



MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM AT
THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, IRNHAM ROAD, MINEHEAD TA24 5DW

The Meeting was digitally recorded

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 C Palmer*

Councillors Present: Cllr M Burke, Cllr A Lawton, Cllr J Malin, Cllr M Palmer, Cllr H Rose, Cllr T Venner*

Councillors in Attendance: Cllr M Chilcott**

Cllr C Lawrence**

Cllr B Allen*

(*denotes Somerset West and Taunton "SWaT" Councillor

**denotes Somerset County Councillor "SCC")

Councillors Absent: Cllr A Berry, Cllr O Harvey, Cllr N Herccock, Cllr R Lillis

Officers in Attendance: Ms S Rawle (Clerk)
Mr B Howe (Deputy Clerk)

Members of the Public: 1

Members of the Press: 0

The Clerk welcomed Councillors and those watching on Facebook. She asked Councillors first to elect a Chair for the Meeting as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had sent in their apologies for being unable to attend.

Cllr Lawton proposed, seconded by Cllr Venner, that Cllr C Palmer should chair the Meeting.
Agreed with all in favour.

1410 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [LGA 1972 s 85 \(1\)](#)

Apologies had been received from Cllr T Bloomfield, Cllr P Bolton, Cllr E Jones, Cllr A Kingston-James, Cllr M Kingston-James.

1411 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF ANY AGENDA ITEMS (Localism Act 2011)

Member	Item	Interest	Time Period	Speak/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-one had requested any dispensations.

1412 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

- **Somerset County Council**

Cllr Mandy Chilcott told the Meeting that draft Orders had been submitted to Parliament for New Somerset, the new single unitary council. She said that Town and Parish Council elections had been brought forward from May 2023 to May 2022. Cllr Chilcott reported that Minehead Library had moved to a new temporary home in Stephenson Road. There would be a fines amnesty for library books for 10 weeks from 21 January to 31 March 2022 and there would be no charge for any children or young people using Library services. Work on the building in Bancks Street was progressing well. Cllr Chilcott wanted to publicise “Kite”, a new organisation based in Minehead born out of Minehead Eye and Homestart which was bringing together all groups working with children and young families. It encompassed all the groups and activities going on in the area and pointed anyone needing extra help in the right direction.

Cllr Christine Lawrence reported that locally Coronavirus numbers were dropping, but only slowly. The COVID helpline - 0300 790 6275 – was still open from 8.00 am – 6.00 pm daily for anyone needing help and vaccination rates were very good. SCC and the NHS had announced a pay boost for domiciliary carers in the County with the minimum wage now £10.50 per hour with a bonus of £250 for those who had been working for 6 months; there was also a £250 payment for new starters. There was a desperate need for more carers. She reminded the Meeting that there was a new, upgraded online system for reporting faults on the highway which could be accessed from smartphones, tablets or PCs. Cllr Lawrence asked anyone who had had healthcare equipment loaned by the NHS which they no longer needed to ring Millbrook Healthcare on 0333 003 2407 who would pick items up directly from users’ homes.

Cllr Chilcott took questions from Cllr Malin about work on the Library building, the Parking Review and SCC borrowing and investments. Cllrs Venner and Lawton complained about lack of responses to reports of streetlight outages and a permanently flashing streetlight.

- **Somerset West and Taunton District Council**

Cllr Benet Allen reminded the Meeting about the relaxation of Covid restrictions on the following Thursday. District Council was hopefully about to pass its budget at a Meeting the following evening. Cllr Allen reported that SWaT had spent £98 million on investments in property. These had generated income from lettings of £10–20 million, substantially more than income from car parking. He reminded Councillors of the election of a District Councillor for Alcombe Ward. Cllr Allen said that Blenheim Gardens had been awarded a green flag and he was pleased that the Gardens had also been granted one of the Netflix CALM benches.

Cllr Allen took questions from Cllrs Lawton, Burke and M Palmer.

- **Police**

Councillors had seen the Police Report for January 2022.

- **Councillors attending Meetings on behalf of Minehead Town Council**

Cllr Lawton had attended a Public Realm BID Meeting. She said there were some exciting events being planned with Gateway Events which would take place in Minehead during the coming year. Many compliments had been received about the Christmas lighting and there had been questions about infrastructure for lighting in the lower part of The Avenue. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that Minehead Town Council and Minehead BID were working together with SCC and would be obtaining tenders for lighting in this area. Cllr Venner had attended a Minehead BID board Meeting and said that unfortunately the Manager would be leaving during the following six weeks. Cllr Venner thought Council should write and thank him for all his support to the town and tireless work for the community that he had done behind the scenes.

1413 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION [Standing Order No 3e](#)

To receive presentation from Julian Luke, Curator of Minehead Museum.

Cllr C Palmer proposed suspending Standing Orders for public inclusion. Cllr Venner suggested this should be for a period of 10 minutes rather than the usual 3 minutes.

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr Burke

Agreed with all in favour to suspend Standing Orders for 10 minutes to allow Mr Luke to make his presentation

Mr Luke gave a presentation to Council, including a Powerpoint presentation which Councillors had been able to view before the Meeting. Minehead Museum had launched its Project 2022 Premises Appeal to hopefully acquire its own premises as it had outgrown its present home. The Museum needed letters of support and both large and small funding contributions.

