



**Tiverton Town Council**

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**Minutes of the Zoom Full Council Meeting of the Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 6pm.**

**Present:** Cllr's C Slade (Mayor), S Griggs (Deputy Mayor), J Blagg, W Burke, A Bush, C Daw, L Cruwys, P Hill, J Rendle, B Holdman, I Hill, N Davey, D Knowles, A Perris, D Garcia-Parejo, W Burke, C Harrower and T Lindus

<b>131</b>	<b>Opening of the Meeting by the Mayor Cllr C Slade.</b> Cllr C Slade welcomed the members to the Full Council Zoom Meeting and instructed them of the procedures for voting and questions. He explained that the committee reports would not be read out as they had all been previously circulated.
<b>132</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Apologies had been received from Councillor A Berry and Councillor S Bush, both due to work commitments. Agreed to accept these apologies
<b>133</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b> There were no Declarations of Interest made at this stage of the meeting
<b>134</b>	<b>Minutes: To adopt the Minutes of the Meetings</b> The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 were adopted as a true record
<b>135</b>	<b>Matters arising from the above meetings</b> There were no matters arising at this stage.
<b>136</b>	<b>Democratic Period: for members of the public to ask questions or make statements via email or zoom.</b> There were no members of the public in attendance, and no questions or statements had been submitted to the council prior to the meeting
<b>137</b>	<b>County Council Report</b> In the early part of this year the U.K. had record employment levels and pay was rising. Since 23 <sup>rd</sup> March, living standards have fallen and in May a typical working household's income was already 4.5% lower than in May 2019. In June, Devon-wide, there were 128,000 people on some form of income support and, as the end of the furlough scheme looms, unemployment is becoming a major concern with figures of between 9% -14% projected for the last quarter of the year. The county has seen an above average rise in universal credit claimants and, with numbers of furloughed workers also above the

national average, is likely to see those numbers increasing. D.C.C.'s financial hardship fund (phase 1 set up in May) allocated £1m for initial crisis support which was distributed via the districts and I know from people who have contacted me how well Mid Devon played its part in that. D.C.C. has just renewed this fund (phase 2), pooling what is left of the initial sum with an additional grant of £757k from D.E.F.R.A. and revising its original purpose so that 'people and families whose economic circumstances are most impacted by Covid-19 can be supported through the pandemic and helped to regain their financial independence'. 50% of the phase 2 monies will again go to the districts to supplement their local support funds; 25% will be retained by D.C.C. as a contingency fund against the economic impact of any localised outbreaks and 25% will be available to support any shared delivery arrangements with, say, Involve or other C.V.S. partners.

As of 17<sup>th</sup> September, the last week's confirmed coronavirus cases totalled 33 across the county; 108 over the last fortnight. The latter is thought to be a better guide as it takes account of the slight delay in computing the test returns and, out of every 1,000 tests taken, only 5 or 6 prove positive. At the beginning of the month, confirmed cases were nearly all amongst those aged between 25 and 40 who had recently returned from abroad but reported cases now extend into the wider population. In the county's 330 care homes, however, there are only 2-3 current cases and frequent testing is now the norm. The only apparent hot-spot in Devon is Pennsylvania but 'local' cases there include former students who are still registered at addresses in the area but who have, in fact, moved away. I believe that Exeter University is unique in having its own testing facility; it also has a new vice chancellor who is a virologist by profession.

Unable to continue to meet in youth clubs or local halls, Devon's youth workers took to the streets in 19 out of the 23 'hub' towns. By mid-April they had set up a 'virtual' scheme based on a gaming platform (Discord) with youth workers in an adjacent 'room' for any of the young people needing to talk. An increased social media presence helped to keep them in contact and a grant of £140,000 from the National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund is being aimed at developing their digital programme for young people across Devon. With help from councillors' locality budgets and a donation of tablets from Microsoft, they were able to deliver £15,000-pounds' worth of 'tech' to over 90 young people to help them access education and other services and to reduce isolation during the pandemic. Some 2,000 plus devices have also been provided by schools. In the last fortnight some clubs are re-opening to groups of up to 15 (in Exeter); central government has re-classified this youth work as 'education' so that such groups may continue to meet under the new restrictions.

Schools across the county have been welcoming their pupils and students back over the past few days and, though arrangements may differ from school to school, all report 90%

	<p>attendance or higher – in some cases 92.5 % against a norm of 96%. I’m sure you will join me in wishing them all a successful and uninterrupted term!</p> <p>In addition to her written report Cllr Colthorpe mentioned that a highway order had been issued for additional disabled parking in Castle Street. Cllr Cruwys stated he was disappointed that general parking had not been restricted at the market end of Castle Street where it was very narrow. He would bring that item up at the forthcoming HATOC meeting.</p>
<p><b>138</b></p>	<p><b>District Council Report</b></p> <p>Following the last council meeting, the Leader of the Council removed four members of his cabinet, then he appointed four new members onto the cabinet. One of the new cabinet members has 12 years’ experience on cabinet, the other one has five years’ experience. The other two have been councillors for number of years and are highly qualified in their portfolio.</p> <p>The play park at Westexe is getting a makeover costing 75thousand pounds. Starting this month.</p> <p>We get up to date reports from the CEO, Stephen Walford on Covid-19. We are gearing up at the moment to support those who are having to go into isolation. We are encouraging people to abide by the rules, wear masks, wash their hands and keep social distance.</p> <p>Having been unanimously supported by full council, work continues to move forward in relation to the Three Rivers Development.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruitment of additional directors as requested by full council.</li> <li>2. New shareholders agreement as requested by full council.</li> <li>3. New loan agreements as recommended and drawn up by external solicitors.</li> <li>4. New interim business plan taking business to the end of financial year</li> <li>5. Complete all current contracts including St George’s Court.</li> </ol> <p>2021 business plan as yet to be agreed.</p> <p>All cross party working groups are being supported and all committee places and chairs continue to be politically balanced.</p> <p>Updated budget to be considered by full council in the coming weeks to understand the full year effects of COVID-19.</p> <p>All Consultations on the garden village (Cullompton) and other major projects are to continue.</p> <p>Cllr Garcia stated he was concerned about the changes in the cabinet implemented by the Leader of the District Council. On a point of order the Mayor informed him that this was not a matter for discussion by this council. He then informed members that a special meeting had been called for the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to discuss this issue.</p> <p>Cllr Perris asked what impact this decision might have on Tiverton, to which the Mayor replied that he hoped it would be a positive one.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill stated she had not received an attachment of the report, but was informed by the mayor that the information had been included in the body of the email.</p>

