



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.15pm, in the Town Hall,
Fore Street, Dulverton TA22.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mrs Christine Dubery. Councillors:; Mr Alan Ottey; Mrs Allison Crisp; Mrs Louise Parrish;; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites; Mrs Frances Nicholson, (Somerset Council (S.C.)), who arrived at 7.40pm and left at 8.05pm.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:

Cllrs: Mr John Preston, who is ill, Mrs Ann Van Praag, who is on holiday, and Mr Steven Pugsley (S.C.), who is attending other parish meetings.

Declarations of Interest:

None that have not already been registered.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for Somerset Councillors:

City, Town and Parish Council Clerks Working Group: Members commented that the notifications, agenda & associate documents were received too late to disperse and give interested parties the time to make themselves available. Cllrs Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Dubery will pursue the issue.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2024 as circulated: were approved and signed. Proposed by Mrs Parrish, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

7039 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

7028: Barnclose – South West Water Proposals

A meeting has been scheduled to be held on site, between representatives from South West Water and DTC, on Tuesday 19th March 2024.

7033: Dulverton Recycling Centre – Public Meeting

The feedback received was positive; the management and organization of the event praised. It was attended by approximately 200 members of the public.

The general consensus was that the concerns expressed by residents were clearly expressed with many excellent points put forward.

The Clerk was requested to write to Cllr. Darch thanking both her and Kirsty Larkins for taking time to attend the meeting, and to express that the meeting was unanimous in opposition to the proposed closure and that members consider that that it would be neither equitable nor serving the needs of the local community.

Furthermore, it is considered that the cuts should be shared equally by all the recycling centres in the county.

Cllr Nicholson informed members that SCC has made an additional commitment to ensuring equality under the Equalities Act in four other areas outside of the protected characteristics, in recognition of the rural nature of Somerset and the impact that has on the Council's ability to provide services to all.

The main points from the meeting are to be included in the letter.

7040 Accounts:

The Financial Statement: February 2024 - See Appendix A

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

Payments for Approval: February 2024 - See Appendix B

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

7041 Committees:

Dulverton Partnership Meeting – 28th February 2024

RESOLVED: To adopt as part of this meeting the minutes of the Dulverton Partnership meeting held on 28th February 2024, with the following amendments regarding events expenditure:

- 1) 13.2.24 - Payment made to Somerset Council should be redacted.
- 2) 24.2.24 - AR Web Design - To be withdrawn as it was subsequently found not to have been paid until after the meeting.

Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

7042 Planning:

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

7043 Councillor Resignation:

The Chairman read out the letter of resignation received from Mr Bill Gash, which has been regrettably accepted by the Chairman, Mrs Christine Dubery.

There now exist two vacancies on this Council.

7044 Somerset Council – Devolution Proposals: To set up a Working Group:

The Clerk is requested to circulate to all members the content of the letter now on the Somerset Council website. Members will consider the proposal to form working group at the next meeting.

7045 Dulverton Partnership: - Renewal of the Independent Contractor Agreement:

RESOLVED: That the existing Independent Contractor Agreement is adopted and offered to Mrs Ali Pegrum for a further year. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mrs Crisp and carried.

7046 Dulverton Youth Club:

To be deferred.

7047 Dulverton Flower Display: To accept a quote:

Members considered two quotes and consequently:

RESOLVED: To accept the quote received from Cove Nursery at £324.00. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

7048 Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

7049 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor LCN Meeting – 7th March 2024: Attended by Cllrs. Mrs Dubery, Mr Thwaites and Mrs Rawle.

Mrs Dubery reported that the recycling closures had been the main topic of discussion. Somerset Councillor Dixie Darch, accompanied by an officer, was present at the meeting. Those present were informed that the county of Somerset is well serviced by recycling centres in comparison with the rest of the country. When asked as to whether any work had been done regarding the comments and proposals that had been voiced at the public meeting held in Dulverton on 27th February, Cllr. Darch said she anticipated that nothing would be done until the negotiations with the contractor are finalized. Mrs Dubery pointed out that most of the facilities are situated in central, southern or eastern parts of the county; currently only 3 of the 16 are located on the west side. Two of these are being proposed to be closed. Others present commented that the rural nature of the area should be considered when making any decisions. Mrs Dubery also informed the meeting that in terms of additional mileage, approximately 246K miles of additional car miles would be undertaken on the highways network between the Dulverton area and Minehead recycling centre. Resulting in additional pressures on the road network.

7050 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Traffic Management:

- 1) Kerb Blip Lining – It is anticipated that it will be done before the end of the financial year.
- 2) Vicarage Hill and Union Street – The contractor is not able to erect the signs before the end of March but have been asked that they are done as a matter of urgency in April.

Members considered the following concerns raised by Mr Phil Collings in his email dated 6th March 2024:

- a) The new road layout has led to vehicles travelling at higher speeds down the hill and is more of a danger to motorists and pedestrians.
- b) It has led to more traffic build up with buses and other large goods vehicles and is causing chaos with parking on vicarage hill.
- c) As a responding officer for DSFRS as previously stated it is causing me to park on double yellow lines just to be close to my home, due to the reduced amount of parking spaces available.

The following response is to be forwarded onto Mr Collings:

Initially, both Somerset Council and DTC were approached by residents in the High Street to find a solution to the dangerous habit of vehicles mounting the pavement when trying to pass vehicles travelling in the opposite direction.

A request for erecting more/replacement bollards to stop the pavement/kerbs being installed along this road was denied by Somerset Council as they no longer meet current regulations. The only solution proposed by Somerset Highways, which meet current regulations, was the 'Priority Give Way' option.

Dulverton Town Council therefore requested Somerset Council Highways Traffic Management for priority 'Give Way' procedures to be implemented on Vicarage Hill to Union Street Junction.

Somerset Council Highways advertised the Traffic Regulation Order in December 2023, inviting public comment. They responded providing explanations to all those that submitted comments/concerns.

*Unfortunately the contractors painted the double yellow lines on Vicarage Hill **before** the Traffic Regulation Order was advertised and did not erect the 'Give Way' signage necessary at the same time.*

These are to be erected at Rosemary Lane junction and Webbers/ Union Street junction. This was an error on the contractors' part. The lack of these prominent signs may be causing some motorists to ignore the both 20mph speed limit on Vicarage Hill/High Street and ignoring the 'Give Way' lines.

Somerset Council has asked the contractors to erect these signs as a matter of urgency during April as they are unable to do so by the end of this month.

Once the new 'Priority' signage is in place it is hoped that it will improve the traffic flow and safety of pedestrians and motorists.

With regards to the reduced amount of parking spaces available, the installation of the double yellow lines are regrettable but necessary to ensure that there exist space for cars etc. to queue when giving way rather than they being stationary in the middle of the road, reducing the access of vehicles coming up the hill to pass. There are still several parking spaces on the left hand side of the road as you travel out of Dulverton, or in the Public Lion Stables Car Park, situated a short distance away. An annual permit can be obtained to use this facility from Somerset Council.

Chairman