

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**Public Session**

Public Participation

Lit Fest Grant request

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the Clevedon Literary Festival, now renamed Lit Fest who are seeking a large grant from the Council.

The representative thanked the Council for its support in the past, especially being awarded a small grant last year for £450.00 which was used to make improvements to their website.

The group became a charity from the 1st February 2024, meaning this will allow more opportunities to apply for grant funding and gift aid support.

The Lit Fest has been in existence since 2019 and has held annual festivals with local authors, speakers and many events, attracting numbers of visitors to the town, including residents of Clevedon.

The group is a small volunteer team, but they are expanding their numbers and interest has been shown by younger people who have joined the team.

They have been successful to receive Arts Council funding for the past 4 years, but this is not a guarantee that they will achieve another award in 2024/25, hence they are seeking other avenues for support.

The Lit Fest team have achieved a lot since 2019, but they have so much more that they would like to do, maybe employing staff, and hope that their request for £8,000.00 will be received favourably.

Cllrs A & D Shopland arrived at 7.50pm.

Clevedon Slipway

The Vice Commodore for the Clevedon Sailing Club introduced himself and advised that he had been invited to the Council meeting to discuss the poor condition of the slipway.

The slipway has received running repairs for years and needs urgent work to retain the structure of the walkway.

The Sailing Club has confirmed that they are willing to fund up to £20,000.00 as a contribution to the project in the event that NSC commits £50,000.00 and the Town Council also contribute. The Sailing Club are also willing to provide labour by way of volunteers which would match fund the relevant part of the NSC funding. The works are estimated to be £100,000.00.

The Chairman of Council advised members that NSC have produced the Volum3 Specification in August 2022 which details the condition of the slipway and lists extent of works.

Ratified at Full Council on 28th February 2024

The Council must adhere to insurance policy endorsement regulation number – FG02 – Specific Person Exception, policy wide, Section 5, Fidelity Guarantee, Exclusions & Section 8, Officials Indemnity, Exclusions: A & B.

It is not known who owns the slipway, and it has always been supported as a public asset by NSC as well as many organisations and groups in the past.

Another member of the Sailing Club also confirmed that there may be a funding gap, which could be supported with public fundraising.

8.07pm - Sailing Club members left the meeting.

8.08pm - The Chairman moved the meeting into formal session

Minutes

Minutes of a **Meeting** (commenced at 7.30pm) of **Clevedon Town Council** held at the **Council Offices 44 Old Street Clevedon** on Wednesday **7th February 2024** when the following business was transacted.

PRESENT Chairman of the Council – Cllr T Morgan together with Councillors - N Barton, B Culblaithe, A Everitt, C Francis-Pester, A Gardner, A Goodliffe, C Lord, K O’Brien, A Shopland (7.50pm), D Shopland (7.50pm), R Westwood & H Young.
Members of the Public – District Councillor, Cllr M Pryke and 8 members of the public

1670 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received and **APPROVED** from Cllr C Blades (another commitment).

1671 To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

1672 To receive and ratify the minutes of the Council meeting dated 10th January 2024 and the Budget meeting on the 24th January 2024

Proposed, Seconded and **APPROVED** both the 10th January 2024 and the 24th January 2024 minutes which were signed as a true copy by the Chairman.

1673 To receive and agree whether to support the Seafront Slipway repairs by way of a contribution from the Council

The Chairman confirmed that the works could be carried out this season, if the monies are approved by all parties.

Cllr D Shopland declared that the Town Council must not enter into any financial connection or liability for the project. The Chairman confirmed that this is being viewed as a ‘one off’ support to provide solve the problem for a generation.

Cllr Young stated that she does support the funding request, but would add that severe weather is also impacting the deterioration of the slipway and that the Town Council needs to think more about this asset and other core assets around the Town and that we secure them for the future. Currently all that is taking place is ‘patching’ works on the slipway.

Cllr Francis-Pester paid tribute to the late and former District Councillor Mark Crosby who installed a huge amount of work on the project. Cllr Francis-Pester is supportive of the project on the assumption that there is no further revenue spend in the future. It was also queried whether there is any income derived from the slipway and where it goes if there is.

Ratified at Full Council on 28th February 2024

Cllr Westwood made a proposal that the Town Council gives £20,000.00 towards the Sailing Club request, to match their offer. That the Council takes no further responsibility and the payment is clearly made as a money only, 'one off' to support the slipway repairs.

The Council held much debate around the sourcing of the funds required to support the proposal. It was confirmed that the Grant scheme for 2023/24 still held sufficient funds to release to this project and the Town Council is holding plenty of money in ear marked reserves.

Proposed, Seconded and **APPROVED** to give £20,000.00 as proposed by Cllr Westwood, was supported by 7 votes to 4 abstained.

