



MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM

AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING, IRNHAM ROAD, MINEHEAD TA24 5DW

The Meeting was recorded and broadcast live 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

- Present:** Chair: Councillors: Cllr J Bonar, Cllr T Bloomfield, Cllr A Lawton, Cllr C Palmer, Cllr M Palmer
(* denotes Somerset West and Taunton District "SWaT" Councillor)
- Officers in Attendance:** Mr B Howe – Deputy Clerk
- Members of the Press and Public:** 0 members of the Press
0 members of the Public
- Councillor Absent:** Cllr J Rogers
- Councillor in Attendance:** Cllr T Venner

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr T Bloomfield, welcomed all to the Meeting. She opened the meeting by announcing that both the Chair and Deputy Chair, Cllrs P Bolton and E Jones, had resigned from Minehead Town Council and therefore the Deputy Mayor asked for nominations to chair the present meeting only. The Deputy Mayor said the election of the permanent Chair and Deputy Chair would be deferred until the next Full Council meeting. The Deputy Clerk explained that this matter would be included on the Full Council agenda when all Town Councillors could vote for a new Chair and Deputy Chair of the Amenities and Environment Committee.

Cllr Lawton nominated Cllr C Palmer as Chair for the meeting, seconded by Cllr Venner and unanimously agreed.

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

Apologies had been received from Cllr A Kingston-James.

174 **To receive** Councillors' Declarations of Interest and any Dispensations

[In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members](#)

Member	Minute	Interest	Time Period	Speak/Vote
Cllr C Palmer	All	SWaT Councillor	2022	Spoke and voted
Cllr T Venner	All	SWaT Councillor	2022	Spoke and voted

Dispensations

None.

175 **To approve** the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Tuesday 12 July 2022

- *Minutes to be agreed by Councillors who were in attendance*

Proposed: Cllr Lawton

Seconded: Cllr M Palmer

Agreed with 2 abstentions (Councillors absent) and 4 in favour.

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

No-one had asked to speak.

177 **To receive** the Chair's verbal report

Cllr Bloomfield delivered the Chair's verbal report: she announced that the planning application for alterations to the Blenheim Gardens café had been withdrawn by the applicant. She also requested that the subject of the future of Blenheim Gardens, including the café, should be included at the next Full Council meeting. It was unanimously agreed to include this subject on the next Full Council meeting agenda.

178 **To receive** an update on the Christmas lights

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that Wellington Square and the central islands would be decorated in the same way as the previous year. MTC would be purchasing Christmas trees for Wellington Square and Alcombe roundabout. The Deputy Mayor added that there could

be trees at the Old Hospital and the Beach Hotel. New, upgraded cabling was being installed in Park Street for the trees above the shops. This would make the installation of the trees easier and safer. New lights (funded by Minehead BID) had been installed in The Avenue, but there were no power connections. The power connections had been ordered but not yet connected. The Deputy Clerk said that the switch-on date would be 25 November but it needed to be discussed with Minehead BID. Cllr Venner commented that it was MTC's decision regarding the switch-on date. It was confirmed that Gateway Events would be organising Father Christmas and his sleigh for the evening switch-on.

179 **To receive** an update on the transfer of Wellington Square

The Deputy Clerk reported that Somerset West and Taunton Council had completed the consultation period and were currently drawing up the legal papers with conditions to transfer Wellington Square into the ownership of Minehead Town Council

180 **To discuss and recommend** security improvements for public toilets at Irnham Road Recreation Ground and Quay West

The Deputy Clerk provided quotes for installing steel fencing with access gates to both sets of toilets. He confirmed that the Bowling Club and SWaT had both given permission to instal the fences/gates. Only one quote was submitted due to the lack of interested suppliers. Cllr M Palmer asked that the area around the back of Quay West toilets be cleaned up by SWaT prior to the installation.

Proposed: Cllr C Palmer

Seconded: Cllr Venner

Agreed with all in favour to recommend the quotes for acceptance by Full Council.

181 **To discuss** revised investigative work on Queen Anne Statue

The Deputy Clerk reminded the meeting that they had seen a previous quote exceeding £10,000 to clean the structure that the statue sits in and to carry out investigative work on the statue. The new quote was an estimate for work to identify cracking issues within the statue. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of external funding of further work after the investigation and it was agreed to look at options when Council had more information.

Proposed: Cllr M Palmer

Seconded: Cllr Venner

Agreed with all in favour to recommend the quote to Full Council for approval.

182 **To discuss** suggestions for a memorial for PO Floyd

The Deputy Clerk reminded all that Wellington Square could be considered as a place for a memorial. Cllr M Palmer confirmed that P O Floyd's name was on the War Memorial

monument on North Hill and she did not think a memorial was appropriate. Cllr Lawton thought that all Councillors should see the history and Cllr C Palmer thought the story could then be on display in the museum. Various suggestions were made including a memorial in the Church and a name plate on Floyd's Corner. It was generally agreed that, due to the lack of information, the subject should be deferred and brought to the next Full Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.