	<p>Cllr Cruwys asked that future reports be prepared in a format which allowed for questions by members.</p>
<b>139</b>	<p><b>Committee Minutes</b></p> <p><b>The following reports were accepted by the meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Finance Committee of the 14<sup>th</sup> September</b></li> <li>b) <b>Planning Committee of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August, and 7<sup>th</sup> September</b></li> <li>c) <b>Allotment Committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> September</b></li> <li>d) <b>Cllr Perris stated there would be a Covid-19 meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October</b></li> <li>e) <b>Cllr Lindus stated statements should be included. The town clerk requested that statements be in writing.</b></li> </ul>
<b>140</b>	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>The Mayor stated that he was disappointed that very few members had attended the briefing last week, however, the slides and the link to the document had been circulated. <b>Cllr L Cruwys proposed that the plan be adopted, and this was seconded by Cllr Knowles, with all members being in agreement.</b> Another opportunity for hearing the presentation was being made available.</p>
<b>141</b>	<p><b>Remembrance Day 2020</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk stated that due to Covid-19 restrictions the Remembrance Day for 2020 would be different than that experienced for many years. There could not be a parade, and a church service would be very limited. It was hoped that some form of wreath laying could however still take place. Cllr Lindus stated that he was still willing to lay the crosses on the war graves in the cemetery. The Town Clerk suggested that the event would have more room if it was held in People’s Park rather than outside the Memorial Hall this year. Cllr Cruwys agreed with this idea but suggested that it would not be a good idea to leave them there overnight. The Town Clerk agreed with this and stated that they would be removed, and then later laid in their normal position outside the Memorial Hall. Cllr Cruwys also informed the meeting that he hoped that the Armistice short ceremony at Phoenix Lane on the 11th November would continue, albeit at a reduced attendance allowance. Cllr Burke stated that it would be better to have the Remembrance Day ceremony in the middle of People’s park where there was far more room. Cllr Harrower thought it was a good idea and wished to move that we go ahead with it, however the mayor stated that we needed to get an agreement with the Tiverton RBL regarding the arrangements.</p> <p>Agreed, that in principle this was a good idea and fully supported by the town council. The town clerk would liaise with the Royal British Legion and report back. At present, the town clerk explained, it is unclear how many people would be permitted to attend such an event.</p>
<b>142</b>	<p><b>Street Marshal</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk explained that the idea was to have a person who would be able to assist with social distancing of people within the town, but that the role could also include that of being a litter warden. The person could have the authority to issue penalty notices as a last ditch. He pointed out that Teignmouth Town Council are employing such a person, and that</p>

	<p>he is proving very useful. In Cornwall the larger towns have marshals who patrol the streets. He suggested that if members liked the idea he would produce a detailed paper for the October Finance meeting. Cllr Perris stated that this was another Government idea. He wanted to know the cost. The Town Clerk replied that he had some funds that had been allocated by MDDC for Covid-19 for the town, but that the detail would be in his report. Cllr Davey felt that this was a good idea and looked forward to reading the report. Cllr I Hill stated that she had seen these people in operation in Cornwall, but there had been two of them. She was concerned how one person might deal with unpleasant behaviour. The person would need good training. Cllr Holdman was concerned at there being only one person assigned to the task, with Cllr Garcia stating that the position could encompass other roles. Cllr Knowles felt it was a good idea, but also felt we might need two people. Cllr Hendy had some concerns over health and safety issues. Cllr Lindus thought that this was more of a summer job, with Cllr Griggs asking if this linked to the odd job person's position. She also thought that this position, as she had read it, was more to do with the night time economy. She did not like the title marshal. Cllr Daw explained that we were having problems with people going up and down the wrong alleyways in the town. Cllr Davey suggested that the title might be better as warden rather than marshal. Cllr Holdman stated he liked the name ambassador rather than marshal. He asked if the item would come back to full council. The mayor stated than any councillor can attend the finance meeting, and that unless a special council meeting was called, the next one would not be until November; and there was a need to make a decision on this matter, and if agreed, implement it as soon as possible. Any ideas could be forwarded to either him or the Town Clerk. Agreed that the Town Clerk would submit a report to the October Finance meeting,</p>
<p><b>143</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> There were no items</p>
<p><b>144</b></p>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b> Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 6pm (Zoom)</p>

Signed -----

Date -----