



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council**

Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,  
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

**Present:** Chairman: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors: Cllr. Mr Nick Thwaites; Mr Bill Gash; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mrs Ann Van Praag, Mrs Allison Crisp. Cllrs. Mrs Frances Nicholson and Mr Stephen Pugsley, Somerset Council (S.C.) who both left at who left at 8.30. There were no members of the public.

**Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public:** None

**Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:** None

**Declarations of Interest:**

None not already declared.

**Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management:** None

**Questions for Somerset Councillors:**

Cllrs. Mrs Frances Nicholson and Mr Stephen Pugsley - S.C.

School Transport: Representatives from Child Services (S.C.) met with parents and children from Dulverton to discuss travel provision. At present a bus is available for children attending Richard Huish, but not SCAT, whose intake has fallen as a result. The situation is made worse by the unreliability of the No. 25 bus service provided by First Bus's.

There are no proposals to resolve the issue, however it is being pursued by Cllr, Nicholson.

Proposed Recycling Centre Closure: Negotiations between Biffa and S.C. are proving difficult. The senior officer involved, Mr Mike Green has been requested to supply as much information as possible concerning the current contract before the public meeting. He agrees that the issue needs to be reviewed holistically, involving the whole of the service provision not just the HWRC facilities. Members commented that the arguments should not just be financially driven and that the current proposals discriminate against those living in rural communities.

The following information was requested:

- How the numbers visiting the individual HWRC facilities are collated?
- The number residents living in surrounding villages?
- The extent of land owned by ENPA

S.C. Devolved Services: It remains unclear as to which services are to be cut. Members were advised that parishes will have to work together in order to secure financially viable contracts.

Ditches and grips clearance, and drain jetting and gully cleansing – Cllr. Mrs Christine Dubery was thanked for her many hours of work organising and administering the project on behalf of the LCN. It was commented that it wouldn't have been achieved without her.

Street Cleaning – The contract with Idverde doesn't expire until 2025. No information concerning costs etc. have been forthcoming.

Highways Steward – The future of the scheme remains uncertain.

Some parishes have set their precept in anticipation of accepting devolved services in the future.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 circulated:** were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

**7028 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:**

Barnclose – Sewerage Works Access:

The Clerk informed members of the proposals from SWW (South West Water) to create a permanent track in order to access the sewerage treatment works.

In the absence of any details, members agreed to attend a site meeting with representatives from SWW.

Members agree in principle to sell the land required, however expressed many concerns regarding the existing facilities provided which will have to be resolved. Certain criteria will need to be met to offset the impact on the community before any firm commitment is made.

**7029 Accounts:**

Financial Statement: See Appendix A

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statement as per Appendix A is approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

Payments for approval: See Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Rawle and carried.

**7030 Committees:**

Minutes to be approved by the relative Committee members and be adopted as part of this meeting:

a) Dulverton Partnership Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Dulverton Partnership Group Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Proposed by Mrs Crisp, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

b) Grounds Committee Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

c) Town Management Committee - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Town Management Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

**7031 Parish Lengthsman Scheme 2024/25:**

Members agreed to the proposal to the end the scheme, suggesting that each existing parish enter into individual contracts with the Parish Lengthsman, with the option to use his existing service agreement as a basis for a contract.

The reasons the scheme was created no longer exist – i.e. funding has been withdrawn from other/higher authorities therefore a lead Council is no longer required to process information and forward it on.

It's probable that both the Parish Lengthsman and the Parishes will be better off as a result and it will give both greater flexibility.

**7032 Planning:**

RESOLVED: To adopt the comments as per Appendix C as part of this meeting. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Gash and carried.

**7033 Dulverton Recycling Centre – Public Meeting**

The event is to be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February in the Town Hall and has been published accordingly. The local press have been invited and details sent to the surrounding parishes.

Doors will be open as from 6.00pm. Members were asked to arrive at 5.30 to help 'set up' the hall. Volunteers will be required to act as ushers and take details from those attending.

**7034 Hedgehog Highway Project:**

Members suggested that the information provided is forwarded to the Gardening Club, agreeing that being predominantly a rural area, residents are 'hedgehog aware'. The Clerk was requested to create a poster to be published on the DTC Facebook page providing awareness of the equipment available.

**7035 Correspondence:**

Correspondence noted by members.

**7036 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:**

ENPA – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Change to the National Park Centre service.

The meeting was attended by members and hosted by Mr Dan James, Rural Enterprise Manager.

Members requested statistics concerning the footfall this summer in comparison with previous years.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr James thanking him for accommodating the meeting and requesting the opportunity to meet again in six months to review the situation. Members would also like to know when the proposed meeting with the local traders will take place.

**7037 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:** None

**Chairman** .....