



Tiverton Town Council

Town Hall, St Andrew Street, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6PG

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Meeting held in the New Hall on Monday 28th March 2022.

Cllrs: S Griggs (Mayor), A Hendy, (Deputy Mayor), A Berry, W Burke, S Bush, L Cruwys, N Davey, C Daw, P Elstone, D Garcia-Parejo, C Harrower, I Hill, P Hill, Peter Hill, B Holdman, A Perris, S Pugh, J Rendle, C Slade, E Slade, T Lindus.

In attendance: Mr J Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk), Ms L Hubbard (Clerical Assistant), one member of press.

292	Apologies for Absence: Cllr D Knowles (personal), Cllr M Farrell (work). All resolved to accept the apologies.
293	Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct None declared at this stage.
294	Minutes: To adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 14th February 2022 as a true record. Resolved to accept the Minutes. The Mayor signed the Minutes.
295	Matters arising from the above There were no matters arising.
296	Mayor's Announcements Cllr S Griggs said that she had been out and about meeting people in Tiverton and had received a lot of positive response. The job description had been drafted for the new role of Town centre Coordinator and the post was now being advertised. Cllr Griggs said that she and many of the councillors had been involved in various fund-raising projects for Ukraine. The daffodils that had been planted in and around the town were now blooming and bringing cheer and thanked Cllr Holdman and all involved for their efforts. Cllr Griggs mentioned the Councillor Training session organised by the Town Clerk in March, and had said that it was very informative, but was disappointed in lack of turnout, particularly from new councillors. She thanked Town Clerk and Clerical Assistant for organising this. Cllr Griggs also wanted to highlight that there has been a marked increase in vandalism in the town, including a recent incident at Phoenix Lane. Police are currently investigating using CCTV. Mentioned that it would be useful to arrange a meeting with the Devon and Cornwall Police representative for the town, the Town Clerk and herself to try to address some of the issues. Cllr Griggs mentioned that she will be canvassing County Council regarding an update on the new facility for Tiverton High School. Cllr Griggs also mentioned that Petroc have got some exciting proposals to improve the layout there and are now offering an exciting new curriculum, this is a great asset for Tiverton.
297	Democratic Period

	<p>Member of the public wished to speak in opposition to Cllr Perris motion. Having previously been the secretary and hunt master of Tiverton Foxhounds, the member of public explained that the hunt meet on Boxing Day in front of the Half Moon pub, they had always liaised with everyone involved, including the local police force, landlords and local authorities, to make them aware, and there had never been any opposition to it until now. He mentioned that the street cleaners were always thanked for clearing up after the event and given a Christmas present. The member of public mentioned that the event had always attracted crowds of local people and has continued because of the event's popularity. The demand for it has meant this tradition has continued and he felt that it was the public's choice as to whether they wished to attend the meet or not. He mentioned that the event could be relocated outside of the town, but this would then mean local businesses would not benefit from the increased footfall in the town on that day.</p> <p>A further member of the public wished to speak in opposition to Cllr Perris's motion. He had explained that he had lived in the town for over 27 years, he was not a member of the hunt, or affiliated with any political party, but wanted to speak on the subject of freedom of choice. He explained that he wished to be free to enjoy a spectacle that had been enjoyed in the town for many years and it was the people's choice as to whether they attended, people should be free to make that choice, it was not the function of the council to decide whether people should attend a legal and peaceful meeting. He felt that if regulations were followed, and the event organised with compliance to all the necessary obligations, it should continue.</p> <p>Another member of public spoke in support of Cllr Perris's motion. He stated that hunting with hounds had been made illegal and he found it astonishing that the town would support this. He stated that 85% of the British public were against hunting. He was also concerned with the amount of mess left behind by the dogs and horses following the meet each year. He disagreed that the meeting was peaceful and said that he had protested peacefully against the meet last year and had been verbally abused. He felt the town council should not agree to let it continue.</p> <p>Another member of public speaking in support of Cllr Perris's motion, stated that he had lived in Tiverton for a long time and had previously taken part in hunting on many occasions. However, he had now changed his view on this and felt that it should remain in the past. Other councils have changed their stance on it, as he had changed his, he said. He explained that he appreciated Tiverton was a rural town with a large community of farmers who may have experienced pressure to continue to permit the hunt to meet, but that this should not be a reason to allow it to continue. He also appreciated that the Boxing Day meet brought business to the town on that day but suggested an alternative could be arranged to mitigate loss of trade, such as a fayre or a market.</p>
298	<p>Items recommended to be taken in Part B: The Town Clerk does not recommend any items on this agenda to be taken in Part B.</p> <p>No items.</p>
299	<p>Motion submitted by Cllr A Perris: This council notes that the hunt meets in Tiverton on Boxing Day and has done so for many years without seeking support from either Mid Devon District Council or Tiverton Town Council. This council opposes the hunt meeting in Tiverton in the future. We ask the Town Clerk to discuss the meeting with Mid Devon District Council noting that this meeting is undertaken without the usual permission for street collections and road closures; and no risk assessment or plan to clean up after the event.</p> <p>Cllr A Perris read out his motion to the members and said there were two rationales for</p>

opposing the hunt. The main opposition being the moral one, in his opinion, he said that most of the public opposed hunting with dogs.

