

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**Minutes of the 436th meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th September 2013**

PRESENT: Chairman – P McNeill
 Councillors C. Blades, C Bussey, C. Francis-Pester, J Geldart, A Giles-Townsend, C. Hall, G Hill, L. Knott, L. Little, N. Pennycott, A. Shopland, D. Shopland (7.45), G. Watkins, C. Wring
 Town Clerk - Ms P Heath;
 Members of the public x2

7.30pm INFORMAL BUSINESS**Public Session**

Voluntary Prayers were said by Captain Michael Eden.

Resident, the Beach, Clevedon,

A Resident expressed concern at the proposed pay and display parking on Hill Road as per the Transport & Highways minutes and the possible future intention to widen the area to include Alexandra Road and the Beach. The resident reminded members that a petition last November to object to paid parking had been signed by all but one of the Hill Road Traders.

FORMAL BUSINESS**13/363 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors A Cotton (work commitment), B Garner, T Morgan, J Middleton, J Norton Sealey, (family commitment) and B Hatch (illness)

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

13/364 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda

13/365 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th July 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to a couple of typing error changes:- Planning minutes 13/351.1 & 13/351.2 the words “past Vice Chairman” was changed to Chairman; Cllr Geldart added to attendees.

13/366 THE CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**13/366.1 Marine Lake**

Members were encouraged to go and look at the Marine Lake exhibition in the adjacent room. The exhibition will be in the Council offices on 4th & 5th September and also at the Marlens Festival.

13/366.2 Clinical Commissioning Group

A request has been made by the CCG to attend a Council meeting to discuss a new project looking at options for commissioning services at Clevedon Hospital. The request had been received too late to go on this meeting's agenda and the next meeting on the 30th is beyond the CCG deadline. It was agreed to offer them a special Council meeting on 7th October 2013.

13/366.3 Thank you

The Chairman thanked all Councillors who attended the Twinning Event on 25th July in the Council Offices and also those who attended the Town Plate Sailing race and reception

13/367 THE TOWN CLERKS REPORT AS PER THE ATTACHED LIST

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

DIS – copies of which were emailed to Councillors – hard copy attached for those Councillors without email addresses, 814, 815

DIARY DATES

8th December 2013 Annual Festival of Carols & Christmas Music – response by 1st November please

Correspondence

Email from Julia Elton – Thanking the Council for their letter of condolences

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

SLCC Branch Meeting to be held on 20th September at Chard. The Somerset Branch meeting is open for Councillors to attend with the Clerk; anyone wishing to attend should contact the Clerk.

Flower beds; the Town Clerk explained that the Harp Bed and Bandstand beds had become infested with caterpillars who have been dining on the plants. It has been agreed with the contractor to remove the plants at the start of October and have the beds replanted after spraying in the 3rd week of October.

13/368 MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**13/368.1 PLANNING 3RD JULY 2013**

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

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

13/368.2 PLANNING 17TH JULY 2013

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

Part 1 items.

P/13/583 CO-OPTION OF CLLR BUSSEY ON TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to recommend to Council they ratify the Committee's decision to appoint Cllr Bussey to the Planning Committee.

AGREED

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

13/368.3 TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS – 24TH JULY 2013

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

There being no Part 1 items the Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items.

Informal business – it was noted that the parallel parking mentioned on the last bullet point on the page would not be possible as the cellars run beneath the footpath. It was noted that the top 3 bullet points were the options raised by the Traders. In response, to a point made on 13/314.1 Action, the Chairman explained that this had been discussed at the following T & H meeting on 19th July.

13/368.4 FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY 31ST JULY 2013

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

Part 1

FGP 13/368.1 Proposed by Cllr Hill, Seconded and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**: by a vote of 9 – 0: that standing order (f) is amended to read “Subject to standing order 1(e) above, each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 5 minutes”

AGREED

13/368.2 Proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**: by 8 votes to 0 to amend standing order (bb) to read “Exception Planning Committee where a meeting of Planning committee requires it the Committee Chairman may, as an exception, call the meeting to start at 7.00pm and to last no more than 3 hours”

AGREED

13/368.3 Proposed, seconded and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**: by a vote of 5 to 4 that a working party open to all Councillors, with no limit on the amount of members, be set up at the Council meeting on 4th September to go through standing orders in detail.

AGREED: a meeting would be called for a Monday late October all Members who wished to be on the Working Group to attend; Members were reminded again to let the Town Clerk have any suggested amendments to enable comprehensive document of suggestions to be considered.

FGP 13/369 Proposed, seconded and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**: by 9 votes to 0 that the Council adopts and accepts the Financial Regulations as circulated with 31st July 2013 agenda

AGREED

FGP 13/370 Proposed, seconded and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**: by 9 votes to 0 that the Council adopts and accepts the internal audit and policies as circulated with 31st July 2013 agenda

AGREED

FGP 13/371 Proposed, seconded and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**: by 9 votes to 0 that the Council adopts and accepts the Financial Risk Assessments as circulated with 31st July 2013 agenda

AGREED

FGP 13/372 Proposed, seconded and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**: by 9 votes to 0 that the Council accepts NCJ recommended pay increase of 1% for all staff members back dated to 1st April 2013

AGREED

The Chairman invited questions on part 2

13/374 Cllr Shopland requested clarification from the Chairman on the report on Sixways toilet. This will be presented to next FGP Meeting

13/368.5 PLANNING 7TH AUGUST 2013

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

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

13/368.6 TOWN EVENTS & AMENITIES – 14TH AUGUST 2013

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

There being no part 1 the Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items;

261.1 Oak Trees Salthouse Fields

Comments were made concerning the Oak Trees that have been planted in Salthouse Field and the impact they may have on the visual outlook of the park. Also one of the trees seems to have been planted too close to the rail tracks. The Committee Chairman pointed out that correspondence and explanation from the Tree Officer had been circulated with the agenda of that meeting. In response to issues raised it was agreed to invite the Tree officer to a future T E & A Meeting to discuss tree planting in Clevedon, especially the procedures and controls over the location of the trees.

