



Tiverton Town Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Meeting held in the New Hall on Monday 21st June 2021.

Cllrs: S Griggs (Mayor), A Hendy (Deputy Mayor), W Burke, S Bush, L Cruwys, N Davey, C Daw, C Harrower, B Holdman, S Knight, D Knowles, A Perris, S Pugh, J Rendle, T Lindus, D Sutton.

In attendance: Mr J Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk), Mrs J Hubbard (Assistant to the Town Clerk), Cllr R Chesterton (Devon County Council) and a member of press.

Absent: Cllr D Garcia-Parejo.

The Mayor Cllr S Griggs presented the Deputy Mayor Cllr A Hendy with the Deputy Mayor Jewel.

214	Apologies for Absence: Cllrs, C & E Slade (Sickness), I & P Hill (Holiday), & J Blagg (Sickness).
215	Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct None at this stage of the meeting.
216	Minutes: To adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 24th may 2021 Resolved to accept the Minutes. The Mayor signed the Minutes.
217	Matters arising from the above There were no matters arising.
218	Democratic Period There were no members of public in attendance.
219	Mayor’s Announcements Cllr S Griggs informed the members the start of her term of office had been very quiet due to the pandemic, although she had opened a new gym in the town, and laid a wreath on behalf of the town council to commemorate 100 years of the Royal British Legion. She said that the uptake of the Covid-19 vaccines in the Mid Devon area were good and this was encouraging for the future. Cllr Griggs said that she had attended her first physical meeting at Mid Devon District Council. Good to be back to normality. Cllr Griggs said she was pleased to see new units opening up in the town centre and this would be very positive for Tiverton. Cllr Griggs gave her thanks to Councillor W Burke for all his efforts in the planting of the town’s flower beds. When completed, he will have planted 4000 flowers. She commented on how lovely the hanging baskets were looking and thanked Councillor I Hill for all her work on the Tiverton Town Leat. Cllr Griggs asked the members if they knew of any local groups or organisations that would like to be involved with the “Tree planting for the Queen’s Jubilee”. She thought that it would be nice if the town council were involved in this. The council had received an invitation for its members to take part in C.H.A.T.’s Help the Homeless Camp out event. Cllr Griggs said she herself had participated in this a few years ago and advised if any members wanted to do this to contact the office for more details.
220	County and District Council Reports

	<p>Cllr R Chesterton read out the report for Devon County Council. He informed the members that it had been relatively quiet, with one formal AGM meeting and one cabinet meeting to attend to date. None of the other groups had met, so there was not a lot to report. Cllr Chesterton said if the members had any issues then he would assist if possible.</p> <p>Cllr T Lindus congratulated Cllr Chesterton on his appointment to the County Council. He then went on to refer to an announcement in 2008 relating to a proposed cycle route from Tiverton to Exeter and asked if this could be looked at again. Cllr Chesterton said that he was keen to see new cycle paths and thought that a Tiverton to Bampton route along the Exe valley would also be a good proposition in terms of tourism. Cllr Chesterton said he would look into this again.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke asked if traffic light measures could be investigated again for Bickleigh bridge in order to save it from further collision damage. In his view this was the only sensible way to control the traffic. This would in turn save money on continuing repairs. Cllr Burke said that he and fellow councillor M Squires were working on this. Cllr Burke said that traffic lights were successful in other areas and cited Dunster as an example.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower said that she had been working with Councillor P Colethorpe on the A369 highway issues. There were still access issues with members of the public using mobility scooters, pushchairs/prams and wheelchairs. Traffic were inclined to speed in the areas of concern and this in turn exasperated the problem. In particular, one lamp post that jutted out on the pavement also needed addressing. Cllr Harrower informed the members that a resident from Collipriest had taken matters into his own hands by taking shears to the overgrown sections of the pathway in an attempt to make it easier to access. Cllr Harrower stressed that the issues urgently needed addressing as this was an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>Cllr R Chesterton suggested meeting with Cllr Harrower on site to walk the route together to view these issues and take photographs. These would then be forwarded to the line manager.</p> <p>Cllr L Cruwys referred to the plans of two years ago for the Tiverton High School and asked if there was any update. He understood that there had been a meeting between the MP, N Parish and Mr J Sowden and new plans had been drawn up. These he said now needed new a planning application. He asked Councillor Chesterton if they were getting closer to funding and why a new application was needed. Cllr Chesterton said he would have a look at these and would report back. Cllr Ben Holdman said that there was an issue with Lea road and access, Cllr Chesterton would meet to look at this. Cllr S Pugh said that there was very little to report from Mid Devon District Council but he would supply a more detailed report for the next full council meeting.</p>
221	<p>Committee Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Planning Minutes of the 14th June 2021 b) Covid-19 Working Party Report c) Any other reports or statements <p>Cllr L Cruwys presented the Planning Minutes of the 14th June 2021. He updated the members on each of the minute items. All resolved to accept these Minutes. Cllr A Perris presented the report for the covid-19 working party he said that the group had</p>

