



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 28th November 2022 at 6:15pm.

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

In attendance: Mr J Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk), Beadle A Burnett, Blundell’s School, Tiverton High School.

364	Prayers led by the Mayor’s Chaplain: Revd Andrew Humm.
365	Apologies for Absence:), Cllr S Bush (sick), Cllr L Cruwys (away), Cllr M Farrell (Medical), Cllr D Knowles (personal Cllr E Slade (sick). * Very late apology received after the meeting for Cllr D Garcia-Parejo. All resolved to accept the apologies.
366	Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct None declared at this stage.
367	Minutes: To adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 3rd October 2022 as a true record. All resolved to accept the Minutes, the Mayor duly signed the Minutes.
368	Mayors announcements The Mayor, Cllr S Griggs began by asking the members why they had wanted to become councillors. Several members responded to say that they had wanted to make a difference within their community. Cllr Griggs then asked the members whether becoming a councillor had lived up to their expectations. A few members responded to say that they had experienced disappointment in realising the limitations of the role. Cllr Griggs then went on to raise a couple of points on councillor attendance at civic events. She expressed her disappointment in the turnout of members at the recent remembrance parade and reminded them of their duties and protocol for such occasions. She informed the members of the recent events she had attended and went on to congratulate and praise the efforts of the Neighbourhood Plan team on the successful adoption of their plan. In particular, commending the efforts of Mr R Ives and Mr I Johnson. Cllr Griggs said she had very much enjoyed the Christmas Lights Switch-on event despite the inclement weather but had been disappointed at the cancellation of the lantern parade. Thanks were given to the Town Clerk, Assistant to the Town Clerk, Clerical Assistant, Town Centre Coordinator and all volunteers, for their involvement in the organisation of the Christmas Lights event and helping to make it a success. Special thanks were given to Cllr C Slade for compering the evening.

	<p>Cllr Griggs said that she had attended the funeral of Mr T Maunder, it had been a full church with many kind words said of the deceased gentleman. His love for life and enthusiasm for the town would be sadly missed.</p> <p>She informed the members of the new mural at the pannier market which had received a coat of anti-graffiti paint to protect it.</p> <p>She said that although plans had been delayed, monthly councillor surgeries were still very much high on her list of priorities and it was hoped to begin these in the new year.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs announced the date and venue for her Christmas Drinks and extended an invitation to all the members. She appealed for raffle prizes in order to raise money for her charities.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs said she was looking forward to working with the Town Centre Coordinator on the Coronation plans for 2023.</p> <p>The Schools Garden Cup for the Tiverton in Bloom Garden Competition was then presented to Mr C Olive by Cllr Griggs, to award Blundell's School first prize.</p> <p>Mr Olive was pleased to accept this award and said he hoped to get more schools involved in future competitions.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs informed the members of Cllr W Burke's long service/lifetime achievement award, this special (first of its kind) award, was presented to Cllr Burke at the South West in Bloom Presentation event held at Haselbury Mill in October. This was in recognition of Cllr Burke's 55 years of service for Tiverton in Bloom. He was presented with a plaque and gold watch for his efforts.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Hill asked for an update on the Urban Renewal Scheme. He felt that the regeneration of the town should be one of the council's main aims. He was informed that the new Town Centre coordinator was working on this project, there would be a working party set up for this.</p>
369	<p>Presentations by Blundell's School and Tiverton High School *Report previously circulated</p> <p>Blundell's and Tiverton High School collaborated to present a joint report for this meeting.</p> <p>Cllr S Pugh gave praise for the report and felt that presenting together was beneficial for both schools.</p> <p>He asked Tiverton High School how they had adapted to the recent uniform change.</p> <p>The High School Ambassadors responded to say that it had been well accepted in the main.</p> <p>Cllr S Pugh asked the ambassadors how their schools had integrated Ukrainian children.</p> <p>The School Ambassadors responded to say that all pupils were treated equally and all were well supported.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman congratulated Tiverton High School on their recent work in South Africa.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw noted Blundell's School Kindness and Tolerance Week and that members could learn from this.</p> <p>Small acts of kindness and more understanding would be beneficial for all she said.</p> <p>Cllr J Rendle asked if details of the forthcoming Blundell's' School concert could be provided. Mr Olive replied to give the date for the concert which would be Friday 2nd December 2022 at St Peter's Church commencing at 7pm. He said all were welcome to</p>

