



**Tiverton Town Council**

Town Hall, St Andrew Street, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6PG  
 Town Clerk: J.F. Vanderwolfe Chartered MCIPD  
 Email:townclerk@tivertontowncouncil.gov.uk  
 Phone: 01884 253404

**Minutes of the Meeting of a Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 6:15pm.**

Cllrs: S Griggs (Mayor), C Harrower, (Deputy Mayor), W Burke, J Chamberlain, N Davey, P Elstone, D Garcia-Parejo, A Hendy, I Hill, Phil Hill, Peter Hill, B Holdman, T Lindus, S Pugh, J Rendle, C Slade.

**In attendance:** Cllr R Chesterton, Mr J Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk), Beadle A Burnett, Blundell’s School, Tiverton High School, Representatives from the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan Group, Mr R Ives, Mr I Johnson, Ms S Chapman, Ms A Eardley, 10 members of public and one member of press.

**Not present:** Cllr C Daw, and M Farrell.

377	<b>Prayers led by the Town Clerk, Mr J Vanderwolfe.</b>
378	<b>Apologies for Absence Cllrs, A Berry (work), E Slade (sick), A Perris (work), A Berry (Work), S Bush (Work), D Knowles (Personal).</b>
379	<b>Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b> None declared at this stage.
380	<b>Minutes: To adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 as a true record.</b> All resolved to accept the Minutes, the Mayor duly signed the Minutes.
381	<b>Mayors announcements</b> Cllr S Griggs welcomed the members and public, and congratulated Cllrs P Elstone and M Farrell on the anniversary of their first year serving as councillors. She said she had attended many festive events, including visiting Tiverton Hospital to see patients and The Old Heathcoat School Community Centre where Christmas lunches were being served to the community. Cllr Griggs informed the members that £450.00 had been raised by a raffle during her Christmas Drinks evening. There were two major events for the town for 2023, the first being HMS Enterprise who were exercising their right to the Freedom of the town on the 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023, Cllr Griggs thanked the administration team for their work on this, followed by the coronation of King Charles III, which was being planned by the Town Centre Coordinator. Cllr Griggs said that both events would be good for Tiverton.
382	<b>Presentations by Blundell’s School and Tiverton High School *Report previously circulated</b> <b>There was a joint presentation read out to the members as follows;</b> Blundell’s and Tiverton High School met again to decide upon joint projects to engage in. These meetings have also been used to recognise and support students with their forthcoming GCSEs. At Tiverton High School, teachers were supporting pupils by holding after school lessons for each subject to focus on topics that they wanted to work upon. The promotion of positive