261.1 Flags

Members expressed their concern that the flags on the sea front were in a poor state and felt that these should all be changed annually in the spring. It was commented on that one of the United Kingdom flags was wrong in that it was for Eire and not Northern Ireland

13.267 Strode Road User

The representatives were asked to chase a Strode Road User Group as a matter of urgency as they had not met for about 2 years

13/368.7 TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS – 19TH AUGUST 2013

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

There being no Part 1 items the Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items.

341.3 Pay and Display

In response to comments made at the Council Meeting members were asked to note that the issue of parking and parking control had been discussed at several meetings prior to the Special Meeting, and that the Councillors present at the meeting had been involved in that discussion in detail. It was explained that the resolution had not been a part one as it was a request to NSC to investigate a trial period as the Town Council had no power or duty in respect of Highways. In response to the comments the Chairman explained that although the Council had agreed to no paid parking in Clevedon, the police had stated that they would not enforce the parking restrictions currently in place. The Members also noted that the request to consider controlled parking, Pay and Display, had originated from the traders.

341.4 Alexandra Gardens

In response to a question it was explained in detail that the land in question was owned by North Somerset Council and was subject to a Deed of Covenant which prevented any building on the site. The deeds to Alexandra Gardens and the covenant had been researched by the Town Clerk when the option was first raised at the Traders Meeting in

2011 when details of the covenant were reported. Cllr Hall as the then Chairman of the Council had approached the Elton Family with whom the Covenant is held explaining the reason. They have been approached subsequently and each time has stated that they would not release the covenant. The land is owned by North Somerset Council who, when approached, have stated that they would not support any application to create car parking on the site, nor would they agree to build and maintain a car park on the site due to financial, environmental and legal aspects of the site.

341.2 Park and Ride

A Councillor, who had been at the meeting, queried why this option was dropped feeling that the investigation should continue into providing a park and ride facility. It was explained that this had been investigated and would not be financially viable. The Councillor had offered to investigate a suitable piece of land and bring a full costed report back to a future Transport & Highways Committee; this was accepted.

ACTION CLLR WATKINS

13/368.8 ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY 6TH MARCH 2013

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

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

13/330 No 42 Old Street

In response to a question it was explained that the full managed service was being used as the letting agent not only dealt with all the pre letting marketing, tenant reference checks, collected the rent and dealt with disputes but also was the first point of call if any issues arose thereby preventing the office staff getting calls out of hours because of a fault. Having discussed it in detail at the Committee meeting it was felt that it was the most financially preferred option.

13/368.9 ALLOTMENTS – 29TH JULY 2013

Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting were presented to the meeting, and **AGREED**.

There being no part 1 items the Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items

13/369 AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PER THE ATTACHED LIST

RESOLVED: that the Council approves the accounts for payment, as per the attached lists except NSC – Walton Ward Election Invoice – the Town Clerk as the RFO brought to members attention the invoice dated 24th July for the Walton Ward Election in 2012 unfortunately this had not been picked up at the year end and no provision made. Members were reminded by the Chairman of FGP of the Councils letter to Head of Finance concerning unrepresented invoices at year end with notification to him that any invoice due but not presented to the Council by 31st March would not be paid as the allocated funds would not be available, unless legal reasons were given.

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** by 10 votes to 4 to write to NSC Head of Finance and state this Council would stick by its earlier response concerning outstanding Invoices.

13/370 APPROVE RETROSPECTIVE ACCOUNTS PAID PER THE ATTACHED LIST

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

13/371 MOTION PROPOSED BY CLLR SHOPLAND RE ADDITIONAL STANDING ORDER (SECOND READING)

Motions to Council be the first items on future agendas after statutory items so as to allow full and frank debate whilst all Councillors are awake, fresh and filled with vigour.

Following a detailed discussion on the motion and the wording used the Members **RESOLVED** to agree the alteration to Standing Orders by 7 votes to 5. The amendment will take effect as from this meeting.

13/372 MOTION PROPOSED BY CLLR KNOTT RE HERBERT GARDENS

That this Council as Trustees of Herbert Gardens undertakes the necessary legal process to ban dogs from Herbert Garden.

Members discussed at great length this motion. Cllr Knott in presenting the motion raised the problem of uncontrolled dogs in the park and some inconsiderate dog owners. The dogs are left to foul the gardens with some owners not picking up after their dogs. The dogs are allowed to chase the squirrels and, when their target has gone up a tree, barking which vibrates around the tall houses and adjacent hill. It was reported that many of those using the area are coming in cars indicating they are not local to Herbert Gardens. Many of the adjacent houses have young children who play in the park but are in danger from Toxocara canine which can cause blindness in children.

Points raised in the discussion

- Only un-wormed dogs pass on Toxacara
- Some locals walk their dogs responsibly in the park. It is bad owners not bad dogs that cause the problem
- If dogs are banned who will enforce the ban, issue any Fixed Penalty Notices which will have to be enforced.- response was made that the adjacent residents would "police" the gardens although they would have no authority
- Better control may be had if dogs were only allowed on leads in Herbert Gardens

It was acknowledged that a problem with dog fouling and irresponsible owners is town wide and not just in Herbert Gardens. A recent project run by the Central Ward Councillors, along with the Chairman of the Vision Working Group, with Yeo Moor School has highlighted the concerns being expressed by the pupils of the infant school.

Following the discussion the Motion was put and lost by 9 votes to 4

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....