



Tiverton Town Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Meeting held in the Town Hall on Monday 24th January 2022.

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

In attendance: Mr J Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk), Beadle Mr A Burnett and one member of the press.

268	Apologies for Absence: Cllrs, A Berry (Work) B Holdman (Sick) J Blagg (personal). Resolved to accept the apologies.
269	Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct Cllr S Slade declared an interest in relation to item 8 on the agenda as he is a cabinet member for Mid Devon District Council. Cllr W Burke, Cllr L Cruwys, Cllr N Davey, Cllr C Daw, Cllr S Griggs declared interests as they are all district councillors and Cllr D Knowles as he is a district cabinet member. The Mayor Cllr S Griggs reminded all the members of the code of conduct.
270	Minutes: To adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 29th November 2021 as a true record. Resolved to accept the Minutes. The Mayor signed the Minutes.
271	Matters arising from the above There were no matters arising.
272	Democratic Period There were no members of the public in attendance.
273	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. All resolved to accept the recommendation.
274	Mayor's Announcements Cllr S Griggs welcomed the two new councillors, P Elstone and M Farrell to Tiverton Town Council. She wished all the members a happy new year. She said that due to the pandemic there had not been so many functions to attend, but those that she had attended had been very good. Cllr Griggs thanked her Deputy Mayor Cllr A Hendy for attending the recent Army Cadet trophy presentation event as she had been unable to attend this. Cllr A Hendy said that it had been most enjoyable. Cllr Griggs informed the members that she had heard many complementary remarks when she had been out and about with the Beadle and the Mace bearers. She thanked all the members who had attended her Christmas drinks and thanked all who had donated raffle prizes too. Cllr Griggs said that at the last full council meeting it had been agreed to write to the Police Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez in relation to the re-opening of the town's police station. However things had now progressed and plans were in motion to achieve the re-

	<p>opening of the station.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs thanked Cllr W Burke for his ongoing efforts tending to the flower beds in the town. She said he had re-planted the rose bed in the Burma Star garden recently.</p> <p>She went on to thank all the councillors who worked hard to help the town and its constituents.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs informed the members of the new Coastal & Market Towns Urban Renewal Initiative project and said that Tiverton had been identified as a town to be included in this scheme. She said she had attended a meeting at MDDC and had attended a further zoom meeting with the Town Clerk, Keir Duffin of DCC and Richard Marsh of MDDC and said that it had been very interesting to hear of the scheme, she said she looked forward to sharing ideas for this at a future date.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs asked the members for their thoughts and ideas for the forthcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee for the town. She said that the Town Clerk was going to have a meeting with the Market Manager Mr J Bray to discuss the market's involvement and how this could link in to the celebrations.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs said that she very much hoped to be involved in more tree planting this year. She ended her announcements by presenting the Past Mayor's Jewel to Cllr L Cruwys and thanked him for his services.</p>
275	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motions by Cllr D Knowles: 1. that this council provides a grant of £50,000 (Fifty Thousand Pounds) to Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) for the sole purpose of upgrading the Town Centre CCTV system. These funds to be taken from the council's reserves. 2. That this council increases its 2022/23 financial contribution to MDDC for the operation of the Town CCTV system from £6,000 to £10,000. This amount is already in the agreed budget for 2022/23 3. That this council resolves that MDDC should be requested to operate the Town Centre CCTV system for the financial year commencing 1st April 2022, but fully involve this council in all progress of the system during that period, including the reinstatement of quarterly meetings to discuss CCTV issues. TTC to review the situation towards the autumn of 2023 as to whether it wishes to take over the CCTV system from April 2024; or continue to financially contribute towards its operation. <p>Cllr D Knowles read out his presentation to the members for his proposal. He stressed the need for an update and a functional CCTV system for the town. He went on to explain the fact that this was a discretionary service not statutory and MDDC were facing difficult budget decisions now.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke seconded the proposal. He said it was a very important service for the town and urged the members to think seriously.</p> <p>Cllr Philip Hill proposed the following amendment to Cllr Knowles proposal.</p> <p>CCTV Motion and Amendments</p> <p>Upgrade</p> <p>Half of the Town Centre CCTV system works well (multi-storey car park) and half does not (rest of town). In order to bring the failing part of the system up to standard, an investment of £84,000 is required. A grant of £25,000 has been secured leaving £59,000 to find.</p> <p>Maintenance</p> <p>The annual routine maintenance cost for the system is estimated at £10,000.</p>

