

**These Minutes are DRAFT only and will be approved at the next Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 25 July 2023**



## **MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD ON TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023 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*

Mayor: Cllr C Palmer  
Councillors: Cllr J Bonar, Cllr B Hodson, Cllr M Kingston-James, Cllr M Kravis\*, Cllr A Lawton,  
Cllr M Palmer  
(\* denotes Somerset Council Councillor)

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr B Howe (Deputy Clerk)  
Mr B Parker (Operations Manager)  
Ms K Pietrusiewicz (Notetaker)

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

**Police in Attendance:** None

**Members of the Public:** 9

**Members of the Press:** 0

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

**28 To receive Apologies for Absence [LGA 1972 s 85 \(1\)](#)**  
All Councillors were present.

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**29 To receive:**

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

Member	Item	Interest	Time Period	Speak/Vote
Cllr M Kravis	All	SC Councillor	2023	Stayed in the room, spoke and voted
Cllr M Kingston - James	19	Personal	2023	Stayed in the room and spoke; Did not vote

Dispensations [Localism Act 2011](#)

No dispensations were requested

**30 Election of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr M Palmer nominated Cllr A Lawton as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr M Kravis A Lawton agreed to the nomination and no other nominations being received. Cllr A Lawton was elected as Deputy Mayor for 2023-2024 with 6 votes in favour.

**31 To receive** resignation of Cllr S Slade (25 May 2023) and Cllr T Venner (5 June 2023)

The Mayor said resignation Cllr S Slade and Cllr T Venner was noted. Cllr M Kravis voted for thanks to be passed to the exiting Councillors.

**32 To receive** reports from:

- Somerset Council (SC)

Cllr Mandy Chilcott wanted to place on record her thanks to outgoing Cllrs Venner and Slade, saying they will be missed. Cllr Chilcott brought the councillors up to date with the new cycle path along the A39 between Minehead and Dunster. Works are due to be completed and the path open by the end of this week although there would still be some groundworks required to the sides before full completion.

Cllr Christine Lawrence also passed on thanks to all outgoing Cllrs stating that being a town councillor involved a lot of unpaid work. She told the councillors that she had recently enjoyed a bus journey to Taunton which she was sincerely grateful for the service provided and encouraged people to use the bus services provided or risk losing them. The government have pledged an extra £5.4 million extra towards road improvements in the county. Last winter 83000 miles of roads were gritted throughout the county. She also wanted to share how lovely Blenheim gardens is but was upset with the state of the weeds along Blenheim Road. She felt it was now getting to a serious stage with the condition of street weeds and was shocked at how bad it had become throughout the town. It is a busy time along Quay Street with Filming for an upcoming Film due to take place at the weekend, the Waverley trips to Minehead harbour, work due to be done along North Hill, 2 cottages being repaired and the speed of the traffic along the Quay. She implored all to take care.

Cllr Andy Hadley echoed both Cllr Chilcott and Cllr Lawrences with thanks to the outgoing Town Councillors. He said that the issue this month does seem to be about weeds in the streets in Minehead. The first meeting of the LCN groups were due to start on 13 July 2023 and he hoped MTC would nominate a representee to go along and be a voice for Minehead. He reinforced the local police appeal for people to report anti-social driving on 101 or 999. Without these instances being reported, the police have limited powers.

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Cllr Marcus Kravis mentioned that regarding buses, he felt a bus to Bridgwater from Minehead was important and encouraged the other county councillors to write a joint letter of support. He was worried that the local needs connection for the new houses along Seaward Way could be watered down and another joint letter to ensure this didn't happen was suggested.

Cllr M Palmer queried if the streets were being swept as she hadn't seen one recently. Cllr Chilcott said the issue may be that a lot of rubbish was stuck in the long weeds which meant sweeping wasn't as effective but will send an email to check it is still sweeping.