Mr Luke also took questions from Councillors. He confirmed that the Powerpoint presentation was a public document and could be displayed on MTC's website.

Cllr Malin presented to Mr Luke, on behalf of a resident, a mug commemorating the coronation in 1911 of King George V and Queen Mary and mentioning on the base Henry Wood of Minehead.

Minehead Museum was asking for a letter of support from MTC and also wished to talk to one of the Committees about possible financial support for the Museum project.

Proposed: Cllr C Palmer **Seconded: Cllr Venner**
Agreed the Standing Orders be reinstated, and the Meeting continued.

Proposed: Cllr Venner **Seconded: Cllr C Palmer**
Agreed with all in favour that Council write letter of support for Minehead Museum and invite Mr Luke back at a later date to consider possible financial support for the Museum.

- 1414 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2021 –
MINUTES TO BE AGREED BY COUNCILLORS WHO WERE IN ATTENDANCE

Proposed: Cllr Burke **Seconded: Cllr Lawton**
Agreed with all in favour.

- 1415 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
10 JANUARY 2022

The Chair confirmed that the Minutes had been noted.

- 1416 FINANCE MATTERS

- 1416.1 *To approve Urgent Payments for January 2022*

Payments 1-5, totalling £29,515.88 of which £19,969.10 was for staff salaries.

Proposed: Cllr Lawton **Seconded: Cllr C Palmer**
Agreed with all in favour.

- 1416.2 *To approve Payments under £1,000 for January 2022*

Payments 6-43, totalling £9,480.13

Cllr M Palmer queried whether item 41 for £758.40 was the cost of clearing people's rubbish from Harepark Terrace allotments. The Clerk confirmed this was correct and said the final cost would be higher.

Proposed: Cllr C Palmer **Seconded: Cllr Rose**
Agreed with all in favour.

1416.3 *To approve Payments over £1,000 for January 2022*

Payments 44-50, totalling £32,837.67.

Cllr M Palmer asked about item 48. The Deputy Clerk said this was a payment for new gates at Marshfield Road compound. These were installed in 2019 but no invoice had ever been received.

Proposed: Cllr M Palmer **Seconded: Cllr Burke**
Agreed with all in favour.

1416.4 *To approve Regular Payments for December 2021*

Items 1-29, totalling £8,216.19.

Proposed: Cllr Malin **Seconded: Cllr Venner**
Agreed with all in favour.

1416.5 *To approve Payments by Procurement Card for December 2021*

Items 51-65, totalling £841.45.

Proposed: Cllr C Palmer **Seconded: Cllr Burke**
Agreed with all in favour.

1416.6 *To note Income Report for December 2021*

Payments totalling £20,785.59.

Cllr Venner asked what time period the interest received referred to and the Deputy Clerk confirmed this was monthly. Cllr Venner suggested that perhaps the next Council would want to look into this as it was such a small amount. The Chair said the Income Report was noted.

1417 *TO NOTE AND COMMENT ON MINEHEAD TIDAL CAMERA – TO NOTE AND COMMENT ON THE INSTALLATION OF A TIDAL CAMERA BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY NEAR THE TOWN OUTFALL*

Councillors had seen a detailed written proposal from the Environment Agency for a webcam to remotely monitor the sea defences at the town outfall location and observe any overtopping.

Cllr Venner said he would like to support the application and it was important to protect our coastal areas at all times. The Clerk told Councillors that Option 3 for the siting of the webcam was preferred by the Environment Agency as, for practical reasons, it was an easier installation. Options 1 and 2 would require permissions from SCC which would lead to a lengthier process.

After discussion the Chair said the report was noted.

1418 TO DISCUSS AN EMAIL RECEIVED BY MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL FROM A RESIDENT CONCERNING VANDALISM AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE TOWN

Councillors had seen the email which had also been sent to the West Somerset Free Press. They had also seen an email from the Police about the complaint.

Cllr Venner said he had received a few reports of anti-social behaviour, mainly concerning Zip scooters on the pavements. Cllr Venner wished to invite the Police to the next Full

Council Meeting and also ask the email correspondent to that Meeting. He found that since lockdown Minehead had been quieter. Cllr Lawton suggested that residents having problems with anti-social behaviour should attend the Police surgeries held regularly at the Library if they were unable to report this by telephone. Cllr C Palmer said the next surgery would be on 8 February and Police had asked residents to use the 101 telephone number or their website to report such incidents: static noise nuisance should be reported to SWaT.

Cllr Burke pointed out that people could not be arrested for singing and being noisy after a night out as this was not a crime. He said the night referred to was quiet in town.

1419 TO AGREE THE GRANTING OF DELEGATED POWERS TO THE CLERK UNTIL MAY 2022 IN THE EVENT THAT THE COUNCIL IS UNABLE TO MEET, FOR WHATEVER REASON

Cllr Venner was not in favour of delegating powers to any one person. He said powers should be delegated to the Clerk and the 3 Chairs of the Committees to take responsibility on behalf of the Council. He said he would propose this as an amendment.

Proposed: Cllr Venner

Seconded: Cllr C Palmer

Agreed with 1 abstention and 6 in favour that, until May 2022, if Council was unable to meet for any reason, powers were delegated to the Clerk and the Chairs of Finance & Staffing, Amenities & Environment and Planning Committees.

Proposed: Cllr C Palmer

Seconded: Cllr Venner

Agreed with all in favour to close the Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.54 pm.