

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 452nd meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th April 2016

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr G. Watkins
Councillors N. Barton, C. Blades, J. Cook, C. Francis-Pester, J. Geldart, A. Giles-Townsend, S. Hale, C. Hall, B. Hatch, G. Hill, L. Little, J. Middleton, T. Morgan, A. Shopland, D. Shopland, , J. West.
Town Clerk - Ms P Heath; Deputy Town Clerk – Mrs I Johnson, Deputy Town Clerk

Members of the Public 2; Press 1, District Councillor 0

7.30pm INFORMAL BUSINESS

Prayers: Voluntary Prayers were said by Rev Noel Hector.

FORMAL BUSINESS

16/628 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D. Flint (family), J. Geldart (family), J. Norton-Sealey (illness), K. O'Brien (illness) **RESOLVED:** That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

16/629 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Watkins declared a personal interest as chairman of the Clevedon Hospital Action Team – Planning 17.02.16 min P/16/1153 and Planning 23.03.16 min P/16/1175.2
Councillors Hill, Morgan, West, Francis-Pester & Watkins declared an interest in agenda item 16- confidential item.
Cllr Cook under 16/635.6 declared a personal interest as a member of Clevedon Lions Club.

16/630 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th February 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16/631 THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 7th March 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16/632 THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Chairman invited members to join him for refreshments after the meeting

16/633 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.
Clerks & Councils direct March 2016 issue
NALC – LCR Spring 2016 issue

DIS – copies of which were emailed to Councillors – hard copy attached for those Councillors without email addresses,. 879, 880

DIARY DATES

Advance Notice

April 24th 2016 Civic Service at St Mary's Church Walton St. Mary @2.45pm

The Town Clerk informed members that she had been elected as Vice Chairman of the new Association of Local Councils shadow board.

16/634 REPORTS AND INFORMATION FROM CLEVEDON NORTH SOMERSET COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS OF URGENCY ONLY

There were no reports or information of an urgent nature raised by Clevedon North Somerset Councillors

16/635 MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

16/635.1 PLANNING 17TH FEBRUARY 2016

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

Part 1

P/16/1153 N SOMERSET SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN (CONSULTATION DRAFT)

RESOLVED: TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL consider **Schedule 1 of the Site Allocation Plan** - Proposed large sites for residential development for Clevedon and in particular the proposed use of; 1) land North of Churchill Avenue – currently used as much needed open space in this area; 2) the Millcross site – previously allocated for a new hospital site. The recommendations of Council to be forwarded to NSC prior to the deadline. With regard to Schedule 5 of the Site Allocation Plan – Proposed sites for Local Green Spaces. Members felt it was necessary to safeguard the sites listed and others not listed. The following sites were identified by Councillors;

- Brookfield Walk - – Open Space adjacent to Millennium Orchard
- Westbourne Housing Estate open spaces
- Land east of Moor Lane allotments
- Clevedon Cricket Field and play area – Esmond Grove
- Play area on Walton Road
- All Saints Church and School Playing Field – Glebe Field
- Coleridge Fields Playing Fields
- Clevedon Court Hill
- Land at Walton Castle
- Land by Land Yeo River at Somerset Road / Kingston Avenue
- Land at Teignmouth Road/Beaconsfield Road junction
- Teignmouth Road Play Area
- Cherry Avenue Play Area
- Kenn Moor Drive/ Hazell Close Football Field and Play Area

RESOLVED: ALL CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCILLORS asked to walk their wards 1) confirm the descriptions of those open spaces listed above; 2) identify open spaces to be added and report their findings to the Chairman of the Planning Committee or the Deputy Town Clerk for consideration at the next meeting of the Planning Committee

The above part 1 recommendation was superseded by the part 1 item on 23rd March 2016

AGREED by 13 votes to 0

A request was made by a Councillor to include all the estate green areas in the South, Yeo and West wards. Member's attention was drawn to the second resolution on the 17th February minutes requesting all members to walk their wards and provide details of areas to the Deputy Town Clerk.

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

16/635.2 PLANNING 2ND MARCH 2016

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

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

16/635.3 TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS 9TH MARCH 2016

Minutes of the Transport & Highways Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, by the Committee Vice-Chairman and **AGREED**

The Committee Vice Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items.

TH/16/634 a query was raised as to when the bollard would be re-installed; this was still in NSC hands and no installation date had been received.

