

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 7
DECEMBER 2021 AT 6.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BITTON HOUSE**

Present: Cllr. P. Williams - Town Mayor
Cllr. R. Ash - Deputy Town Mayor
Cllr. J. Atkins
Cllr. J. Orme (*left 7.30pm, during minute number 149*)
Cllr. D. Cox
Cllr. B. Cox
Cllr. I. Palmer
Cllr. E.S. Russell
Cllr. C. Williams

In attendance: Mrs. T.J.T. Rowe - Town Clerk
Mr. I. Wedlake – Project and Facilities Manager
Miss. A. Winston – PA to the Mayor
Members of the Public

Council not in formal session

For Councillors and Members of the Public

The Mayor conveyed glad tidings and good will to all and asked Councillors to look after people in our town.

Questions and Statements Public Time

The Mayor invited three members of the public to speak:

- a) Resident of Alexandra Terrace - suggested having a collaboration group to resolve the parking issue around Bitton House and said the council and residents should work together.
- b) Resident of Bitton Avenue – suggested the working group discuss parking matters as residents are keen to work with the council.
- c) Trustee and Vice-Chairman of Shop Mobility – the charity is struggling to find appropriate volunteers and if they do not resolve this matter by 31 January 2022, a decision will be made to close the charity.

Police Report

The Mayor said a meeting had taken place a couple of weeks ago which was positive.

County Councillor Reports

Cllr David Cox:

- a. Teign Estuary Cycle Trail - it was great news on the 1st of December when the Development Control Committee at County Hall passed the planning permission for the Teign Estuary Trail. It's not the end of the journey. We still need to get the funding for the project; it is however a major step forward. Having a shovel ready project makes government funding more likely. The current trail plan requires cyclists wishing to visit the town centre to use the polluted and congested Bitton Park Road. I hope Devon County Council and other councils will work with TMS, who are regenerating Riverside, to use CIL money to provide a boardwalk between Riverside and Polly steps.
- b. Electric Car Charging Points - the electric car charging points and the Co-Car spaces have been agreed and will be installed in the car park opposite the station. I am very encouraged by this installation which will enable people shopping in the town to charge their car while doing their weekly shop.
- c. Community Service - have been cleaning and tidying Teignmouth. A very big thank you to Melissa Middleton BEM at the Whistle-stop Café and Julia Street at the Alice Cross Centre, who provided tea and facilities for the Community Service team. Four people, convicted of various crimes, were cutting back weeds on pavements and verges in Teignmouth as part of unpaid community work. Controversially each of them was required to wear a reflective jacket with 'Community Payback' emblazoned on the back as part of the scheme to make people sentenced to Community Service, more visible to the public. I think the reflective jackets were a bit over the top, but they are now part of the rules, I've had nothing but positive comments from Teignmouth people, who were happy to see the Community Service team at work in the town.
- d. Ambulance Crisis - the fate of Teignmouth Hospital and the crisis now engulfing the ambulance service are not unconnected. Ambulance crews are having to wait for hours to admit people to Torbay hospital. The main reason they are unable to admit to the hospital is there is no intermediate care for those ready to be discharged. It is clear that taking people back to their homes to recover is the best option, indeed 73% take that route; however, one size does not fit all and there is a need for some form of care that could easily be provided by community hospitals such as Teignmouth. The entire first floor of Teignmouth Hospital is empty. Beds (paid for by the League of Friends) sold off. Where it once helped people to recover and go home when well enough, it is now unused. Voluntary sector organisations like Volunteering in Health are based at Teignmouth Hospital and could help people make that transition from hospital to their home and provide support once there. Devon County Council heard from the Ambulance Trust about the dire situation.
- e. French Street - not really a Devon County Council matter, but getting the television cameras to cover the issues, did get things moving; unfortunately, South West Water seemed to have made matters worse. I will be having words. I believe it is the moral, even if it is not the statutory duty of councillors to stand up for residents when they are wronged by big corporations.

District Councillor Reports

Cllr David Cox:

- a) Teignbridge District Council has introduced a Household Welfare Fund to help people most in need

- b) Works on the Lido swimming pool is on schedule
- c) The decision for the reserved matters planning application for the site 'TE3' for a housing development was deferred to January 2022.