The second that trail hunting in his opinion was a transparent way of hunting with dogs. The Mayor called a point of order not to stray from the motion.

Cllr Perris questioned how the boxing day meet was being allowed with no apparent risk assessments, no licencing, and no clean-up plans. He went on to say that several local councils had banned boxing day meets. He felt it was appropriate to debate this issue.

Cllr S Bush seconded the motion, he said that he was staggered that there appeared to be no risk assessment, road closure applications or street collection licence applications for the meet.

Cllr C Daw said that she had undertaken her own research and understood that Tiverton Foxhounds did not close any streets, so did not have to apply for any road closures. She understood they undertook their own risk assessment and had a mutual agreement to clean up after the event.

She said that they were willing to liaise with all councils in relation to the meet.

Cllr Daw said this was an historical event and important for the town. Therefore, she could not support the motion.

Cllr C Slade said that there were a couple of points, he stressed that this motion was not about the rights and wrongs of the hunt and halting the Boxing Day meet in the town as this would just result in them moving on to a new venue.

He said that the Half Moon Pub hosted the boxing day meet and understood that they leased public access rights to the area of car park in front of the building. MDDC do not play any part in the licensing of this event. Therefore, Cllr Slade felt that this was not a town council issue.

Cllr N Davey said he did not have feelings either for or against the hunt but was in favour of the legal right for people to go about their legal activities freely and without hindrance. Tiverton Hunt was perfectly legal and nothing to do with the town council. He felt that the meet brought business for the town and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Cllr L Cruwys did not support hunting with dogs, traditions are not always relevant in this modern day. However, he had been in consultation with the monitoring officer at MDDC with a group of questions and had received the following response.

Regarding whether the hunt needed permission to host the meet in the pannier market car park. It is arguable that they don't as MDDC own this. The council could withdraw this permission, but this would involve the members.

I would query why this issue is being raised now as this topic was in the news a few years ago. The dog byelaws have an exemption for hunting dogs.

Temporary street closures would be up to the hunt to apply for a temporary road closure for their event the council were unable to enforce this. Horses were legally permitted on public roads if they did not obstruct the road. Cllr Cruwys concluded that there did not seem to be any way that the council could prevent the hunt from meeting in the market.

Cllr Philip Hill said that he neither sought to promote or ban hunting and felt that only the substantive motion would be for the Town Clerk to discuss with MDDC regarding the boxing day meet.

Cllr S Pugh agreed with Cllr Philip Hill in that this was not a debate about the moral case of fox hunting with hounds, of which he was against. He said that Cllr Cruwys had explained about the necessary permissions in detail of what needed to be done and that the council should insist that the hunt does this. In his opinion if all the criteria was being adhered to then it was a legal activity and therefore, he would oppose the motion.

Cllr A Berry said that she had fond memories of attending the boxing day meet as a child and said that this tradition and history of the town should not be lost. This was a legal activity, and she could not support this motion.