	<p>been running for one year, he asked if there was a need to continue with the group and whether it needed to pick up different things. Cllr A Perris said he had been surprised by the amount of food poverty in the town. He offered his thanks to all that had been involve to date.</p> <p>Cllr A Perris asked the members if the group needed to be more structured and whether it should be made a new committee or remain as a working party. The latter option allowing for more flexibility.</p> <p>There were no Other Reports or Statements.</p>
<p>222</p>	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Balance Sheet as of the 31st May 2021 b) Income and Expenditure May 2021 c) Ratification of accounts for payment d) Internal Auditor’s Report e) Hire Charges: To agree not to increase any charge until 2022. f) To resolve that the Town Clerk be given sanction to offer special hire rates to persons hiring council facilities if he considers it necessary to secure such a booking. <p>All resolved to accept the financial account reports.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that due to the pandemic the normal functions/meetings/weddings had been unable to take place at the Town Hall and the New Hall. However, there had been a number of small bookings at the New Hall in particular, these had been charged at a special rate to secure the booking and provide the hall with some income.</p> <p>The Town Clerk asked the members to be given sanction to continue to be permitted to do this if he felt that this was necessary to secure the booking.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke proposed to accept this, Cllr D Knowles seconded.</p> <p>Cllr N Davey asked if any special rate charges could be reported to the Finance & General Purposes Meetings.</p> <p>All resolved to accept this.</p>
<p>223</p>	<p>Motion by Cllr A Perris: That Tiverton Town Council allocates up to £9,000 towards CHAT funding a paid worker to co-ordinate the operation and delivery of the food bank in the Tiverton Town Council area. This allocation to be separate from the already allocated potential emergency funding (Minute 182).</p> <p>Cllr A Perris informed the members that the charity organisation Churches For Action Trust who run a food bank for the town, were now struggling to deal with the surge in demand, coupled with a lack of volunteers to run the operation. There was now a need to recruit a co-ordinator to ensure that this valuable community service continued as there was a shocking level of food poverty in Tiverton. This position would be for a period of 12 months. C.H.A.T. was therefore looking to secure a figure of approximately £27,000 to enable them to fund the salary. It was hoped that the town council could allocate £9,000 for the co-ordinator.</p> <p>Cllr N Davey asked what would happen after the period of 12 months. Would there be a need to allocate another £9,000 on an annual basis.</p> <p>Cllr A Perris replied to say that it could be highly likely, as he was unsure of whether the situation would improve or not.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke felt that town council general reserves should not be used for paying salaries. He questioned whether there was a high level of food poverty in Tiverton.</p> <p>Cllr D Knowles said that whilst he supported C.H.A.T. he had concerns as the town council had already granted £10,000 to the organisation for the food bank and aide during the pandemic. There was another £10,000 put aside for contingency should the pandemic worsen over the winter period. This meant that in total the sum of £29,000 could be given to C.H.A.T. This he said, seemed a lot of money for one organisation and it was important</p>

	<p>to support all groups. Cllr D Knowles said that they had asked for a report from C.H.A.T. on how the initial £10,000 had been spent.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that he had received a brief report from C.H.A.T. on the expenditure.</p> <p>Cllr S Bush said that C.H.A.T. still had £1,500 left from the £10,000 and that the majority of the funding had been spent on food.</p> <p>C.H.A.T. were primarily set up to deal with housing and they were now concerned about how busy they would get, which in turn would impact on how they could provide food services. Cllr S Bush said that he disagreed with Cllr W Burke as Mid Devon were in the top 10 in the country for food poverty.</p> <p>Cllr S Pugh said that if the council thought that Covid-19 was under control then they could allocate £10,000 to the funding of the co-ordinator and review again after 12 months.</p> <p>Cllr S Knight expressed concern that the lifting of the ban on evicting tenants would further impact on food poverty and mental health.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman said that mental health would impact on many other services and elevating food poverty would help to prevent this.</p> <p>Cllr N Davey asked if the £9,000 funding could be a one-off payment.</p> <p>Members asked if some of the £10,000 emergency funding could be used to cover the £9,000.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that this was a separate issue and set aside for future pandemic emergencies, the motion would need to be rescinded, as once a motion has been decided it becomes a decided decision for a period of 6 months.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower asked why Tiverton was seeing a huge rise in food poverty.</p> <p>Cllr A Perris said that the C.H.A.T. report covered all the details. He said that he would be happy to talk more on this subject to the members.</p> <p>A vote was taken on the motion proposed by Cllr A Perris.</p> <p>10 members were in favour and 2 members were against, the motion was carried.</p>
224	<p>Casual Vacancy: To co-opt a person to fill the vacant position on the Westexe Ward.</p> <p>Cllr T Lindus said that he was not happy with voting on the applicants for the vacancy without meeting them in person. He proposed that this be put off until the restrictions have been lifted, so that they could attend in person and be able to answer questions from the members.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower seconded this.</p> <p>All were in favour and the motion was carried.</p>
225	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Two school reports were received and previously circulated to the members from Blundell's School and Tiverton High School respectively.</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained that they were unable to attend in person due to Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>It was hoped that the school ambassadors could be able to attend in person for the September 2021 Full Council Meeting.</p>
226	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Monday 26th July 2021 at 6.30pm</p>