	<p>mental health was a focus too.</p> <p>At Blundell’s school, flexible revision sessions were being planned, with small groups to support pupils in the run up to mock examinations and actual examinations. The head of Year ran regular PowerPoint presentations on study skills to reassure and provide support and advice.</p> <p>Both schools had been very busy since the last full council meeting, Blundell’s with events such as the Christmas Fair in the Garden Cabin which raised £800 for charity and a pop up charity shop selling donated clothes from the pupils Other events included an own clothes day and a frugal lunch and altogether the sum of just under £1,000 was raised for CHAT. This had helped to raise awareness of homelessness in Tiverton and Exeter.</p> <p>Finally Blundell’s saw the launch of the Bhambayi Project which will see a group visit South Africa to work on the project during the October half-term.</p> <p>Tiverton High School were pleased with how the partnership with Blundell’s had progressed. Primary School Activity Days were being planned with Tidcombe, Wilcombe and Heathcoat. Primary School Music Partnership Workshop day, would see the music department host a day for the primary schools focusing on a wide range of instruments.</p> <p>All schools had been invited to Blundell’s Spring Concert matinee performance of “Blundell’s at Sea”.</p> <p>Year 7 Maths Competition would replace the Maths Challenge that used to run, the Maths department would now run their own inter schools competition for pupils in year 7.</p> <p>The new Garden cabin which was the base for the Community Partnerships was nearing completion and all were looking forward to seeing it in action at the Spring Term Garden Open Day on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The end of term saw a fantastic Advent Carol Service in St Peter’s Church featuring a range of music including the Nutcracker. Snow forced the cancellation of music in the pannier market but there were hopes that this could happen in the new year.</p>
383	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan Presentation</b></p> <p>Mr I Johnson presented the report.</p> <p>Mr Johnson said that in autumn of 2018, he wrote a vision statement for Tiverton’s Neighbourhood Plan. This had been the third attempt to put together such a document. Mr R Ives joined Mr Johnson to become the voluntary coordinator. The following November they met with Ms T Butcher who asked if she could redact Mr Johnson’s vision. Her offering was to become the vision that the group worked with ever since. Many hours of work and input have been devoted to realising this ambition.</p> <p>Mr Johnson and his fellow members were now proud of the document they have produced. His hope was that the policies within the document would be utilised to assist councillors to make informed decisions. There would, he said, be a policy monitoring template to assist the councillors in applying the 200 pages of the document, along with its two accompanying documents. There were seventeen policies and twenty-two non-policy actions which had been approved, among them being cycle routes, improved public transport systems, and better signage.</p> <p>Mr Johnson said that Ms S Chapman, who was a very experienced member of the community had now agreed to continue the work of steering a new group to help and support members in building alliances and enabling projects to happen in the town over the next coming years. He hoped that the members would accept Ms Chapman’s kind offer. Mr Johnson ended by giving thanks to Mr R Ives, and to Ms A Eardley who had been the consultant for the plan.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs thanked Mr Johnson and all the members of the group for their work on the</p>

	<p>Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr J Rendle also gave her thanks to Mr Johnson and Mr Ives.</p>
384	<p><b>Civility and Respect Pledge:</b> that this council agrees to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge as laid out by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.</p> <p>Cllr N Davey informed the members that the staffing committee had considered the proposal at the December Staffing meeting. All had agreed to take this to the Full Council meeting to recommend adopting the Civility and Respect Pledge. He said that there were now many councils that had already adopted this.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade proposed to accept the proposal, seconded by Cllr W Burke.</p> <p>All resolved to accept.</p>
385	<p><b>Democratic Period</b></p> <p>A member of public informed of the pantomime that was currently showing at the town council's New Hall and urged members to book their tickets and support this event.</p>
386	<p><b>County Council Report-circulated</b></p> <p>Cllr R Chesterton presented his report to the members.</p> <p>He began by acknowledging the large amount of pot holes all over the county and recommending that the best way to ensure that a pot hole took priority was to log it onto the online reporting system on the Devon County Council website. Cllr Chesterton explained that the more logs a pot hole received on the website, the higher level of priority they became for repair.</p> <p>Cllr Chesterton informed the members that Tiverton High School had been successful in their bid for a new school to be built. The current school sat on a flood plain, and many of its buildings were now very tired and difficult to repair. The new school would be positioned on the other side of the road, out of the flood plain. Details were yet to be finalised but this was a positive step forward.</p> <p>Cllr Chesterton said that he and Cllr C Slade had met with county officers to discuss the progression and roll out of the 20 mile an Hour Scheme for Tiverton. The locations covered would be predominantly around schools and the town centre area. There would be a public consultation on the suggested routes in the near future.</p> <p>Cllr Chesterton announced that Ms D Manson had been offered the position of Chief Executive for Devon County Council. This she had accepted and subject to ratification, at the Full Council meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, she would join the council in February.</p> <p>Julian Wooster had been appointed as interim Director of Children's Services at the council, pending a more permanent appointment to this vital role.</p> <p>Cllr Chesterton informed the members of the budget challenges the council were facing. Devon MPs had been written to, asking for their support in Parliament. Demands in adult social care and children's services, coupled with rising inflation meant that the council would be unable to buy the care that had been budgeted for.</p> <p>There was a need to allocate more of the £13 billion committed to tackling the NHS backlog to the Devon County Council in order to invest more money into preventative social care and in turn help relieve pressure on hospitals.</p> <p>Cllr Chesterton ended his report by saying that although there was some respite in the Government Autumn Statement with their offer to raise council tax by an extra 2% which would raise £9 million, the increases in the minimum wage will cost the council £9.1 million.</p> <p>Cllr T Lindus asked what funding could be expected for the new proposed High School.</p> <p>Cllr Chesterton said that when the original bid was submitted no sum of money was agreed,</p>

