



MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 2022 AT 7.30 PM AT
THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, IRNHAM ROAD, MINEHEAD TA24 5DW

The Meeting was digitally recorded and streamed on the MTC Facebook page

Members are reminded that Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and Biodiversity

Chair: Cllr A Kingston-James (Mayor)

Councillors: Cllr T Bloomfield (Deputy Mayor), Cllr M Burke, Cllr A Lawton, Cllr C Palmer*,
Cllr M Palmer, Cllr T Venner*

(denotes Somerset West and Taunton Councillor "SWaT")*

*(** denotes Somerset County Councillor "SCC")*

Officers in Attendance: Ms S Rawle (Clerk)
Mrs J Notley (Notetaker)

Councillors in Attendance: Cllr C M Lawrence**
Cllr A Hadley* **

Councillors Absent: Cllr J Rogers

Members of the Public: 3

Members of the Press: 0

The Mayor welcomed Councillors, members of the public and those watching on Facebook.

118 To receive Apologies for Absence [LGA 1972 s 85 \(1\)](#)

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Bolton, Cllr J Bonar, Cllr C Gilberto, Cllr E Jones, Cllr M Kingston-James, Cllr M Kravis*** and Cllr J Malin.

119 To receive:

Declarations of Interests in respect of any Agenda items [Localism Act 2011](#)

Member	Item	Interest	Time Period	Speak/Vote
Cllr A Kingston-James	125.2 125.3	Personal	23.08.2022	Stayed in the room. Did not speak or vote
Cllr C Palmer	All	SWaT Councillor	2022	Stayed in the room, spoke and voted
Cllr T Venner	All	SWaT Councillor	2022	Stayed in the room, spoke and voted

Dispensations [Localism Act 2011](#)

No dispensations had been requested.

At the request of Cllr Bloomfield, the Mayor agreed to move first to items 4 and 13 on the Agenda.

Proposed: Cllr Bloomfield **Seconded: Cllr Lawton**

Agreed with all in favour to adjourn the meeting for public inclusion and to then discuss item 13 on the Agenda.

120 **To adjourn** the Meeting for Public Inclusion [Standing Order No 3e](#)

Mr Bill Hodson, Director of Ellicombe Gardens Management Company, referred to a report Councillors had seen about a requested re-siting of a postbox in the Ellicombe Meadow area and Royal Mail's reasons for refusal. He asked Councillors to write a letter in support of the Ellicombe Meadow residents' request.

121 **To agree** to write a letter in support of residents' request for postbox at Ellicombe Meadow
Cllr Bloomfield explained to the meeting that although Ellicombe Meadow was less than half a mile from a postbox this was situated in Mallard Road and across a very busy main road, making it difficult for Ellicombe Meadow residents, most of whom were elderly, to easily access a postbox. Three separate departments of Royal Mail had rejected a request to re-site a box from elsewhere in Alcombe. The area in question covered approximately 100 properties.

Proposed: Cllr Bloomfield **Seconded: Cllr Burke**

Agreed with all in favour that Cllr Bloomfield draft a letter from MTC to Royal Mail for approval by Councillors.

122 **To receive** reports from:

- Somerset County Council (SCC)

Cllr Mandy Chilcott had sent her apologies for being unable to attend.

Cllr Christine Lawrence opened her report by thanking all those responsible for the events in Blenheim Gardens on 13 and 14 August. It had been a wonderful weekend, busy with many children on the Saturday and older participants on the Sunday.

Cllr Lawrence told the meeting that the Council Tax consultation had been launched which was for everyone to look at and see what the new Unitary Council proposals

were for the lowest income households and what relief they could expect. The consultation would run until 19 September and could be found at:

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/sSomersetCTRLIVE/

She shared good news from Trading Standards where Somerset and Devon work together and which had carried out many raids searching for illegal tobacco. Recently they had confiscated £200,000 worth of illegal cigarettes making a total of more than £310,00 worth confiscated across the service area for 2021/2022.

Cllr Lawrence said that wheelchairs and community equipment were now available for all age groups. Users could ring in and get help and support, with wheelchairs being delivered to their door, maintained and looked after. More information was available at: www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/equipment-to-help-you

Cllr Lawrence wished to let everyone know about the Somerset Business Climate Change Summit, due to take place on 21 September between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm at Queens College in Taunton. Details could be found at:

www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-businesses/climate-summit/.

Cllr Lawrence passed the email details to the Clerk for publication and minuting.

Cllr Andy Hadley said the new Council had voted in support of a fully funded local community network. There would be a community consultation starting on 31 August 2022 which would go out to all local towns and parishes. It was extremely important that towns and parishes had their say, particularly in respect of what geographical area they wanted. It was very important that MTC had a say in this.

- Somerset West and Taunton District Council (SWaT)

Cllr Hadley told the meeting that SWaT had launched an additional relief fund for businesses which had not benefited from COVID relief in the past. The Council were identifying those businesses and writing to them. He reminded Councillors that as part of National Tree Planting Week, commencing 19 November 2022, towns and parishes could choose free trees up to a value of £100.

Cllr Hadley reminded the meeting about the Customer Panel and that anyone interested should get involved. He also said that the Council tax support scheme had been launched. Presently this gave a maximum of 80% relief but the new scheme would give up to 100% relief

- Police

No Police report had been received.

