



**A Perris 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 the Full Council Meeting held in the New Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

Cllrs: S Griggs (Mayor), J Blagg, W Burke, S Bush, L Cruwys, N Davey, C Daw, D Garcia-Parejo, C Harrower, I Hill, P Hill, B Holdman, T Lindus, D Knowles, A Perris, C Slade, E Slade, D Sutton.

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

**Absent:** Cllr's J Blagg.

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| <b>240</b> | <b>Prayers led by the Town Clerk Mr J Vanderwolfe</b>  |
| <b>241</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllrs, A Berry (family), A Hendy (away), P Hill (away), S Knight (family), D Knowles A Perris (working), (family, S Pugh (course) J Rendle (away).<br>All resolved to accept the apologies.  |
| <b>242</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b><br>None at this stage of the meeting.  |
| <b>243</b> | <b>Minutes: To adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b><br>Resolved to accept the Minutes. The Mayor signed the Minutes.   |
| <b>244</b> | <b>Matters arising from the above</b><br>There were no matters arising.  |
| <b>245</b> | <b>Democratic Period</b><br>There were no members of public who wished to speak.   |
| <b>246</b> | <b>Mayor's Announcements</b><br>Cllr S Griggs said it was nice to be back in the town hall and wonderful to have the students in attendance. She thanked Mr A Newsome for standing in as her Beadle.<br>She sent her best wishes to Mr & Mrs Burnett and wished them well soon.<br>Cllr S Griggs said that she had attended the Tiverton Royal British Legion event which had been a nice occasion, she had noted that not many councillors were in attendance. Cllr S Griggs addressed the members to say that where possible councillors should attend these occasions.<br>She thanked the Town Clerk for assisting in the Vintage Bus Day event and said this event had been well attended with everyone enjoying the spectacle of the vintage buses.<br>Cllr S Griggs said she had attended the Tiverton Soroptomist's event and said that the group was open to new members, with the aim of supporting women around the world. She had also attended the Unite AGM and had enjoyed meeting with the young carers. Cllr S Griggs said she found it very humbling hearing of the tremendous work that they do.<br>She said that she had also had the pleasure of visiting St John's Primary School and had been very impressed by the calibre of questions from the young pupils to her. Topics included affordable housing, food poverty, and litter issues.<br>Cllr S Griggs said that she would like to ask them to create posters on the topic of litter pollution.<br>Cllr Griggs also attended the unveiling of the restored Victorian water fountain at the |

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|     | <p>People’s Park. She praised the Allies group for all their hard work in achieving this work. She had been entertained by Cllr L Cruwys’s recollections of his memories of the park in his childhood.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs attended the Valleyside Barn event at Bickleigh and said that the young owners of this enterprise was inspirational. She also visited the Eats festival which was held on the same day in Tiverton and said she was pleased to see it so well attended. The Pannier Market also had their Market Fest running alongside of this and it too had been well supported.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs said that she had residents approaching her expressing their concern at the level of drinking in the town and the volume of broken glass littering the streets. She said that it might be a good idea to think about the possibility of bringing back the bylaw restricting this.</p> <p>Cllr S Griggs ended her announcements and presented Cllr’s C and E Slade their past Mayor and Mayoress badges.</p> <p>She then addressed the members to advise them on the protocol for questions and speaking for the purposes of the meeting.</p>  |
| 246 | <p><b>County and District Council Reports</b><br/> <b>The reports had been previously circulated to the members.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr C Slade read out the County council report, which had been previously circulated.</b></p> <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>Cllr Griggs thanked Cllr Slade for his report.</p> <p><b>Cllr C Daw</b> gave her thanks to Cllr W Burke for the beautiful flower bed outside of Mid Devon District Council’s Phoenix House building and for all his work for Tiverton in Bloom. The Mayor also gave her thanks to Cllr W Burke.</p> <p><b>Cllr C Daw then presented the District report which had been previously circulated.</b></p> <p>She read out the key points of the report to the members.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Hill said that residents had been asking why the district council members were not working from the offices.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw replied to say that there was not enough space to safely allow working from the office to full capacity presently.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Hill asked what the absentee figure was for the district employees.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw said she did not have that information to hand but would secure this for Cllr P Hill.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade pointed out that the current policy of both the district and county council was to work from home where possible as this was proving an efficient and safe way to work both for the district and the county council.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill said that in relation to customer services what had been done for those who did not have the means or ability to seek the services online.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw said that the district council was currently looking at a pre-booked appointment system for face to face meetings within a designated time slot.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower said that she had been working for several months on two serious issues within her ward, one of which, had led her to seek assistance from Cllr R Chesterton. She said that she had received no response to date from him, and in her opinion, this was not good customer service. She also said that she had a similar experience with the district council in relation to a housing matter, where none of her emails had been acknowledged.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower said she was concerned that as she had been unable to respond to the issues as it then appeared that councillors were not resolving the issues to their constituents.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw replied to say that these matters take time to resolve and that the issues were being addressed and processed.</p> |