16/635.4 FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY 16TH MARCH 2016

Minutes of the Finance & General Policy Committee meeting were presented by the Committee Chairman and **AGREED**

Part 1

FGP 16/579 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Proposed, seconded and **RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL** that Financial Regulations be altered in line with the model regulations from NALC for Sections 11 Contracts, except 11.1.v the value of £250 be used instead of the recommended £500. 11.1.h retain the values of £1000 & £250 instead of the recommended £3000 & £100.

AGREED by 14 votes to 0

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

16/635.5 PLANNING 23RD MARCH 2016

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

Part 1

P/16/1175 NORTH SOMERSET SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN P/16/1167

1175.1 TO CONSIDER DRAFT MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF CHURCHILL AVENUE (PENNY FIELDS)

RESOLVED: TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL notify North Somerset Council of the omission of the Land North of Churchill Avenue from the Local Green Space listings.

The reason Clevedon Town Council feel so strongly that this is an issue is that on 2nd June 1930 the Urban District Council of Clevedon (a forerunner of Clevedon Town Council) purchased this land for the sum of £275 to hold this land for the purposes of a recreational ground under the powers of the Public Health Acts 1875 and 1925 Section 69. Therefore this is a commitment on all successive owners of the land.

NSC is reminded that this purchase in 1930 was assisted by the public contributions and even penny donations from local children towards the purchase of this land. Hence the local name Penny Fields has been attached to this land ever since.

The National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 77 states; 'The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves'. This is clearly the case in this instance in that Penny Fields is surrounded by local housing including flats with no gardens housing young families and elderly persons bungalows as well as family homes that back onto this land. Furthermore paragraph 77 also states the designation should be used

where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife'.

In summary the Town Council has further reasons for claiming this area as a Local Green Space;

- 1) *recreational value for the residents of this community both those living adjacent and further away from this field;*
- 2) *richness of wildlife – the River Land Yeo flows through the site and provides a very special wildlife habitat;*
- 3) *historic significance in view of the history of how this site was originally purchased.*

All of these three points are extremely important to the town and the people of Clevedon.

Note: *The Town Council believe this is acknowledged by North Somerset Council as in the Council's recent Life magazine issue 130 March-April 16 it clearly specifies this land as a recreational ground (ref second paragraph middle column page 25).*

AGREED by 13 votes to 0

It was noted that this land had originally been designated for educational use but it was felt by some that the 6 schools in Clevedon met the current and proposed demand. It was queried that Clevedon pupils were being sent to schools outside the area despite there being capacity within the Clevedon Schools; passed to the NSC executive of youth services- Cllr Hall.

1175.2 TO CONSIDER DRAFT MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL ON LAND AT MILLCROSS

RESOLVED: *TO RECOMMEND that this Council request the Millcross site is retained for a possible replacement hospital until the site's future is decided by the NHS, and not as presently allocated for future housing development.*

AGREED by 13 votes -0

1175.3 TO CONSIDER LIST FOR DESIGNATION AS LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN CLEVEDON

RESOLVED: *TO DEFER consideration to the next meeting of the Planning Committee on 13th April 2016 when a motion for consideration by full Council on 20th April 2016 will be agreed, prior to the deadline for comments on 28th April 2016.*

AGREED see min no. 16/639

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

16/635.6 TOWN EVENTS & AMENITY 30TH MARCH 2016

Minutes of the Town Events & Amenity Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, by the Chairman of the Committee and **AGREED** subject to the removal of Cllr A. Shopland from attendees.

Part 1

TEA/16/534 THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: *TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the works to the infrastructure be carried out prior to the commencement of the new Christmas Lights Contract. The funding of up to £2,000 to be allocated from the TEA Christmas lights budget 2016/17. NB: Any shortfall between these works, new contract price (see below) and the TEA Christmas lights budget this year to be funded out of fundraising for the Christmas lights.*

AGREED by 13 votes to -0

534.2 TENDERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTRACT 2016-2019

RESOLVED: *TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL accept the lowest tender £8940.00 pa to be funded from the TEA Christmas lights budget.*

AGREED by 13 votes to -0

The Committee Chairman invited questions on Part 2 items;

535.1 The Committee Chairman confirmed that any costs in respect of the commemorations discussed in respect of this minute would be met by the Clevedon Lion Club.

16/544 Strode Road Users Group; members were reminded that the meeting would be held on 21st April 6.30 at the Centre.

16/635.7 PROPERTY 6th April 2016

Minutes of the Property Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, by the Chairman of the Committee and **AGREED**

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

16/636 AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PER THE ATTACHED LIST

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

AGREED

Members were asked to note that the list of payments included annual subscriptions to CPRE, NALC publications and the ALCA (Avon Local Council Association) subscription; these were approved.