Town Councillor Reports

Cllr Atkins:

Councillor Atkins was pleased to report that the Steering Group Responses to the comments made by the people of Teignmouth, at consultation, on the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan had been signed off by the Steering Group and once any last amendments are made (in the near future) will be loaded onto the Council Website's Neighbourhood Plan pages for people to see (responders names are anonymised). Teignbridge are currently running 2 consultations, the first on Renewable Energy, Gypsy and Traveller and Small Residential Sites runs until 24 January in the new year – which is the one that has derailed ours, meanwhile Teignbridge are doing the screening on the Habitats and Environmental contents of our plan. We are awaiting the Teignbridge comments on the screening in order to make final amendments and go out with the official consultation on our Plan, at the earliest, likely to be in February now.

Yet another consultation has been put in place by Teignbridge for 4 weeks on their strategy to deal with homelessness and rough sleeping. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a closing date published anywhere for this but it would be wise to look and complete comments before Christmas if you can. Cllr Atkins encouraged people to read the Review and Strategy documents to see the extent of the support and development work that actually takes place to help people who find themselves homeless and sleeping rough.

Rats are still being found in the St James area and have been reported, again, to Teignbridge because it is some time since the last baiting and reports are being made from other areas in Central Ward too – initial conversations with Teignbridge indicate that there is a lot of rat activity being reported in the Teignmouth area which is not good. The advice on how best to try to avoid/encourage rats in your local area will be repeated in Wavelength, the Town Council's newsletter which should be out w/b 13 December 2021.

Cllr Ash: had attended the site meeting regarding the proposed development on site 'TE3' and said the reserved matters do not comply with the planning application which was approved in 2014. He said there are still issues including highways, infrastructure and environmental matters.

Reports from Outside Bodies

There were none.

Presentations from Outside Bodies

a. Promenade Promotions – summer entertainment in 2022

The provider of this summer's entertainment on the seafront gave an account of what had taken place and the advertising generated, he reminded members that a report to show the return on the investment had previously been circulated.

Council in formal session – Part 1 (6.48pm)

135 Use of Mobile Phones

In accordance with Minute 30, mobile phones be limited to personal use only (in case of emergencies) and in which case the Councillor is to leave the room to respond. Councillors must switch their mobile phones to silent during the meeting to avoid disruption.

136 The Freedom of Information Act 2000

Deems that all information held by this Council should be freely available to the public unless it falls under one of 23 exemptions.

137 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. A. Henderson
Cllr. D. Matthews
Cllr. R. Phipps
Cllr. M. Wrigley, Devon County Councillor

138 Declarations of Interest and Consider Requests for Dispensation(s)

There were none.

139 Clerk's report

The following items were received/took place in November 2021: -

4th – Public Announcement from Heart of the South West Trading Standards on Avian Influenza.

15th – Details of the Teignbridge Local Plan Review (Part 3) 2020-2040: Renewable Energy, Gypsy and Traveller and Small Residential Site Options for which the consultation is now open. A paper copy of the Part 3 Plan is available to view at the Town Council offices.

16th - Notification from Teignbridge of the following planning application:-
21/02428/FUL - Teignmouth Lido Eastcliff Walk Teignmouth Devon TQ14 8TA
Installation of a steel pergola beside the existing outdoor pool, to provide a mounting system for solar panels

16th – Notification from Devon County Council that the planning application for the Teign Estuary Trail will be considered on 1st December.

22nd – Reminder of the 3rd Local Councillor Climate Emergency Support Network event on November 30th 2021.

23rd - Details of Teignbridge District Council Tidy Teignbridge Fund.

25th – Details of Teignbridge District Council’s Christmas Waste Collections

24th & 25th – Devon County Council Parish & Town Councils Highways online Conference including:-

- a) Traffic Calming and other restrictions
- b) Carbon Neutral Programme
- c) Policies and decision making
- d) Civil parking enforcement
- e) Managing road verges for the benefit of wildlife
- f) Meet the team – Highways Officers

25th – Report from DCC Highways officer Sam Williams on French Street - the process of solving the source of the problem is one that is ongoing with works down on Den Promenade and the surrounding area. With it being a rather large amount of works involving removal of over 100 tonnes of sediment from the system. I believe the next round of works will be early in December.

Regarding French Street, which is the most visible location of the problem, they have committed to repairing the area which is a positive step.

They have, however, proposed keeping the area fenced off until the works to solve the underlying issue are complete. The thinking behind this is until the problem of the water leak is fixed there is still potential for further flooding and consequently the cobbles becoming unlevel again. As such it is safer if the area is cornered off so that no MOP trips should the cobbles become unlevel unexpectedly. There is an alternative route for pedestrians, and they have said they are liaising with the Museum regarding access to the door they have in the area.

As part of this they have committed to attending site to remove the vegetation, place suitable fencing with information boards regarding the works and for weekly visits to clear the area and ensure all fencing and signage is safe.