- Police. The Police had sent in a Newsletter for June which would be put on the MTC Facebook page and website.
- Councillors attending Meetings on behalf of Minehead Town Council (MTC)
  - Advisory and Working Groups

Cllr Lawton reported that a group of councillors were involved in the work planting the King Charles III commemorative hedge at The Queen Elizabeth memorial garden. Work had begun with children from Minehead First School helping. Minehead rainbows and brownies were due to help plant some more this week.

**33 To adjourn** the Meeting for Public Inclusion **Standing Order No 3e**  
One of the public had asked to speak about the new bus connection possibility - Hinkley Point/Bridgwater. Cllr Mandy Chilcott informed the operating route around that area are commercial and are not subsidised. Due to low numbers of commuters the commercial bus operators refused to open the Hinkley Point/Bridgwater bus connection. The Mayor thanked them for their contribution to the meeting.

**34 Mayor's Announcements**  
The Mayor said he had no announcements to make.

**35 To agree** the Minutes of the Statutory Annual Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2023 – *Minutes to be agreed by Councillors who were in attendance*  
**Proposed:** Cllr B Hodson                      **Seconded:** Cllr A Lawton  
**Agreed** with all in favour

**36 To note** the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 June 2023  
The Mayor said the Minutes were noted.

**37 Finance Matters**

**37.1 To approve** Urgent Payments for June 2023  
Payments 1-8, totalling £140,951.40

**Proposed:** Cllr M Palmer  
**Agreed** with all in favour

**Seconded:** Cllr B Hodson

**37.2 To approve** Payments under £1,500 for June 2023  
Payments 9-41, totalling £11,328.52

**Proposed:** Cllr A Lawton

**Seconded:** Cllr B Hodson

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**Agreed** with all in favour

- 37.3 To approve** Payments over £1,500 for June 2023  
Payments 42-45, totalling £47,483.14

**Proposed:** B Hodson

**Seconded:** Cllr A Lawton

**Agreed** with all in favour

- 37.4 To approve** Payments by Procurement Card for May 2023  
Payments 46-63, totalling £848.40

**Proposed:** Cllr C Palmer

**Seconded** Cllr J Bonar

**Agreed** with all in favour

- 37.5 To approve** Regular Payments for May 2023  
Payments 1-39, totalling 8,172.08

**Proposed:** Cllr B Hodson

**Seconded:** Cllr M Palmer

**Agreed** with all in favour

- 37.6 To note** Income Report for May 2023  
Income totalling £7,434.51 plus interest of £561.25 and £554.42.  
The Mayor said the Income Report was noted

- 38 To consider** applications for Small Grants:  
Minehead & Exmoor Music Festival (£500)

**Proposed:** Cllr A Lawton

**Seconded:** Cllr C Palmer

**Agreed** with all in favour

- 39 To agree** representative of MTC for League of Friends of Minehead Hospital, Minehead & Porlock Bus Group, Minehead Youth Club  
With no volunteers, the Mayor decided to defer until next month

- 40 To consider** request for grant from Twinning association

**Proposed:** Cllr M Kravis

**Seconded:** Cllr B Hodson

**Agreed** with 1 abstention and 6 in favour.

- 41 To consider** the Application for co – option

Mrs Charlotte Beynon made a short speech setting out why she would like to join MTC as Ward Councillor for Minehead Central Ward. Councillors held a vote and, by a unanimous majority, agreed to co-opt Mrs Beynon to Minehead Town Council to represent Minehead Central Ward. The Mayor welcomed Cllr Beynon to the Council.

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**Proposed:** Cllr J Bonar  
**Agreed** all with favour

**Seconded:** Cllr M Kingston James

- 42 Report** regarding occupied Town Council buildings  
The Operations Manager gave a short report on the compliance requirements on all Town Council buildings. This included ensuring all electrical consumer units were deemed safe and certified and asbestos risk assessments are in place. The Mayor said the report was noted.

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

**Proposed:** Cllr C Palmer  
**Agreed** with all in favour

**Seconded:** Cllr B Hodson

The public meeting ended at 20.15 pm

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