



Tiverton Town Council

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Draft until approved

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held in the Mayoralty Room of the Town Hall on Monday 9th September at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr's D Knowles (chairman), J Blagg, W Burke, A Bush, S Bush, N Davey, C Daw, S Griggs, I Hill, T Lindus, A Perris, S Rakobane, J Rendle and C Slade.

In Attendance: Cllr P Hill, Assistant to the Town Clerk (Mrs J Hubbard).

029	<p>Apologies Apologies received from Cllr B Holdman (Ill), Cllr C Harrower (Away). These apologies were accepted. Late Apology was received from Cllr N Davey (Work).</p>
030	<p>Declarations of Interest No Declarations of interest were made at this stage of the meeting.</p>
031	<p>Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th August 2019 were agreed as a true record; and were signed by the Chair.</p>
032	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes that are not an agenda item None.</p>
033	<p>Democratic Period No items raised.</p>
034	<p>Financial Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Balance Sheets of 31st August 2019 was agreed b) August 2019 income and expenditure report agreed c) Payments for August 2019 were agreed <p>A few queries were raised on the list of payments for August 2019, these were the cost of recruitment fees, reasons for not utilising local job centre/job club, New Hall tools and materials expenditure, Canal boat fees and cost of outside cleaning contractor fees for public toilet annual leave cover. The assistant to the Town Clerk noted the queries and said that she and the Town Clerk would respond in due course.</p>
035	<p>Town Leat Report Cllr I Hill read out the following report: A site meeting took place at Chettiscombe recently with representatives from the Town Council, Devon County Council, Mid Devon District Council and the Knightshayes Estate, together with a contractor. It is hoped that funding might come from Section 106 funds for enhancement of this area which would also include some seating on the Green. Sir Ian Amory has agreed to the seating subject to this council taking responsibility for maintenance issues. There will be a cost implication yet to be agreed. A lease or licence will be required between the Chettiscombe Trust and Tiverton Town Council. Seating needs to be low maintenance, preferably from recycled materials to complement our aims for</p>

climate change and be durable.

Positive discussions are ongoing regarding S106 funding for enhancement elements of the project.

An estimated update for the refurbishment of Chettiscombe weir is being sought following requirements requested from the Conservation Officer.

Steve Densham (Mid Devon District Council, Development Services Manager) is looking at additional quotations for the other works including those in Water Lane and behind Oak Close/Cherry Close. He hopes to have quotes for “pipe lining” by the 13th September 2019.

Cllr P Hill is looking at possible grant funding for the project. Apart from any possible S106 contribution, other contributors include Tesco “Bags for Help” Viridor Credits, Amory Trust, and because of the sums of money involved, the Heritage Lottery Fund. However, a successful application to the Lottery Fund will entail demonstrating audience development work and community consultation. A “project enquiry” has been opened to obtain further information regarding collection and analysis of information about the people who engage with our heritage – and those who don’t – and we will need to track how this changes over time. This may prove challenging although there is a “Save Our Leat” petition, with over 800 signatories already in existence. We are awaiting advice from Paul Tucker who is the Mid Devon District Council specialist Grants Funding Officer. As can be seen some progress is being made, albeit not as quickly as many would hope; therefore regrettably it will be some time before the leat is performing in its normal manner.

Cllr A Perris asked for the background on why the leat had been stopped.

Cllr I Hill responded to say that the weir at Chettiscombe was collapsing and although it had been shored up it was on its last legs. There was also an issue underneath the bridge. There were also problems with flooding at Water Lane, Oak Close and Cherry Tree Gardens so that each time it was switched on it caused flooding to the gardens and underneath the road at Water Lane. Brickhouse Hill also had issues with pipework needing to be re-lined.

Cllr A Perris asked if it was a Lowman Ward problem.

Cllr C Slade said that is was in Castle Ward.

Cllr A Perris then asked who was responsible for the leat.

Cllr C Slade responded by saying that various people, companies, unregistered land at Cherry Tree Gardens and Oak Close were all responsible.

Cllr I Hill said that it was a long running battle to get people to accept responsibility and that laws and covenant changes can get confusing.

All fractions needed to take part in the restoration up to the residents of Tiverton to support and possibly assisted by crowd funding.

Cllr A Perris said that in his opinion the issues with the leat were a failure of government and as such they had a responsibility to sort it, it was not acceptable to ask the public for funding.

Cllr C Slade said that the leat had been gifted to the people of Tiverton so arguably he felt it should be Tiverton Town Council that are responsible but that no one person could make it work.

Cllr S Bush said that information was lacking on costs and figures.

Cllr D Knowles (Chair) said that there were some figures available but that it had not come to the committee yet so they were unable to release them before they had been agreed.

Cllr D Knowles thanked Cllr I Hill for a good report as a lot of research had been carried out along with a design for an amenity space. All monetary quotes would have to go through the committee first.

036

Next Meeting

Monday 14th October 2019 at 6.30pm

Signed

Date
