

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**Minutes of the 425th meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th January 2012**

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr C Blades
 Councillors, C. Arnold, C. Bussey, C. Francis-Pester, B. Garner, J. Geldart, C. Hall, G. Hill, L. Knott, L. Little, P. McNeill, T. Morgan, J. Middleton, N. Pennycott, A. Shopland, D. Shopland, A. Walker, A. Withers, C Wring
 Town Clerk - Ms P Heath; Deputy Town Clerk – Mrs Johnson

7.30pm INFORMAL BUSINESS

PRAYERS: Prayers were said by Major Slade

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Morgan as a member of the public raised the issue of the street lights switch off following an incident involving vandalism to his daughter's car requesting that the Town Council writes to North Somerset Council seeking a review of the policy. Concern was also raised as to whether the lack of street lights could have been a contributing factor in the accident on Kenn Road at Christmas; this is currently under investigation by the Police. Members noted, the motion under minute no 11/127 which had been defeated and also minute no 11/162.

The Transport & Highways Committee, whose Chairman is Cllr Morgan, were requested to place this on a future agenda.

FORMAL BUSINESS**12/164 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor J. Norton-Sealey (family commitments),

RESOLVED: That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

12/165 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda except for Cllr Hill who declared a personal interest in the co-option agenda item no 10.

12/166 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

12/167 THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**167.1 Community Covenant**

The Chairman highlighted to Members a letter circulated at the meeting inviting the Town council to have a representative on a steering group to agree and support a

community covenant with the Armed Forces. This would be placed on F & G P Committee Agenda for consideration

12/168 THE TOWN CLERKS REPORT AS PER THE ATTACHED LIST

Newsletter and reports –

The following newsletters and reports have been received and are available from the office.

NALC – LCR Winter 2011

DIS – copies of which were emailed to Councillors – hard copy attached for those Councillors without email addresses. 770,771,772, 773

Diary Dates

7th February Action for Market Towns – Workshop

12/169 TO RECEIVE AND RATIFY MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12/169.1 PLANNING 26TH OCTOBER 2011

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting were presented by Cllr Garner as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and **AGREED**.

There were no Part 1 items. The Committee Vice-Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items there were none

12/169.2 PLANNING 9TH NOVEMBER 2011

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting were presented by Cllr Garner as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and **AGREED**.

There were no Part 1 items. The Committee Vice-Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items, there were none

12/169.3 TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE – 16TH NOVEMBER 2011

Minutes of the Transport & Highways Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, and **AGREED**.

There were no Part 1 items. The Committee Vice-Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items

11/111 Rippleside Gate – Members were informed that this had already been damaged and the area cut up by hoof prints.

12/169.4 FINANCE AND GENERAL POLICY – 23^{ER} NOVEMBER 2011

Minutes of the Finance & General Policy Committee meeting were presented to the meeting and **AGREED**.

There were no Part 1 items. The Committee Vice-Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items

11/192 Christmas Closing – it was noted that this should read 3rd January

11/185 Flower Bed Contract - It was noted that Cllr Knott had been unable to attend the meeting.

Part 1 v Part 2 – Following a query the Chairman of the Committee explained that the budget request items are part 2, as per Terms of Reference of the Committee, as they would be discussed and ratified at the Precept meeting.

11/188 CCTV – The Chairman of the Committee explained that a meeting had been held with the Police concerning the use of the CCTV and they will be attending the Traders Meeting on 26th January. In response to a question the Chairman explained that the Police had ceased to attend every meeting with agreement of the Council and that the liaison is via the PACT meeting. In response to a further comment the Committee Chairman stated that the Council Representative for the PACT reported regularly to the TEA Committee Meeting and that the minutes of the PACT meeting were circulated. All Members are able to attend the PACT meeting.

12/169.6 PLANNING – 30TH NOVEMBER 2011

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting were presented by Cllr Garner as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and **AGREED**.

Part 1 –

P/11/205 COMMUNITY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

RESOLVED: TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL the following response to this consultation;
CHAPTER 1: NEIGHBOURHOOD FUNDS

Question 1: Should the duty to pass on a meaningful proportion of levy receipts only apply where there is a parish or community council for the area where those receipts were raised? YES

Comments: Pass to parish and community councils as accountable elected bodies.

Question 2: Do you agree that, for areas not covered by a parish or community council, statutory guidance should set out that charging authorities should engage with their residents and businesses in determining how to spend a meaningful proportion of the funds? YES

Comments: Communities should be meaningfully consulted.

Question 3: What proportion of receipts should be passed to parish or community councils?

Comments: 70% Parish/Town/Community Council; 30% Principal/charging authority on the assumption that the Community Infrastructure Levy will replace section 106 funding. This would enable elected members to make decisions not officers in district/principal authorities at a distance from the area affected.

Question 4: At what level should the cap be set, per council tax dwelling?

Comments: No less than Section 137 of the Local Authority Act 1972.

Question 5: Do you agree that the proposed reporting requirements on parish or community councils strike the right balance between transparency and administrative burden? YES

Comments: Much of this work is already done to comply with accounting, audit regulations and data transparency requirements.

Question 6: Draft regulation 19 (new regulation 62A(3)(a)) requires that the report is to be published on the council's website, however we recognise that not all parish or community councils will have a website and we would welcome views on appropriate alternatives. Comments: Clevedon Town Council is fortunate to have a website however those parish or community councils without this facility could perhaps make use of parish newsletters and noticeboards.