	<p>the main purpose was at that point to get onto the programme. He said the council would now put pressure on to achieve funding the project.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill asked when the highway culverts were due to be cleaned out. Cllr C Slade informed her that she could report any drainage issues on the council's website.</p> <p>Cllr P Elstone said that the drain close to Blundell's school was at times a pedestrian hazard after periods of heavy rain. It was very prone to flooding.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade said he was aware of that issue and had himself reported it on a number of occasions.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman asked if there was any update on the bus service issues in relation to the bus company Stagecoach. Cllr C Slade said that the Devon bus operators were offering fares for £2 or less to help passengers to save money.</p>
387	<p><b>District Council Report</b></p> <p>Cllr L Cruwys presented the district council report to the members.</p> <p>He began by reiterating Cllr Chesterton on the issue of pot holes, and urged all to report any by going onto the Devon County Council website, as the more times a pot hole was reported the higher the priority it would become. He gave an update to the on the financial position of the 3 Rivers Development company.</p> <p>Cllr L Cruwys informed the members that the Zed Pod development planning permission had been granted, but works had not commenced due to the difficulties in obtaining the Zed Pods themselves.</p> <p>The Trustees of the People's Park were informed that the park shelter had once again been boarded up due to anti-social behaviour. Attempts made to market the shelter as a potential café had to date failed, partly due to the difficulties in getting the necessary infrastructure to the shelter.</p> <p>Cllr Cruwys said that the issue with the shelter now was that it looked unsightly boarded up and if the boards were removed it would attract anti-social behaviour again, leading to complaints from nearby residents.</p> <p>One idea would be to partially gate off certain points whilst still maintaining the Victorian character of this structure. Seating could be installed to make the building functional again.</p> <p>Cllr Cruwys said that the new High School was categorised as critical in terms of need, but that the TCAT theatre currently housed within the school, was classified as desirable.</p> <p>He felt that the theatre should come as a package along with the new school and expressed his concern that TCAT theatre could be lost.</p> <p>Cllr A Hendy informed the members that she had been approached by a number of constituents regarding the newly implemented three weekly collections service. There were concerns on the amount of rotting food and other waste regularly littering the town centre area. Cllr Hendy said that she had reported this to MDDC's Streetscene team.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade said that this issue was being addressed, he informed the members that 27% of the residue waste was food waste. There was a need for education, followed by soft enforcement to improve recycling of waste into the correct receptacles.</p>
388	<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <p>a) Amenities Committee of the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 presented by Cllr W Burke. All resolved to accept.</p> <p>b) Planning Committee of the 28<sup>th</sup> November, and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023, presented by Cllr L Cruwys. All resolved to accept.</p> <p>c) Finance &amp; General Purpose Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 presented by Cllr N Davey.</p>

	<p>All resolved to accept.</p> <p>d) Staffing Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Cllr N Davey.</p> <p>All resolved to accept.</p> <p>e) Recommendation from the Amenities Committee: This committee recommends that the EUE Community Centre Project is parked until this council has a better understanding of the implications connected to S106 funding.</p> <p>All in favour of the motion.</p> <p>f) Any other reports or statements.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs informed the members of the forthcoming councillor surgery that she had arranged and invited councillors to attend this.</p> <p>Cllr P Hill informed the members of the prestigious award that the company Heathcoat Fabrics had received, being the Queen’s Award, this had been presented to them by the Lord Lieutenant of Devon.</p>
389	<p><b>Correspondence not previously circulated</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence.</p>
390	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6.15pm.</p>