	<p>Cllr C Harrower said that she was aware of the different types of hunting, but the boxing day meet was very much part of a tradition of the town and should be celebrated.</p> <p>Cllr A Perris responded to the members saying that some historic and traditional events had no place in modern society. He said that businesses were not open on boxing day so disagreed that the meet brought in business. He felt that the town council adopt the motion in a moral capacity. The action part of the motion would then be for the town clerk to liaise with MDDC on the necessary permissions. In his opinion it was clear that the hunt had not applied for the necessary permissions for many years. He urged the councillors to support the motion.</p> <p>Cllr S Pugh proposed an amendment to the motion. He stated that the sentence “this council opposes the hunt in the future” should be deleted from the motion statement.</p> <p>Cllr a Perris did not accept this amendment.</p> <p>A vote was then carried out by a show of hands, resulting in 3 in support of the motion and 11 against the motion, with 5 abstaining.</p> <p>Cllr’s L Cruwys, B Holdman and Peter Hill requested that their names be recorded as abstentions.</p> <p>The motion was lost.</p>
<p>300</p>	<p>Nominations for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year commencing 9th May 2022.</p> <p>Cllr N Davey proposed Cllr S Griggs for the position of Mayor. He said that her current mayoral term had been interrupted by the legal restrictions of the pandemic which meant she had been unable to attend many events. Cllr Davey said that Cllr C Slade had served a second term as his year had also been disrupted by the pandemic.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw seconded this nomination.</p> <p>Cllr Philip Hill proposed Cllr L Cruwys for the position of Mayor. He said that Cllr Cruwys was a popular and well known Tivertonian, being first elected to the council 50 years ago and was Mayor for the council 40 years ago. Cllr Hill said that Cllr Cruwys would serve the town well as his commitment to the people of the town was admirable.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Hill seconded this nomination.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade proposed Cllr C Harrower for the position of Mayor saying that she was whole heartedly committed to the town serving on six committees and has proved her dedication to the council.</p> <p>Cllr E Slade seconded this nomination, saying that Cllr Harrower had revitalised the volunteer Tiverton Litter Pickers group and always stood up for her constituents.</p> <p>This was seconded by Cllr A Perris.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade proposed Cllr C Harrower for the position of Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw seconded.</p> <p>Cllr T Lindus proposed Cllr L Cruwys.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman seconded this proposal.</p> <p>Cllr S Bush proposed Cllr A Hendy for the position of Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>Cllr A Perris seconded this proposal.</p> <p>Cllr T Lindus proposed to hold a secret ballot. All were in favour.</p> <p>A paper ballot was carried out.</p> <p>The results were Cllr S Griggs for Mayor and Cllr C Harrower for Deputy Mayor.</p>
<p>301</p>	<p>County and District Council Reports</p> <p>Cllr R Chesterton had previously sent his report which had been circulated to the town councillors.</p> <p>P Hill asked if there had been a resolution regarding Airband.</p> <p>Cllr Chesterton said that Airband had changed personnel, so they were catching up on rollout currently, this had resulted in delays.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman said that he had been concerned with the lack of consultation over Castle</p>

Primary School. He felt that there had not been enough research into this and said that not enough information had been received from DCC.

Cllr Chesterton noted this and said he would take these points back to DCC. Cllr Chesterton suggested Cllr Slade also do this.

Cllr Daw said in regards to Airband, she had received four very positive comments from residents in her ward.

Cllr Rendle said that she had lost internet, telephone and mobile connections on 19th February, and had to wait until 22nd March to be reconnected. Fibre was then installed, but it had been a lengthy wait to be connected.

Cllr Chesterton said that Fibre was the way they were going, with copper connection being phased out. He was unsure of why it had taken more time in Cllr Rendle's case. He would take that back and look into it. The key thing now was the rollout to places who do not currently receive fibre.

Cllr I Hill asked if there was a possible time scale or serious discussion on funding for the High School or whether the school will be completely rebuilt.

Cllr Chesterton said that there had been a two stage process in making a bid. The Nomination process had now closed and Tiverton High School had moved to the next stage. In terms of amounts the government did not require that at this stage, it was only nominations being considered. Tiverton High School could not get money via sale of land to rebuild as the site lay within the boundaries of a flood plain. Therefore the Bid had been prioritised for school as they could not access money in this way. A decision on the bid is expected by the end of the year.

Cllr Pugh said that the councillors had been discussing possible areas for the suggestions for implementation of 20 mile per hour speed restrictions.

Cllr Cruwys stated that the planning committee had seen these suggestions.

Cllr Chesterton hadn't been shown the collective decision made on this regarding the 20-mph speed restriction in all schools and town centre, but would support these measures.

Cllr C Slade spoke regarding locality budgets. All of the town centre is in Tiverton West, he stated that Cllr Chesterton had some of his budget left, but he himself had spent all of his budget. Budgets will reopen again in May. Cllr Chesterton will have funds to spare. Cllr C Slade reminded the members that if it's in Tiverton West, contact Cllr Chesterton, or contact him if in East Tiverton. Or contact both if it was of benefit to the whole town. The money will be there from May, and would be available for Parish Councils, and community groups.

Cllr Griggs wanted to express concern regarding infrastructure in the town, with new developments coming, there would be increased demand on existing services, and how could this be improved? Cllr Chesterton said he would feed this back to DCC and discuss how this could be met. Eastern Urban Extension (EUE) will have some new infrastructures in place and discussions regarding schools/doctor surgery are taking place.

Cllr Slade stated he had enquired to Simon Niles on the school provision and he was still sorting 106 funding. There was a 10 year timescale on this, the developments are not yet occupied, so triggers on delivery had not yet been met. This was a DCC priority.