Question 7: Do you agree with our proposals to exclude parish or community councils' expenditure from limiting the matters that may be funded through planning obligations? YES

Comments: Town and Parish Councils should not be bound to the infrastructure list of the charging authority as they have a greater local knowledge and accountability,

Question 8: Do you agree with our proposals to remove the cap on the amount of levy funding that charging authorities may apply to administrative expenses? YES

Comments: Cap should remain to ensure principal authorities do not use levy to underwrite internal budget cuts.

CHAPTER 2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

RESOLVED: Not to complete this section of the consultation as this is a principal authority matter.

AGREED with amendment to Question 3 "This would enable elected members to make decisions and not officers in district/principal authorities who are at a distance from the area affected"

The Committee Vice-Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items; there were none

12/169.7 TOWN EVENTS & AMENITIES – 7TH DECEMBER 2011

Minutes of the Town Events & Amenities Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, and **AGREED**.

Part 1 items,

TEA/11/97 2012 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE TEA/11/89

RESOLVED: 1) TO ADVISE COUNCIL that the Town Events & Amenities Committee has agreed to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Clevedon however the Committee has not allocated a sum in the Committee budget for 2012/13 for this purpose as it does not fall within the Committee's remit.

AGREED by 15 votes to 4 (Cllr Withers and Cllr Geldart requested their objection to be recorded)

2) TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL allocate the sum of up to £2,000 in the 2012/13 budget towards the 2012 commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It was noted that this would be the Town Councils allocated budget towards any project agreed, with discussions to be held with other groups in the town and seek public subscription to the project.

AGREED vote 11 to 4

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Shopland, seconded by Cllr Morgan that this Council put an allocation of £10,000 to fully fund a project; defeated by 13 votes to 4

3) Subject to 2) above a Sub-Committee of the Town Events & Amenities Committee be formed to consider and cost the suggestions above (listed in minutes).

AGREED by 11 votes to 3

Members discussed at great length the recommendation made by the TEA Committee. A request to add an item to the list for consideration, a clock at six ways roundabout, was discussed.

The Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items;

11/111 Budget – A query was raised re the budget allocated by the Committee in respect of Dog Bins and Children group event. It was noted that the Town Council funds several children based service over all the Committees. In response to a comment it was noted that the Dog Bins had been the only item requested by the residents as part of the Community Plan.

12/169.8 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY – 14TH DECEMBER 2011

Minutes of the Environment & Property Committee meeting were presented to the meeting and **AGREED**

There were no Part 1 items. The Committee Vice-Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items there were none.

12/169.9 ALLOTMENTS – 28th November 2011

Minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting were presented, by the Chairman to the meeting and **AGREED**. There being no part 1 items, the Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items;

Members discussed the use of imperial or metric measurements in the minutes, the Committee Chairman agreed to note the differing opinions; no decision was made.

Cllr Shopland registered an intention to comment on AL11/55 during the closed session

12/170 TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PER THE ATTACHED LIST

RESOLVED: that the Council approves the accounts for payment, as per the attached lists

12/171 APPROVE RETROSPECTIVE ACCOUNTS PAID PER THE ATTACHED LIST

RESOLVED: that the Council approves the retrospective accounts for payment, as per the attached list

12/172 TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATION FROM WORKING GROUP AS TO THE PREFERRED CONTRACTOR FOR THE FLOWERBEDS

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report of the meeting of the working group held on the previous day. In response to a comment the Town Clerk confirmed that the specification had been circulated to F&GP and TEA committee members prior to it being sent; in line with agreement under FGP 11/169. An allocation for the budget had been agreed by the TEA committee as per TEA 11/101. The Working Group had been given the authority to evaluate the quotations and recommend a preferred contractor under FGP 11/185. The working group would then discuss the details with the contractor, reporting back to FGP before a contract could be issued once the budget allocation had been agreed at the Precept meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Shopland, seconded by Cllr Morgan that the confirmation of the preferred contractor be delayed until the next Council meeting **AGREED** by 10 votes to 9.

The Town Clerk informed members that should the decision be delayed there would be a serious chance that beds in Clevedon would be bare this summer.

12/173 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE PROCEDURE FOR CO OPTION TO FILL THE VACANT SOUTH WARD POSITION

Members **AGREED** that the procedure should be 1) an advert requesting interested parties to write in by 22nd February and 2) invited to make a presentation at the Council meeting on 18th April; councillor's vote will be by closed ballot. The advert will be placed on the noticeboards, in the Council's newsletter and one week in the mercury.

12/174 TO AGREE ATTENDANCE AT AMT SEMINAR AND AGREE PAYMENT OF FEES

Details of the AMT seminar had been circulated to all members prior to the Christmas break. Cllr Wring requested to attend; **AGREED** to fund Cllr Wring's attendance. The Town Clerk would also be attending the seminar.

The following item was heard under s 2 (1) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential financial nature of the business discussed. Members of the Public and Press were requested to leave the meeting.

12/175 RECEIVE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE 14TH DECEMBER 2011; AND AGREE MEETING DATE FOR COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment & Property Committee meeting were presented to the meeting and **AGREED**

Members reconfirmed minute no 11/136.4 - recommendation from FGP 11/130

(FGP 11/130 EARMARKED SUM.

*Proposed by Cllr Shopland, seconded and **RECOMMENDED** that the Environment & Property Committee should identify any suitable land and that the decision to purchase be ratified by Council in a special meeting held under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) act 1960 s1 (2))*

AGREED

It was agreed that all communications should be through the Town Clerk

Meeting closed at 10.25pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....