Existing Motions by Cllr D Knowles in black in italics, amendments (replacement/additional text) in red italics:

1. **Regarding the Upgrade.** *That this Council provides a grant of £50,000 (Fifty Thousand Pounds) £10,000 (Ten Thousand Pounds) to Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) for the sole purpose of as a contribution towards upgrading the Town Centre CCTV system. These funds to be provided as a good will gesture and taken from the Council's reserves.*
2. **Regarding Maintenance Costs.** *That this Council increases its 2022/23 financial contribution to MDDC for the operation of the Town CCTV system from £6,000 to £10,000. This amount is already in the agreed budget for 2022/23*
3. **Regarding Management.** *That this Council resolves that MDDC should be requested to operate the Town Centre CCTV system for the financial year commencing 1st April 2022, but fully involve this Council in all progress of the system during that period, including the reinstatement of quarterly meetings to discuss CCTV issues. Review Meetings to include representatives of MDDC, TTC (Councillors) and the Police. TTC to review the situation towards the autumn of 2023 as to whether it wishes to take over the CCTV system from April 2024; or continue to financially contribute towards its operation.*
4. **Additional Clause:-** *Prior to any final recommendation/decision consultation to be held with Exmouth Town Council CCTV Working Group to explore all aspects of their system with a view to incorporating any advantageous features into the Tiverton system*
5. **Additional Clause: -** *Prior to any final recommendation/decision explore other grant or funding opportunities.*

He said that this amendment was being brought after much debate by a number of councillors who believed and suggested that this amendment of the original motion was the best solution.

Cllr P Hill said that he and the other councillors wholeheartedly endorsed in a CCTV system for the town but felt that the offer from the district council had many flaws. Cllr P Hill noted that the district council grant application submitted in March 2021 had stated in consultation with the town council but said that he had not been aware of any consultation or agreement. The first that he and his fellow councillors learnt of the project was at the November 2021 full council meeting.

Cllr P Hill said since then he and fellow councillors had been struggling to obtain all the facts and figures and extent of the problem. Therefore he and fellow councillors could not support Cllr D Knowles motion. In light of this Cllr P Hill felt that the suggested amendment to donate £10,000 towards the cost of any new system along with £10,000 towards the ongoing maintenance of the system was the best solution.

Cllr P Hill also suggested that the district council hold regular review meetings with the town council once the new system had been installed so that the councillors could learn how the system operated. He felt that it was also important to liaise with the local police regarding the system too.

Cllr P Hill ended by informing the members of the new system that Exmouth Town Council had installed and said that he would be keen to engage with them to learn more. He said that before the town council made any recommendations to take over the town's CCTV system funding opportunities should be explored.

Cllr T Lindus seconded this proposal.

Cllr C Daw said that she had been in discussion with the Chair of the Town Centre Partnership who had asked her to pass on their message. The group were strongly in favour

of the town council taking over the town's CCTV system.

Cllr C Harrower said she too wholeheartedly supported the CCTV system but expressed concern that a meeting to discuss this amendment had taken place without some of the councillor's knowledge. As this meeting was to discuss a counter proposal to the motion she felt that all should have had a say before any decisions are made. Cllr Harrower said that she knew very little of the CCTV project until the end of November 2021.

Cllr P Elstone gave the councillors some background on Exmouth Town Council's situation and the new CCTV system that they had installed.

Cllr T Lindus said that it all felt a bit rushed and expressed concern that there were no details of running costs.

Cllr A Perris said he had been disappointed with the district council in relation to the information that they had provided. He went on to say that the issues were not of the town council's making. More time was needed to properly assess and consult.

Cllr N Davey felt that the whole process had not been handled very well by the district council. He said that all the members were in agreement on having an operational and fit for purpose CCTV system for the town and if the members accepted the amendment of £10,000 the project could be in jeopardy. This could mean that the town would end up with no CCTV system. He was therefore in support of Cllr D Knowles motion.

Cllr I Hill said that in her opinion, if the town council went ahead with the proposal there was a danger of ending up with a system that would cost the council more in the future with a dysfunctional system. She said she supported the CCTV for the town but felt that the members needed more time to find out what system would work best for Tiverton. There was a danger otherwise of spending good money after bad with the current proposal. She could not therefore support the motion.