29th - Details of recruitment to the Devon Countryside Access Forum – closing date 18th February 2022.

1st Dec - Devon County Council Autumn Budget Briefing event – Cllr John Hart on DCC’s priorities for the next 4 years:-

- i) Respond to the Climate Emergency
- ii) Tackle poverty and inequality
- iii) Support sustainable economic recovery
- iv) Improve health and well-being
- v) Help Communities be safe, connected and resilient
- vi) Be ambitious for children and young people

DCC have received £5m from Central Government which has been passed to District Councils to help those in need over this winter with items which could include housing, food, and boiler repairs.

140 Business (if any) especially brought forward by the Mayor

The Mayor said it had been a great privilege to attend the official presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Volunteering in Health last week.

The Mayor conveyed the Civic and Carol Service on Sunday went really well and leftover food was donated to Rowcroft Hospice. He reminded members of the thank you evening taking place on 16 December 2021 and asked members to confirm their attendance to the Clerk's office.

141 Mayor's Announcements

There were none.

Items requiring Approval

142 To receive, approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 2 November 2021

Cllr Russell proposed to approve the Minutes as presented, seconded by Cllr Cate Williams and agreed. Cllr Palmer abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

143 Assets and Facilities Sub-Committee

Cllr Palmer presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2021 which included a Bitton House car parking resolution.

Cllr Russell proposed to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Cllr Palmer and agreed by the majority.

Separately and in addition to this, Cllr David Cox proposed the Chairman of the Car Parking working group is asked to convene a meeting, with a view to working with residents, to consider their suggestions regarding parking in the roads around Bitton House. Seconded by Cllr Ash and agreed by the majority.

144 To approve and adopt the Financial Regulations and Finance Committee Terms of Reference following a report from the Internal Auditor

Cllr Atkins presented the item which was noted.

145 Promenade Promotions

The Clerk presented a report which included alternative quotes for summer entertainment in 2022.

Cllr Palmer proposed to approve option a – to engage Prom-Prom Entertainment for 3 days a week, subject to the approval of funds through the Town Council’s Finance Committee. Seconded by Cllr Russell and unanimously agreed.

146 Opening of the Upper Den Carriageway

The item was withdrawn and will be on the agenda on 11 January 2022.

147 Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Cate Williams presented the report which included an entertainment timetable and costs. Cllr Orme thanked staff for their hard work so far on the event.

Cllr Atkins proposed to approve the report and recommendations, seconded by Cllr Palmer and unanimously agreed.

148 Devon County Council Snow and Highway Warden Schemes

Cllr David Cox presented the item which was noted.

149 Priorities and Objectives - to receive a report from the working group meeting of 30th November 2021

The Mayor presented the draft priorities and objectives for the period 2022-2025 and asked Councillors to read through the report and feedback comments by the end of the week.

150 Teignmouth Air Show

The item was withdrawn and will be on the agenda on 11 January 2022.

151 Review of Town Council Policies

The Clerk presented the policies below for approval:

- a) Document Retention and Disposal Policy
- b) Information and Data Protection Policy
- c) Petitions Policy

Cllr Atkins proposed to approve all policies as presented, seconded by Cllr Ash and unanimously agreed.

152 Grants Committee

The Mayor presented the grant decisions made at the meeting held prior to the Full Council meeting as below.

Alice Cross Community Centre - £250 for Christmas bags of joy.

The Friends of Eastcliff Park Society - £160 for promotional materials.

Teign Heritage Centre - £50 for a Union flag purchase (from Cllr Peter Williams' ward grant fund).

Teign Heritage Centre - £50 for a Union flag purchase (from Cllr Richard Ash's ward grant fund).

Teign Heritage Centre - £100 of the purchase and installation of a flood board (from Cllr Phipps' ward grant fund).

Pavilions Teignmouth - £200 for launch of a youth project (from Cllr Atkins' ward grant fund).

Cllr Palmer proposed to approve the grant decisions, seconded by Cllr David Cox and unanimously agreed.

153 Schedule of Payments

The schedule of payments for November 2021 had been circulated.

Cllr Palmer proposed to approve payments totalling £45,049.32, seconded by Cllr Russell and unanimously agreed.

154 Data Protection Act 2018

Precludes this authority from publishing the names, addresses or other private information of individuals unless written permission is given by the individual for such details to be made public.

Therefore, where necessary, personal details have been removed from the papers attached to ensure that information held is available, but individuals are protected.

Date of next meeting: 11 January 2022

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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COUNCILLOR PETER WILLIAMS
TOWN MAYOR

Bitton House, Teignmouth
8 December 2021 2021