

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Held at the Guildhall, on Monday 29th April 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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

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

2019/0166 APOLOGIES: Cllrs. G. Alderson, P.G. Hayward, M. Mynard, and A.J.E. Seward, also Dist. Cllr. A.T. Moulding and Cty./Dist. Cllr. Hall.

2019/0167 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

CLLRS. DOHERTY, HULL, LEAT, AND WATSON EACH 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. SHE ALSO DECLARED AN INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION.

CLLR. WALDEN 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.

2019/0168 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8th APRIL 2019: Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Doherty proposed that these be approved and adopted. Agreed.

2019/0169 TOWN FORUM: No matters were raised by the public.

2019/0170 PLANNING APPLICATION 17/0984/V106: the Town Clerk said that no new documents had in fact been made available regarding this application but she had been made aware that the Development Management Committee had made a decision under its delegated powers to refuse the developer's request that the profit margin be

set at 17.5% rather than 15.13%. This news was welcomed by Councillors. Several Councillors expressed the view that the matters the developers cited in support of their application were obvious at the time the application was made and were not new and that they should not have bought the site if they could not make it viable at the start.

Cllr. Watson, seconded by Cllr. Bourner, proposed that the following response be submitted: Axminster Town Council welcomes the decision of the Development Management Committee to refuse the request of the developer for an increased profit margin on this development as it is the view of the Town Council that virtually all of the factors cited in requesting the viability review should have been foreseen by the developer prior to purchasing the site. Agreed. Cllr. Mrs. Spiller voted against the proposal.

2019/0171 THE CONFERRAL OF THE TITLE FREEWOMAN OF AXMINSTER ON CLLR. MRS. SPILLER IN RECOGNITION OF HER EMINENT SERVICE TO THIS TOWN: Cllr. Hull, speaking as Father of the Council on behalf of Cllr. Hayward, who had placed the matter on the Agenda, read the following citation:

Cllr. Spiller has provided the Council, and the people of Axminster, with steadfast and distinguished service over the past two decades and more. I am truly delighted that Council is seeking to confer this signal honour upon her as a tribute to her diligent public duty - the exemplification of the Nolan Principles of Public Service, and her loyalty and undoubted love for the Town and parish of Axminster.

Cllr. Mrs. Spiller and I have had our disagreements over the years, as is to be expected in any group of Councillors with differing views but I have the utmost respect for someone who has never compromised her principles and never shied away from expressing a heartfelt viewpoint, even when it may be unpopular.

Furthermore, she has, for the entire time that I have known her, ensured that our town has perhaps one of the best kept Cemeteries in Devon.

Several Councillors added their own tributes.

Cllr. Hull then proposed that the title Freewoman of Axminster be conferred on Cllr. Mrs. Spiller on her retiral from the Council. Cllr. Watson seconded the proposal which was carried nem. con.

Responding, Cllr. Mrs. Spiller reflected that it was very fitting that her final Town Council meeting had been held in the Churchill Room which is where, for many years such meetings were always held. She said that all Councils had their ups and downs and wished the incoming and future Councils good luck in the years to come.

2019/0172 CO-OPTION FOR VACANCIES: Cllr. Walden, seconded by Cllr. Young, proposed that the six vacancies on the Council be advertised on the website and on social media with interested parties being asked to submit written expressions of interest by 5p.m. on 7th May. Agreed. Co-options would be made at the next meeting of the Town Council.

2019/0173 MATTERS OF URGENCY: None.

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. Cllr. Watson seconded the proposal. Agreed.

2019/0174 STAFFING MATTERS – LENGTHSMAN POST: the Town Clerk updated members further following the re-advertisement of this post. She felt that certain aspects of the post, particularly the hours, needed to be reconsidered. Cllr. Mrs. Spiller, seconded by Cllr. Walden, proposed that this be referred to the Employment Committee. Agreed.

Signed Date.....

