

Teignmouth Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of
Teignmouth Town Council
Held at Bitton House, Teignmouth on
Tuesday, 12th March, 2024 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillors J Atkins (Chair), L Chasteau, D Cox, M Jackman, J Jackson, C Myers, R Phipps, V Rudge and S Walsh

Absent:

Councillors C Williams and P Lloyd

In attendance: Iain Wedlake and Francasca Womack

Public Participation:

There was no public participation

The following minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Town Council and may be subject to change until that time.

Part I

31 USE OF MOBILE PHONES

Taken as read.

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Lloyd and Cllr Williams.

Resolved that the apology be noted.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

34 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

35 CLERKS REPORT (IF ANY)

The Clerk gave a verbal update regarding the report.

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-We have limited planning permission for the temporary storage containers. Teignbridge Planning wanted to change from a pitch roof to a flat roof. We should have approval by tomorrow.

-The Traffic Order update will come into effect on the 2nd April, 2024. People who have a current update will be given first choice, then it will be open to the public.

-The Clerk made all the Councillors aware that we are now in a state of Purda, which is also known as a period of heightened sensitivity.

-We have a new member of staff starting on the 2nd April, 2024.

Cllr Jackson asked what they will be doing and the Clerk explained that it will be over-lapping with the work that is currently done within the administration office.

-The Finance systems are down this week, which was done on purpose, so we can update them to the cloud Server.

-Cllr Rudge asked what is going on with the Toilet Blocks/ Aquarium.

The Clerk explained that some works needed to be done to a supporting wall which Teignbridge are no longer paying for. Teignmouth Town Council will now be paying for this work to be done. We will be waiting until the Upper Den Carriage Way is closed before these works are completed due to the equipment that is needed and the current price that has been quoted for these works is £75K.

-The Clerk is hoping for all the cameras to be working at full capacity by the end of the financial year.

36 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th February, 2024.

Resolved that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 13th February, 2024 be approved and signed as a correct and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr Atkins

Seconded by: Cllr Jackman

Carried unanimously

Cllr Cox was not present at the vote.

37 LIST OF PAYMENTS

The Councillors were asked to look at the list of payments which were provided with the agenda. The Clerk opened the floor to see if any councillors had any questions regarding the payments list.

Cllr Atkins asked what 'Add Blue' is. The Clerk explained that we buy this as something to add to the van, due to it being Diesel, which helps it run more effectively.

Cllr Atkins also questioned why we are buying circuit breakers. The Clerk explained that when it comes to circuits, you need to buy the same brand to replace the parts

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you need rather than buying a whole new breaker.

Cllr Phipps questioned the £5k on drains. This was part of the planning permission for the drains to be surveyed for the land at the bottom.

Cllr Phipps wanted to know the running cost to heat the Orangery. The Clerk explained there is a sub-meter for the gas usage of the Orangery.

Cllr Phipps then wanted to know if there is a grant to help towards this. The Clerk said unfortunately not. There is an agreement between Teignmouth Town Council and the Orangery, where they carry out the main gardening inside the Orangery, and Teignmouth Town Council do all the maintenance work for the building. The Orangery have no means to pay for the building or the maintenance of the building. Although, the current agreement does need updating.

Cllr Phipps also enquired about the insurance. The Clerk explained that the Town Council paid for the works from the vandalism straight out as it was more cost effective this way.

Cllr Chasteau asked why so much heat is needed for the Orangery. The Clerk explained this is due to the types of exotic plants that are kept within certain temperatures to maintain the plants.

Cllr Jackman had a few queries regarding the payments list. The first being the £55.53 that was spent on British Gas. The Clerk explained this is for the dehumidifier that is used in the workshop behind the Orangery.

Cllr Jackman questioned the payment for the smoke detector and why it was so much. The Clerk explained the council decided to have wireless detectors around the building that all work together. The price includes the smoke detector, the programming and the labour.

Cllr Jackman then asked what the Travis Perkins payment was for. It was explained that, when the risk assessment was done for the building, one of the risks that was highlighted was someone falling into the moat that surrounds most of the building. The fence from Travis Perkins is to help reduce this risk.

Cllr Jackman asked why 3,732.59 was spent on memorial benches and if this was just for one bench. The Clerk explained this was for the replacement of up to ten benches. They are made from a type of wood that does not need any treatment, therefore saving the council more money in the long run.

Cllr Jackman queried why there are so many Amazon payments, and why items have not been sourced from the local town. The Clerk explained we try and use local where we can for certain things but the process when buying something locally requires having to get a quote from three different places. If we were to do this in town, it would cost the council more money once you take into consideration sending someone into town, going to the three different shops, getting a price and making sure they have the correct item in stock. Whereas if this is done online, it is more efficient and saves the council more money.

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Cllr Jackman wanted to know about the cost of the trees (check to see which company it was). The Clerk explained that is the price for five trees. Two at Bitton House, one at the Methodist Church, one at St James' Church and another one at St Michael's Church.

38 **DEVON AND TORBAY DEVOLUTION DEAL**

The Clerk gave an explanation about the Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal and if there will be much of an affect with Teignmouth Town Council.

The Clerk gave the option that the councillors can give their letters in response either as a collective or individually but feels there would be more of an impact if it was done individually. If it was something that was done as a collective, a few councillors would need to be nominated and form the response together.

It is to be noted that all the councillors have taken everything into consideration and can do an individual recommendation if they choose.

Proposed by Cllr Phipps
Seconded by Cllr Jackson
Carried unanimously.

39 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE RISK REGISTER**

The Council was given the risk register with the agenda. The risk register takes into consideration the way we manage Finance and Administration as well as Health and Safety.

It was pointed out to the council that a lot of the actions have been cleared but there are still a few things that need to be done, especially surrounding the Finance side of things.

Cllr Jackson asked about the term investment that was being used in 1.14 and 8. The Clerk explained we use CCLA Churches, Charities & Local authorities. Cllr Jackson then asked where we are getting our financial advice, and the Clerk responded that we have an RFO Locum who has been helping and guiding us.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.15 pm

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Cllr J Atkins (Chair)

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