16/637 APPROVE RETROSPECTIVE ACCOUNTS PAID PER THE ATTACHED LIST

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

16/638 RECEIVE AND DISCUSS THE STANDING ORDER CHANGES AS PROPOSED AT 24TH FEBRUARY MEETING

a) *That the Chairman of the Council shall not be a chairman of any of the Council's standing committees these being – Planning, Transport & Highways, Finance & General Policy, Property, Allotments and Town Events & Amenities – The Chairman of the Council can be Chairman of sub – committees/working groups or the Chairman's Advisory Committee.*

Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED by 13 votes – 0

b) *That no councillor shall be Chairman of more than one of the Council's standing committees or Vice Chairman of another, except for the Finance & General Policy Committee whose members are primarily Chairman of the Council's other committees*

Recommendation (b) was discussed at length with differing views as to the effectiveness of this motion.

- It was appreciated that the natural progression was Vice Chair then Chairman of a Committee before becoming Vice Chair then Chairman of the Council.
- It was queried whether being expected to take a leading role may be off putting to some potential councillors and could be seen as forcing Councillors to take on responsibilities they neither want or have the ability to undertake.
- It was noted that with 5 standing Committees and Council it would require 11/12 of the 21 members to be in a lead role.
- Members were reminded that under the original boundary review the Town Council had voted to reduce the Councillor number to 15.

Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED by 9 votes to 7

16/639 TO CONSIDER LIST FOR DESIGNATION AS LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN CLEVEDON AS PER PLANNING MEETING ON 13TH APRIL 2016

A list of the green spaces identified and compiled following minute no P/16/1153 (17.02.16) had been circulated prior to the meeting. Comments made by the Yeo Ward Councillors were noted and the accepted.

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept and agree the list as circulated plus any additional areas identified by the Councillors prior to 27th April 2016 planning meeting.

16/640 TO NOTE THE RESIGNATION OF MICHAEL HARRIOTT FROM YEO WARD AND AGREE THE TIMETABLE SHOULD THERE NOT BE A CALL FOR AN ELECTION

Members had been notified of the resignation of Michael Harriott from the Yeo Wards. The due legal process had been initiated by NSC as per electoral law. The deadline for the application by 10 Yeo Moor residents to call for an election was on 29th April. Members discussed the advertising of the vacancy; this would be via the Town Councils web site, Facebook page, twitter account and in the Town Council's newsletter. The tight timescale was queried by a member who asked if it could be extended, it was pointed out that the timescales were prescribed in statute.. Should an election be called it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council will authorise the use of polling cards for the by-election

Members discussed the timetable and process should no call for election be received by the NSC Returning Officer.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council would fill the vacancy by co-option.

A notice of co-option advertising the vacancy would be displayed in the Councils noticeboards, Facebook page, twitter account and on the Councils web site. An expression of interest would be sought for those wishing to stand of no more than 250 words explaining why they wish to be considered and what experience and expertise they could bring to the Council by noon on 13th June with the co-option being agreed at the Council meeting on 22nd June.

A request to write to the Electoral Commission to complain that for Parish & Town Councils no automatic notification was sent to households in the ward was not seconded or agreed.

16/641 RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND DISCUSS ANY ACTION APPOINTS ARISING FROM THE MEETING.

Members noted the minutes on the 43rd Annual Town Meeting which would be signed at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

16/642 RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 8

There were no questions under standing order no 8

The following items (agenda no.16&17) was heard under section1 (2) Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

16/643 RECEIVE INFORMATION ON A RECENT CASE REFERRED TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

Members received details of a case referred to the standards committee concerning a Clevedon Town Councillor. Both parties involved in the allegation **Issue** explained the background of the complaint.

Cllr Little left the meeting during the debate.

Comment [PH1]: Amended at 22.06.16 meeting

16/644 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ITEMS DEALT WITH BY STAFFING COMMITTEE IN QUARTER 1 2016

The Chairman did not allow the staffing committee item to be heard claiming it had not been on the draft agenda circulated to him. The Chairman refused to allow the Chairman of the Staffing Committee to present his report.

[NB: the staffing committee chairman request was received on 8th April as per standing order no. 3.b.iii.]

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council resolves to finish this debate and that item 17 on the agenda (16/644) be discussed at the next F&GP committee with a report back to the next Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.23 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....DATE.....