- Councillors attending Meetings on behalf of Minehead Town Council (MTC)
 - Minehead BID (Cllrs Bloomfield and Venner)
 There had been no Minehead BID meetings. The next one was scheduled for 6 September 2022.

123 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor told the meeting that on 13 August he had attended the Minehead Gardening Club Annual Flower Show and presented the prizes. He congratulated Cllr Lawton as one of the winners. On 15 August the Mayor had attended the Burma Star gathering in Blenheim Gardens.

124 To agree the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2022 – *Minutes to be agreed by Councillors who were in attendance*

Councillors discussed the Minutes, and in particular Minute No 107. The Clerk advised that the amendment proposed by Cllr Kravis was a new proposal rather than an amendment. She said that the original motion had not been voted upon. The Clerk proposed to amend the Minutes to read: "The amendment was a fresh proposal and could not stand. Councillors did not vote on the substantive motion."

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Bloomfield

Agreed with 2 abstentions (Councillors absent at meeting) and 5 in favour.

125 To note the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2 August 2022 The Mayor said the Minutes were noted.

126 Finance Matters

The Mayor handed over to Cllr Venner, Deputy Chair of Finance & Staffing Committee.

125.1 To approve Urgent Payments for August 2022

Payments 1-7, totalling £35,007.92

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr A Kingston-James

Agreed with all in favour

125.2 To approve Payments under £1,500 for August 2022

Payments 8-31, totalling £5,110.80

Cllr M Palmer queried item 10 and the Clerk said she would explain this item in an email after the meeting. Cllr M Palmer also queried item 29, a payment for toilet rolls: the Clerk replied that extra had been needed for public toilets during the very busy summer period.

Proposed: Cllr Venner
Agreed with all in favour

Seconded: Cllr M Palmer

125.3 To approve Payments over £1,500 for August 2022
Payments 32-35, totalling £43,913.86

Cllr Burke disagreed with payment no 35 and Cllr C Palmer was not in favour of payment no 34.

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Lawton

Not agreed with 3 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

Cllr said he would take each payment individually to ensure payment of as many items as possible.

Payment no 32

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Lawton

Agreed with all in favour.

Payment No 33

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Lawton

Agreed with all in favour.

Payment No 34

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Lawton

Agreed with 3 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Payment No 35

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Lawton

Not agreed with 3 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Burke

Agreed with all in favour to take payment no 35 to next Full Council meeting in September.

125.4 To approve Payments by Procurement Card for July 2022
Payments 36-47, totalling £601.06

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Burke

Agreed with all in favour

125.5 To approve Regular Payments for July 2022

Payments 1-24, totalling £6,147.07

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr M Palmer

Agreed with all in favour

125.6 To note the Income Report for July 2022

Income totalling £29,852.49.

Cllr Venner wished to minute thanks to Minehead BID for its contribution towards the infrastructure for Christmas lights in The Avenue. The Clerk confirmed that a letter of thanks had been sent to BID.

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Lawton

Approved with all in favour

126 To receive report on Queen Anne Statue

Councillors had seen a report from a conservation company following an inspection of the Queen Anne Statue. The Clerk pointed out that the work was for the cleaning and repair of the monument itself and not for repairing fractures in the alabaster of the statue. After discussion where Councillors generally felt that Council was obliged to maintain the statue, Cllr M Palmer said she felt that investigation should be carried out before any work, including cleaning, was carried out. Cllr Venner said he would like to think Council could tap into external sources of finance, either in partnership with other organisations or through grants to properly clean and repair the statue.

Proposed: Cllr Burke

Seconded: Cllr Lawton

Agreed with all in favour to give officers authority to explore grant funding and other possible sources of funding to repair the statue.

127 To receive report on Changing Places toilets

Councillors had seen a Report by the Deputy Clerk on the Changing Places toilets. The Clerk explained that the grant awarded was dependent upon MTC providing, fitting out and completing the Changing Places toilet at which point SWaT would be able to draw down the grant and pass it on to MTC. It meant that in the interim MTC would have to bankroll the project. Officers were seeking authority from Councillors to go ahead and obtain the appropriate 3 quotes for the work entailed.

Proposed: Cllr Burke

Seconded: Cllr C Palmer

Agreed with all in favour that Council proceed with the provision of a Changing Places toilet and obtain 3 quotes for the provision and fitting out of the toilet.

128 To discuss personal safety relating to publication of Councillors' addresses

Cllr C Palmer had provided a guide published by SWaT to handling harassment, abuse and intimidation. He wished to propose that Councillors' home addresses should be redacted from their Registers of Interests and also the MTC website. Cllrs Venner, Lawton and Bloomfield thought constituents should know where their Councillors lived.

Proposed: Cllr C Palmer

Seconded: Cllr M Palmer

Agreed with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions that Councillors' home addresses be redacted from their Registers of Interests and the MTC website unless Councillors stated they wished them to be published.

129 To agree to write a letter in support of Plastic-Free Minehead's submission for continued status

Proposed: Cllr C Palmer

Seconded: Cllr Burke

Agreed with all in favour that MTC write a letter in support of Plastic-Free Minehead's submission for continued status

131 To resolve to exclude Members of the Press and Public ([Public Bodies \[Admission to Meetings\] Act 1960](#))

Proposed: Cllr A Kingston-James

Seconded: Cllr M Palmer

Agreed with all in favour to continue the meeting *in camera* to discuss staffing issues

The public meeting closed at 8.22 pm.

132 Confidential Items