A vote was then carried out on the amendment by a show of hands.

The result was 12 in favour with 6 against.

The amendment was carried forward.

Cllr W Burke moved an amendment against the motion that the council give £40,000. He expressed concern that the district council could lose the grant that they had secured if the town council did not back this. He said that he felt it could result in the loss of the CCTV for the town. Cllr W Burke said that both Cullompton and Crediton town councils had their own CCTV systems and felt that Tiverton Town Council should take on the town's CCTV system. He also said that a period of 12 months would then be sufficient to gather all the facts and figures and learn of the operation of the system.

Cllr C Harrower seconded Cllr W Burke's amendment. This gives us breathing space and the time to go forward.

Cllr S Bush said to clarify, he could understand the reasoning behind the new amendment but felt that all the town council would be doing was committing to another expenditure of £30,000. He felt that the district council would not just shut the whole CCTV system down.

Cllr S Bush said that in his opinion it would be possible for the town council to source a new CCTV system that would be fit for purpose at a lesser cost.

A vote was carried out by a show of hands.

The result was 6 in favour and 12 against, so the amendment was lost.

There were no further amendments.

Therefore a further vote was carried out by a show of hands for the **substantive motion proposition** proposed by Cllr P Hill.

The result being 13 in favour with 5 against. The substantive motion was carried.

	It was noted that Cllrs, W Burke, N Davey, C Daw, D Knowles wanted their names recorded as against.
276	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021 All resolved to accept.</p> <p>b) Income & Expenditure November & December 2021 All resolved to accept.</p> <p>c) Accounts paid for November & December 2021 All resolved to accept.</p>
277	<p>Consultative Meetings: To discuss, and if applicable agree the options of having consultative meetings rather than face to face meetings at the discretion of the Mayor, Chairman of the committee and the Clerk.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that he was aware that the government was now going to give the green light for a return to normal with its plans for the lifting of plan B covid-19 restrictions. He said that there was still a need to remain cautious and recommended that some of the council meetings be held on zoom rather than face to face. Meetings such as Climate Change, and Civic & ceremonial could be done this way. He said that although the infection rates had come down in London they were still high in Devon.</p> <p>Therefore the Town Clerk recommended holding the above meetings via zoom and then to review this at the Full Council Meeting in March 2022.</p> <p>Cllr T Lindus remarked that the government had now said that we all should return to work. Cllr A Perris updated the members on the latest figures for coronavirus for the South West. He agreed that it was prudent to hold some meetings on zoom where possible.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke said he disagreed, and added that all members needed to get back to face to face meetings in the proper manner. If the government is instructing us to do this then that is what we should do. Cllr W Burke said that in his opinion zoom came with issues and it was preferable to have face to face meetings.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill asked what the criteria would be to discuss and make decisions on expenditure and such like, and how topics that need to be spoken about are dealt with and looked at. She said that in Bolham village zoom did not work well due to broadband issues. However, she understood that for some councillors zoom might find this preferable.</p> <p>Cllr N Davey said he was opposed to the proposal and felt that the council should hold face to face meetings. This he felt led to better decision making.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw said that the district council hold face to face meetings and was concerned on not being able to vote in zoom meetings. The town council should not be any different and should now meet face to face.</p> <p>Cllr L Cruwys said that voting was the one thing that you could not do on zoom as it was illegal to do so. He asked whether hybrid meetings could be brought in. As the lesser meetings could be conducted in this way.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade agreed that zoom was not the way forward as you could not vote. Face to face or hybrid were the solutions and said we must all go back to normality. He said that for any advisory meetings where no decisions were made zoom could be utilised.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower said that she agreed with Cllr C Slade because of the inability to vote.</p> <p>Cllr M Farrell said that he would support the zoom meeting proposal. In his experience this method can work. He understood the limitation on not being able to vote.</p>

	<p>A vote was then carried out by a show of hands. The result was 4 in favour and 7 against. Therefore the motion was lost.</p> <p>It was agreed that all meetings be face to face unless it is a meeting where no decisions are being made. A note was made to explore the possibility of hybrid meetings. The meeting concluded.</p>
282	Date of Next Meeting: Monday 28th March 2022 at 6.30pm.