



Tiverton Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Council held on Monday 25th January 2021 commencing at 6pm held via Zoom.

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

In attendance: Town Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), one member of the press, and one member of the public.

172	<p>Opening of the Meeting by the Mayor, Cllr C Slade. Cllr C Slade welcomed the members to the Full Council Zoom Meeting and instructed them of the procedures for voting and questions. All reports had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Mayor, Mayoress and Town Clerk had attended the funeral of the late Anthony Bush. Several other councillors had attended, either in the church or outside.</p> <p>The elections are still scheduled to take place on the 6th May, however the government has ruled that door to door canvassing and leaflet dropping will not be permitted.</p>	
173	<p>Apologies: An apology had been received from Cllr A Berry (work). This was accepted.</p>	
174	<p>Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct There were no Declarations of Interest made at this stage of the meeting.</p>	
175	<p>Minutes: To adopt the Minutes of the Meetings The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th January 2021 were adopted as a true record. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cllr S Griggs and seconded by Cllr I Hill; with all being in favour.</p>	
176	<p>Matters arising from the above meetings There were no matters arising.</p>	
177	<p>Democratic Period: for members of the public to ask questions or make statements via email or zoom. There was one member of the public present, who did not wish to ask a question.</p>	
178	<p>County Council Report Sadly, the latest lockdown will have come as no surprise and 2021 started much as 2020 ended - even in Mid Devon case numbers were rising, though thankfully they are now decreasing again and were always relatively low compared with other parts of the country. This time, however,</p>	

	<p>the prospect of mass vaccination is a reality, with three different vaccines now licensed and distribution underway. All four of the county's main hospitals are offering an injection to in-patients in priority groups as well as to frontline staff, and Devon's G.P. practices are working to set up local vaccination centres - there are 16 already in operation serving 104 surgeries, with more to follow. Larger scale centres to cover wider areas are also planned and the easier-to-use AstraZeneca vaccine was delivered to – and put to good use by - some G.P. practices in Devon by 8th January.</p> <p>I know it's been said before but it's worth saying again: please don't make things harder for the N.H.S. by calling your local hospital or G.P. practice about getting vaccinated – the N.H.S. will contact you when it's your turn.</p> <p>The effect the pandemic is having on Devon's traffic has thrown up some interesting statistics. During the first lockdown (23rd March to 10th May 2020) 24 hour weekday traffic flows were down about 70% on the same period in 2019 while Lockdown No.2 (5th November to 1st December) saw reductions of around 25%. On Christmas Eve the roads were busier than usual but only by a single percent and on Christmas Day traffic was down by 11% and it was the same on New Year's Eve, while New Year's Day saw a drop of 32%. Even on 4th January when working as 'normal' ('normal for Tier 3' that is) was very briefly resumed, traffic flows were down 20% on 2019's figures and, with Lockdown No.3 imposed on Tuesday 5th, were down 32% by the end of the working week.</p> <p>Which brings me to the (draft) Interim Devon Carbon Plan. Open for consultation responses until 15th February at: www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk, there is also a series of free webinars which anyone may join although you do need to sign up at www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/interim-devon-carbon-plan-webinar-series/ in advance. Had the lockdown not temporarily closed the libraries again, hard copies of the plan would be available for you to see but it can be seen on-line. The mobile library service and the home library service are also temporarily suspended so, if you currently have a book, C.D. or D.V.D. on loan, you will be glad to know you may safely retain it until the libraries re-open without fear of a fine! All loans have been extended until 29th March, 2021 and will be extended again if necessary.</p> <p>This week sees the start of the budget scrutiny round with Children's Scrutiny on 25th January (on-line this year, of course), Health and Adult Care on 26th and C.I.R.S. on 28th. Don't forget you can join all or any of them on-line if you wish.</p> <p>Cllr Colethorpe informed the meeting that a detailed CCG update had been circulated to the District Council, and would be available on request. Finally she informed members that budgets were being discussed at the County Council this week.</p>	
179	<p>District Council Report</p> <p>Here is my first report to Town council, Covid 19 remains one of the biggest issues to Mid Devon District Council and we now have an email where businesses can go to if they have enquires regarding grants, which is business@middevon.gov.org . Our officers have been working very hard on pushing out the money to businesses. I know that there has been some issues surrounding the roll out of this, hence why we have the email. There is also a Covid Hotline people can call should they need assistance the community Support hotline is 01884 234387.</p> <p>As a council we have been working closely with the volunteer sector and now have a system in</p>	

