 APOLOGIES: Cllrs. G. Alderson, S. E. Clarke, D.J. Moore, L.A. Rowe, Mrs. S.R.  
Spiller and B.R. Watson

2018/0242 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

CLLRS. DOHERTY, HAYWARD, HULL AND LEAT ALL DECLARED PERSONAL  
INTERESTS AS BEING MEMBERS OF THE AXMINSTER GUILDHALL  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEMS RELATING TO  
THE GUILDHALL. CLLR. MRS. SPILLER IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF  
THE COMMITTEE BUT REMAINS A CHEQUE SIGNATORY PENDING A  
PROPOSED CHANGE IN BANKING ARRANGEMENTS.

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. HULL AND WALDEN EACH DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS  
BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF  
THE GOVERNORS OF AXE VALLEY ACADEMY AS A MEMBER OF  
AXMINSTER SKATEPARK STEERING GROUP, AXMINSTER TWINNING  
ASSOCIATION AND AS BEING SAFEGUARDING LEAD FOR AXMINSTER  
YOUTH CLUB.

CLLR. HAYWARD DECLARED A PECUNIARY INTEREST AS CLERK TO ALL  
SAINTS, CHARDSTOCK, TATWORTH 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)

CLLR. HULL DECLARED AN INTEREST AS BEING A GOVERNOR OF THE ROYAL  
DEVON AND EXETER HOSPITAL.

2018/0243 TOWN FORUM: No matters were raised.

2018/0244 MATTERS OF URGENCY: a tenancy matter at Pippins was raised. Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that this be taken in committee. Agreed.

2018/0245 FINANCIAL MATTERS – ANNUAL RETURN SECTION 2: The Responsible Financial Officer had circulated the return and supporting financial information to Councillors. She said that the auditors might question the increase in year end balances. She attributed this in part to the fact that there had been many capital projects the previous year. The Town Clerk mentioned the fact that Town and Parish Councils had for several years faced the threat of having their precept increases capped alongside having to take on provision of more and more non-statutory services which higher authorities which residents valued and wanted to make sure that the finances would be in place to meet this provision in terms of equipment and staffing.

Cllr. Hayward, seconded by Cllr. Seward, proposed that Section 2 of the Annual Return be approved. Agreed.

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.

2018/0246 TENANCY MATTER: Cllr. Walden, as Chairman of the Pippins Committee, expressed his concerns regarding the unauthorised removal or relocation of various items in the ownership of the Town Council or other organisations. Several other matters of concern were raised. As a result of enquiries made by the Town Clerk the whereabouts of one of the missing items was now known. A meeting with the hirers and tenants has been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> July so that the Town Council can hear their concerns and explain the limits of what they can do.

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

