

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**Minutes of the 426th meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd February 2012**

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr C Blades
 Councillors, C. Arnold, C. Bussey, C. Francis-Pester, B. Garner, J. Geldart, C. Hall, G. Hill, L. Little, P. McNeill, T. Morgan, J. Middleton, J. Norton-Sealey, 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 before the start of the meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms Lawes addressed the council in respect of the current environment and economic issues of the world and the need for people to change. By starting local it is hoped the larger picture could be altered. Suggestions as to local programmes were made. It was **AGREED** to hold a special meeting of the Council to discuss the issues in detail.

FORMAL BUSINESS

A minutes silence was held for Peter Gannicliff and George Morris former Councillors.

12/176 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor L Knott (illness)

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

12/177 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda

12/178 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

12/179 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Precept meeting held on 25th January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Cllr Pennycott and Cllr Walker arrived during the following item.

12/180 THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Chairman read a brief statement about the 800 bus service explaining that North Somerset Council were exploring a private fee paying bus service to replace this after 1st April 2012.

12/181 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.

Clerk & Council direct – January 2012

The Clerk – January 2012

ILCM – The Journal January 2012

DIS – copies of which were emailed to Councillors – hard copy attached for those Councillors without email addresses. 775,776, 777

12/182 MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**12/182.1 PLANNING 21ST DECEMBER 2012**

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting were presented and **AGREED**.

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

12/182.2 TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE – 11TH JANUARY 2012

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

Part 1 items.

RESOLVED:1. TO RECOMMEND COUNCIL ask NSC to investigate improved street lighting late at night by lighting alternate street lights or lower energy/ dimmed lights to provide lighting to all the streets in Clevedon.

2. In twelve months' time to clarify with NSC what the actual savings were made as a result of the reduction in street lighting in Clevedon.

AGREED by 16 votes to 0

It was noted that action on part 1 items are not undertaken until ratified by Council

The Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items

12/127 Holly Lane – it was noted that the school had become an academy and it was unclear who owns the playing fields – This would be discussed by the Committee.

12/128 Bollard Station Road – in response to a question it was explained that no demonstration of the bollard was possible and that agreement of the bollard had been reached with NSC. Authorisation of the order would be agreed at the next Committee meeting.

The Regent – Cllr Withers presented to the Council a piece of the Regent, Hill Road, which had fallen into the road. The dangerous condition of the building and the lack of action by NSC was discussed. It was **AGREED** to write to NSC and demand that action be taken to make safe the building.

12/182.3 FINANCE AND GENERAL POLICY – 12TH JANUARY 2012

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

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

The Committee Chairman made a statement concerning the informal business of the meeting explaining that the issues had been discussed in a meeting with Cllr Hall and the Town Clerk and all issues and misunderstandings resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

12/182.4 FINANCE AND GENERAL POLICY – 18TH JANUARY 2012

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

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

12/182.5 PLANNING – 25TH JANUARY 2012

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

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

It was explained that a Committee Chairman must present the minutes even if they had not been present at the meeting.

Cllr Geldart would be added to the list of attendees.

12/182.6 TOWN EVENTS & AMENITIES – 1ST FEBRUARY 2012

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

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

12/183 TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PER THE ATTACHED LIST

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

12/184 APPROVE RETROSPECTIVE ACCOUNTS PAID PER THE ATTACHED LIST

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

12/185 THE RULING AGAINST BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF PRAYERS AT COUNCIL MEETING AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

Members discussed at great length the legal decision taken to not allow Council's to say prayers at the start of meetings. Concern was expressed that this was taking away the democratic right of a Council to decide its own rules for meeting. The Town Clerk explained the ruling, the latest information on the legal aspects, and the

advice being given by the Department of Community and Local Government, It was also explained that under the Localism bill 2011 the right for Town and Parish Council's to hold prayers would not be available until 1st April and according to DCLG only with the Power of General Competence.

The Town Clerk advised that under the ruling Prayers should not be shown on the agenda, nor form part of the official meeting summons; this was noted.

Proposed by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr Wring that Clevedon Town Council reaffirms its commitment to tradition and shows on the agenda that Voluntary Prayers will be said at 7.30pm prior to the public session and the formal meeting which will follow thereafter.

AGREED by 14 votes to 3

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.

12/186 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Precept meeting held on 25th January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

12/187 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12/187.1 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE - 18TH JANUARY 2012

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

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

12/187.2 ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE - 27TH JANUARY 2012

Minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting were presented and **AGREED.**

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

The Chairman read the letter of resignation from Cllr Arnold, Yeo Ward, who would be leaving Clevedon

Meeting closed at 9.05

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....