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|     | <p>Cllr B Holdman said he wanted to give his thanks on behalf of the Allies group to the district council for their assistance in the unveiling of the restored Victorian water fountain at the People's park.</p> <p>The Mayor Cllr S Griggs thanked the Allies for their achievement in the successful restoration project.</p>  |
| 247 | <p><b>Short Presentations from Tiverton High School and Blundell's School</b></p> <p><b>Jayadev Soj and Polly Mortimore read out the Tiverton High School report which had been previously circulated.</b></p> <p>Cllr T Lindus wanted to thank the teachers for all the hard work that they had carried out throughout the pandemic in ensuring that their pupil's education continued. He asked if there would be a lantern parade this year for the town's Christmas switch-on.</p> <p>The ambassadors confirmed that there were plans for a lantern parade for November 27<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the town's Christmas switch-on event.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower said that she was pleased to meet the ambassadors, she had a letter of thanks from a teacher in Kenya that she read out. This was in relation to the school's project of collecting unused/unwanted musical instruments to send to their adopted school in Kenya. She asked the councillors if they could take a look to see if they had any old/unwanted musical instruments that they could donate.</p> <p>Cllr L Cruwys asked if the school had any plans to discuss the topic of domestic violence and the issue of sexual assault which affected males and females.</p> <p>The ambassadors replied to say that this would be covered in an age group appropriate way.</p> <p><b>Chris Dunstan and Jess Kaia read out the Blundell's School report which had been previously circulated.</b></p> <p>The ambassadors finished by saying that if there were any local charities in need of help they would like to be notified to see if they could assist.</p> <p>Cllr C Harrower praised the students for their involvement in the knitted bunting challenge "knit our community together" which resulted in breaking a world record.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade informed both schools that he was involved in a new litter strategy project and Asked if they could assist in getting the message across to all schools in the area.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked both schools for their participation and reports.</p> |
| 248 | <p><b>Committee Minutes:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Finance &amp; General Purpose Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 presented by Cllr N Davey.</b></p> <p>All resolved to accept.</p> <p>b) <b>Planning Minutes of the 2nd &amp; 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 presented by Cllr L Cruwys.</b></p> <p>All resolved to accept.</p> <p>c) <b>Climate Emergency Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 presented by Cllr A Hendy.</b></p> <p>All resolved to accept.</p> <p>d) <b>Amenities Committee Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 presented by Cllr W Burke.</b></p> <p>All resolved to accept.</p> <p>e) <b>Town Leat Update Report presented by Cllr I Hill.</b></p> <p>Cllr I Hill began by thanking Cllr W Burke for his efforts in keeping the leat syphon clean, which she said should in her opinion be something that the county council should do.</p> <p>She then read out her report, concluding with the fact that the necessary repairs to the town leat would involve substantial costs and suggested that in order to achieve this type of</p>   |

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|     | <p>funding it would be preferable to set up a charitable trust rather than try to secure it as a town council. Cllr I Hill said that the project was likely to cost approximately £100,000 with works being carried out in stages.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill said that it would be important to involve and work alongside partner organisations in order to achieve the aim of the restoration of the leat. She explained that she and her husband Cllr P Hill had looked at how Dulverton had completed their restoration project and said this was a good working example of how it could be achieved.</p> <p>There was also a need to demonstrate that the restoration would benefit the local community.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill said she would welcome any ideas and comments from the members on this project.</p> <p>Cllr T Lindus asked if the Bailiff of the Hundred had been consulted and whether he had been supportive.</p> <p>Cllr B Holdman thanked all who were involved with the restoration of the leat project and said it was important for the town that the leat be restored.</p> <p>He agreed that the Bailiff of the Hundred should be involved in the project as part of the Bailiff's role.</p> <p>Cllr S Bush also thought that the Bailiff of the Hundred should be more involved in assisting with the project.</p> <p>Cllr C Daw suggested calling the Bailiff of the Hundred to a meeting.</p> <p>The Town Clerk suggested an internal meeting would be the best option.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke thanked Cllrs, I &amp; P Hill for all that they had done on the project and said in his opinion the county council should bear some of the responsibility for the repairs.</p> <p>Cllr I Hill said that the Bailiff of the Hundred had an impossible task and would have to have good leadership and be someone that people would look up to in order to achieve results.</p> <p>Cllr D Garcia-Parejo gave a brief update on behalf of the Tiverton Twinning Association. He extended an invitation to all the members to join and support the organisation.</p> <p><b>f) Report from councillors who have attended recent training courses run by DALC.</b></p> <p>Cllr B Holdman was asked to address the members on the course he had recently attended. He said that he had not been aware that he would be expected to report on this and had not prepared anything.</p> <p>The Mayor asked if Cllr B Holdman could update the members at the next meeting.</p> |
| 249 | <p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive the report from the External Auditor and note the conclusion of audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk presented the conclusion of audit for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, with the council receiving an unqualified audit.</p> <p>Cllr C Slade proposed to accept the report which was seconded by Cllr W Burke.</p> <p>All resolved to accept.</p> <p>Cllr W Burke thanked the Town Clerk and the administration staff for their efforts in achieving this.</p>   |
| 250 | <p><b>Town Council Guides/Information for Councillors</b></p> <p>Cllr I Hill informed the members that the new councillor pack that she had been issued with as a new councillor needed to be reviewed. She felt that the pack should be available as a paper document and said that it was important that all members were aware of the pack and the information. Cllr I Hill drew attention to the fact that the policies were not being reviewed on an annual basis and that the financial regulations had draft copy stamped on them.</p>   |

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|            | <p>Cllr I Hill said that it was important for all councillors to receive regular training in order to best advise and assist their electorates.</p> <p>The Town Clerk said that he would now look at reviewing and updating the new councillor pack.</p> <p>The Mayor Cllr S Griggs asked the members if they could look at the town's website and Facebook platforms and offer suggestions for ways that they could be improved.</p> |
| <b>251</b> | <b>Correspondence:</b> There was no correspondence.   |
| <b>252</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 6.30pm</b>   |

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