	<p>place. Mid Devon District Council is still available by phone and email should anyone need to contact them.</p> <p>We have had our first look at the Tiverton Town Master Plan which has been a great improvement from the last one, again the officers have put a lot of work into it. I realize it won't please everyone but as the high street is changing and money will be tight for a few years at least. So with that in mind I feel it is a plan worth getting behind. The Council is working on the Budget for next year and this is due to come up to full council in February. I would like to add it would be great to see more people come along to the meetings at Mid Devon District Council and take part.</p> <p>On a positive note it's great to see how the community has really come together. We really have a caring community and some great people out there, who have stepped up to the plate in this Covid 19 pandemic. We are not through it yet but together we will get through this pandemic.</p> <p>The Mayor added that the budget for the District Council looked like having a shortfall of about £385k. As the Portfolio Lead for Environment, he informed the meeting that there would be a trial of three weekly waste collections possibly in June. The trial would include about 1,000 houses, in a mix of both rural and urban areas. He made the point that no decisions would be made until after the trial period and the public consultation period that would follow. This trial is not just about saving money but is about trying to improve our recycling rates.</p>	
180	<p>To resolve to combine the Tiverton in Bloom and Allotment Committee into one committee to be known as the Amenities Committee</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained to the meeting the reasoning behind the proposed merger of these committees. Cllr Burke stated that this would be a good idea, and that he fully supported the merger. Cllr Burke proposed this motion, which was seconded by Cllr Knowles, with all being in favour.</p>	
181	<p>Business Risk Assessment Review</p> <p>The Business Risk Assessment document had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. The Mayor proposed that it be accepted; and all members were in favour.</p>	
182	<p>Committee Minutes</p> <p>The following minutes were adopted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finance & General Purposes of 14th December 2020 b) Planning of 7th & 21st December 2020 and 18th January 2021 c) Climate Emergency of 30th November 2020 d) Tiverton in Bloom of 7th December 2020 e) Report by Cllr A Perris –Covid-19 Working Party Update f) Covid-19 Report circulated earlier in the day. <p>Cllr Perris informed the meeting that the figures that had been circulated had been provided by the Clinical Director. Patients from Dorset and London were using the Devon hospitals because their facilities were full. Whilst the number of Covid-19 cases in the county were, in the main, showing a decrease, he made the point that they were expecting the numbers to rise again; therefore we were by no means out of trouble.</p> <p>Cllr Perris requested that the council set aside an emergency fund of up to £10k to be used in conjunction with CHAT and other organisations should the need arise. The point was made that this funding was to cover the whole of the parish of Tiverton, not just the town. Cllr Burke stated he would support this providing that the funds were only used for Tiverton. The Town</p>	

	<p>Clerk stated that such funds would need to come from the council’s reserves. Cllr A Perris proposed, seconded by Cllr N Davey that the sum of up to £10k be set aside for this purpose. Cllr Knowles stated he was in favour, but requested regular updates on the use of the funds. Cllr Griggs asked what the funds had been used for so far, to which Cllr Perris replied that funding had mainly been used for the food bank. Cllr Griggs also asked if there were any other ways in which we could help. Cllr Perris stated that concerns had been expressed following the closure of the Tiverton Age UK last month, and that we may well be missing people who are not linked to social media. The Mayor commented that any of us can assist as individuals, and pointed out that he had provided funds to CHAT from his Mayor’s Charity fund, and private donations.</p> <p>Cllr Colethorpe reminded the meeting that Tiverton included areas outside of the town area. Cllr Harrower asked if the newspaper reporter could assist by placing an appropriate article in the newspaper. Cllr Bush pointed out as clarity to members, that the council had already provided £10k to CHAT. £5k of that had already been spent, but there was still some of the second £5k grant left, therefore at present the additional £10k was as contingency, in case it was required. Should it be required, there may well be the need to act very quickly, and not be delayed awaiting permission from this council. The proposal was carried.</p>	
<p>183</p>	<p>Prior to closing the meeting the Mayor informed members, that this Saturday, he would be celebrating 50 years since he first made his appearance on the radio.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 6.35pm</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 22nd March 2021 at 6pm</p>	

Signed -----

Date -----