District Council Report

Cllr Daw read out her report to the members, she firstly wanted to thank the Chief Executive for his input and support in very challenging times. She said it was time to look at the positives of what MDDC officers had achieved. MDDC have reopened the main offices, upgraded the office structure, and had worked on improving customer services. Cllr Daw admitted that there had been some staffing issues. Staff retention had proved challenging, particularly for the waste collection department. Covid sickness had meant that

	<p>some collections had to be suspended. But Cllr Daw wanted to thank all the crews for their hard work despite absences and loss of staff.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman said that he had some residents come to him with concerns on having difficulties booking appointments and limited availability for phone calls, suggested perhaps a mixed approach might be considered.</p> <p>Cllr Daw said that if any members received complaints from members of the public not able to contact MDDC to let them know.</p> <p>Cllr Irene Hill said she was having difficulties with the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and finding a family or a way to get in touch with a family. Cllr Daw suggested that she send her request through to the Chief Executive who would look into this.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs asked Cllr Daw if the empty space above the retail shops could be used for temporary housing. Cllr Daw said she would ask MDDC to explore this as an option.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs asked if anything was being done on the deep pothole on Blundell's Road.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade said that this had been reported and was in hand.</p> <p>Cllr L Cruwys asked if you would lose your single occupancy allowance if you offered a home to a refugee.</p> <p>Cllr Daw said a person would not lose their single occupancy allowance if they offered a home to a refugee.</p>
<p>302</p>	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>a) Finance Meeting of the 14th March 2022, Minute 189-200 Cllr N Davey read out the Minutes, all resolved to accept them.</p> <p>b) Planning Meeting of the 7th February 2022, Minute 323-330</p> <p>c) Planning Meeting of the 21st February 2022, Minute 331-336 Cllr L Cruwys read out the Planning Minutes, all resolved to accept them.</p> <p>d) Civic and Ceremonial Committee of the 14th February 2022, Minute 077-084 Cllr L Cruwys read out the Civic & Ceremonial Minutes, all resolved to accept them.</p> <p>e) Amenities Meeting of the 21st February 2022, Minute 065-079 Cllr W Burke read out the Amenities Minutes, all resolved to accept them.</p> <p>f) Staffing Committee of the 28th February 2022, Minute 034-041 Cllr N Davey read out the Staffing Minutes, all resolved to accept them.</p> <p>g) Climate Change Committee of the 31st January 2022, Minute 78-88 Cllr S Bush read out the Climate Change Minutes, all resolved to accept them.</p> <p>h) Other Reports or Statements. There were no other reports or statements.</p>
<p>303</p>	<p>Motion by Cllr I Hill: that this council agrees that a charitable trust be set up to manage the acquisition of funding and ongoing management to ensure the repair and preservation of the Town Leat. That this council provides foundational support to this charitable trust and sets aside an initial sum of £10,000 from its reserves to facilitate the charitable trust project, and becomes a partner, along with other organisations, in its running.</p> <p>The proposal was seconded by Cllr P Hill.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill said that the leat was important historically and in the past provided a vital water supply for the town. It was now in need of urgent maintenance with many areas having issues. Many in the community valued its presence and wanted to see it restored and running once again. She said that the costs for the project would be in the region of £80,000 to £100,000 and would need time and commitment. The only solution would be to explore funding possibilities. The best way to do this would be to form a charitable trust.</p> <p>All supported this motion, the motion was therefore carried.</p>

304	<p>Report by Cllr N Davey: to agree that this council is complying, as far as is practicably possible in mitigating its business risks, as outlined in the Business Risk Matrix.</p> <p>Cllr N Davey informed the members that he had reviewed the town council's business risk assessment and if there were any concerns on this they could be brought to the Finance & General Purpose Committee.</p> <p>All resolved to accept the reviewed Business Risk Assessment.</p>
305	<p>Consultation on the proposed closure of the Communications and Interaction Resource Base at Castle Primary School.</p> <p>Cllr R Chesterton was asked if he could speak on this item. He informed the members that the decision to close the C.A.I.R.B. at Castle Primary had been made by the school governors. DCC was currently actively looking to replace this facility but have not found anywhere to date. Cllr Chesterton said that there had been objections received and these will now go to cabinet.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that he had informed Castle Primary School that the item would be discussed at this meeting but he not received any response.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade said that the decision affected two families but that they had accepted this. He said that there was a facility at Tiverton High School who had provision.</p> <p>The four objections received would now either go to cabinet or to Full Council.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman thanked the councillors on the update, he asked on the age groups.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade stated that the provision would be for secondary level, but that primary level was being looked at.</p> <p>Cllr S Bush said he had read the contributions on the closure of this unit and asked why they had been unable to continue, he expressed concern that there would now be no primary provision.</p>
306	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no correspondence received.</p> <p>The Town Clerk reminded all the members of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on the 26th April 2022.</p>
307	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th May at 11am.</p>