	<p>attend.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs thanked the schools and said that she hoped that one day, one of the pupils might become the Mayor of Tiverton.</p>
370	<p>Budget and Precept Demand: <i>To adopt the proposed budget for 2023/24 which will produce a Precept demand of £488,102 and a budget of £523,384. The D rate would be £67.15. This item to be proposed by Cllr N Davey, Chairman of the Finance & General Purpose Committee.</i></p> <p>Cllr N Davey presented the budget proposals for 2023/24 to the members. The documents had been previously circulated to the members. The proposed figures had been scrutinised by the Finance & General Purpose Committee at their meeting of the November 2022.</p> <p>Cllr A Perris questioned whether a 5% overall increase would be enough, and suggested that it might be prudent to look at a higher percentage.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that he had accounted for all known inflationary pressures. He went on to explain that the council were fortunate to have fixed utility rates until 2026 for both the Town Hall and the New Hall so did not anticipate any large increase in energy costs for 2023/2024.any unexpected deficit could come from the general reserves if necessary, but this would be carefully monitored.</p> <p>The Town clerk informed the members that he had invested funds with the CCLA this would give a higher rate of interest.</p> <p>Cllr N Davey proposed the budget as presented to the members, Cllr W Burke seconded this.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower asked for an explanation of the calculation to show how the D rate was reached. The Town Clerk explained that MDDC calculate this on the amount of band D properties, which then gets divided up. It was a complex process.</p> <p>Cllr A Perris asked if the general reserve figure could be confirmed.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill asked if there was any contingency plan for potential utility rises after the end of the current contracts in 2026.</p> <p>The Town Clerk responded to say that the broker had already advised that now would not be the right time to broker any new contracts, it was hoped that after 2026, prices might have stabilised.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Hill asked if consideration to providing a warm space, either at the New Hall or the Town Hall could be implemented, as the energy contracts were at a good rate.</p> <p>He was advised by the Mayor that this meeting was not the right place to discuss this, and informed that the Tiverton Library and the local Wetherspoons inn, were already providing this service. This item would be better addressed to the Community and Resilience Committee.</p> <p>All resolved to accept the budget proposal as presented.</p>
371	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>There were no members of public present.</p>
372	<p>County Council Report-circulated</p> <p>Cllr C Slade announced to the members that there would be a new Chief Executive of Devon County Council. Donna Mason would take up the post in February 2023. Cllr Slade said that he had sat on the interview panel, where is each applicant had been put through a number of challenging tests to ascertain their suitability for the role.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade informed the members that there was still money remaining in his locality fund for any community projects. He reminded the town council that they too could apply as it was open to parish councils. All information and application form could be found on the DCC website.</p>

373	<p>District Council Report-circulated Cllr B Holdman presented the district report. There were no questions.</p>
374	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>a) Finance & General Purpose Committee of the 24th October and 14th November 2022 All resolved to accept.</p> <p>b) Amenities Committee of the 10th October 2022 All resolved to accept.</p> <p>c) Planning Committee of the 3rd and 17th October and 7th and 21st November 2022. All resolved to accept.</p> <p>d) Any other reports or statements, Cllr J Rendle informed the members of the Tiverton Litter Pickers AGM on Thursday 8th December 2022 and invited all to attend. Cllr S Pugh said he was pleased to see the new town centre notice board in place. He informed the members of the Westfield Community Centre where they were offering a winter warm venue, providing teas and coffees, along with advice on heating bills. These sessions were being held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Cllr B Holdman thanked all who had been involved with the daffodil challenge for the Allies charity. He hoped that Tiverton would be brighter in the spring with all the new bulbs that had been planted. Allies also had plans to install more seating in memory of Queen Elizabeth II. He said that the Allies group needed more trustees and invited any interested members to apply. Cllr I Hill appealed for new friends of the town leat and asked members if they or anyone they knew who might be interested to contact her or her husband Cllr Phil Hill. She asked the recently cancelled Amenities meeting would be re-scheduled at a later date. Cllr C Harrower told the members that she had been contacted my members of the public to ask if there could be a louder P A system for the next Remembrance parade. The Town Clerk informed her that the event had been organised by the Royal British Legion so it might be best to relay this request to them. Cllr C Slade informed the members that there were two local organisations currently looking for trustees. These were Involve Charity and Tiverton Museum.</p>
375	<p>Correspondence not previously circulated Cllr S Griggs informed the members that she had received a letter from the town's adopted ship H.M.S. Enterprise which included an update on what they were doing. She would arrange to circulate this to all. She concluded the meeting by wishing all a merry Christmas and happy New Year.</p>
376	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Monday 23rd January 2023 at 6.15pm.</p>