1674 To receive the budget recommendation for 2024/25

Cllr Young addressed the Town Council confirming that all budget figure information had been submitted to all members, the content of which had been observed by some. An informal meeting for Councillors was held on the 1st February 2024 to discuss in more detail the budget proposal and Precept requirements.

Cllr Young stated that the budget does not include the estimated figure of just over £22,000.00 for work to no. 42 Old Street as money in reserves can be used for this project.

The Chairman of Council stated that advice had been sought from the Avon Local Councils' Association (ALCA) concerning the budget and Precept, and that three proposals had been submitted by them, which have been discussed by Councillors at the informal meeting on the 1st February 2024.

RESOLVED: that the majority of Councillors approved the budget for 2024/25.

1675 To vote and set the Precept request for the Financial year 2024/25

The Chairman of Council confirmed that it had been mooted that the Precept figure from the 2023/24 budget of £414,330.00 be increased by 4% to allow for staffing cost increases in line with National guidelines.

RESOLVED: by a vote of 7 **APPROVED**, 5 Against and 1 Abstained that the Precept be raised by 4%, totalling £16,573.20 increase with a Precept figure of £430,903.20 for 2024/25.

This information to be submitted to NSC by the Council Clerk.

Action – Council Clerk

1676 Planning

(1) To receive and ratify the minutes of the Special Planning Meeting dated 16th January 2024

Proposed, Seconded and **APPROVED** the Special Planning minutes dated 16th January 2024 which were signed as a true copy by the Chairman.

(2) To discuss and agree recommendations for the Planning applications received from NSC for each Ward

EAST WARD - The following Planning applications were **APPROVED** by the East Ward Councillors 24/P/0033/HHPA & 24/P/0063/FUL

Ratified at Full Council on 28th February 2024

23/P/2793/NMA – B&M Limited, The Triangle – **REFUSE**.

A South Ward Councillor raised that at the time the original planning application (20/P/1673/FUL) there was considerable concern and objection received from residents in the locality regarding the older person accommodation, especially when there is plenty of this type of facility in the Town. Upon receipt of this application it appears to rule out the phased plans originally intended which were meant to improve the overall character of the Queens Square and surrounding areas. It is also understood, but not received in writing, that B&M have been awarded a new lease, taking it beyond the term of the planning application. Therefore, the Town Council seeks to understand what works are to be done in the Queens Square area and to the B&M building.

That the Town Council expects the original application submitted, to be fulfilled. If this situation has now changed, it needs to be explained as to why, as the revised proposals being suggested are now being objected to by the Town Council.

SOUTH WARD – The following planning application was **APPROVED** by the South Ward Councillors. 24/P/0070/FUH.

WALTON WARD – The following planning applications were **APPROVED** by the Walton Ward Councillors.

23/P/2806/CM2A, 24/P/0058/NMA, 24/P/0043/HHPA, 23/P/2650/LDP, 24/P/0051/FUH & 24/P/0108/MMA.

24/P/0028/FUH – The application was deemed to be overbearing and an overdevelopment of the property. The proposed extension will also be an intrusion of privacy for neighbouring properties.

WEST WARD – The following planning application was **APPROVED** by the West Ward Councillors. 24/P/0140/LDP.

(3) To note the NSC Consultation regarding the examination of the Wraxall and Failand Neighbourhood Plan

The Councillors **NOTED** the NSC Consultation regarding the examination of the Wraxall and Failand Neighbourhood Plan.

1677 Town, Events & Amenities

(1) To receive any updates from the Outside Body Representatives for their respective nominated local group(s)

Clevedon Pier – Cllr Francis-Pester reported that there has been some damage to the Toll House following the recent storms. There is to be some work to the fenders and planks.

The Chairman is to stand down, and the Pier Committee are actively seeking a replacement.

Visitor numbers are down which is affecting some of the things that the Pier can do. They are in contact with schools and outreach centres. They also have plans for some refurbishment to the Pagoda and hope to install a PA sound system.

Land Yeo Friends – Cllr Westwood confirmed that the group have been working well with the Land Yeo Friends (LYF) and between them and the Town Council a letter, which also received support from the Local MP, Sir Liam Fox, was submitted to the Environment Agency (EA) concerning the condition of the river and annual work expected to remove weed from the river to keep it clear.

Ratified at Full Council on 28th February 2024

A further letter to the EA is expected, with support from the Town Council regarding further matters being raised by LYF.

Clevedon Community Resilience – Cllr Young confirmed that the group are grateful for the storage space provided by the Town Council. However, matters have changed with regards to the original storage location, which they may look to return to. Training packs have been created to encourage more volunteers and a speaker is coming to provide a talk on flooding. A mock exercise is also taking place in March at the Clevedon Community Centre so that people are well-equipped in the event of an emergency.

Clevedon BID - Cllr Barton confirmed that four years on Clevedon BID are continuing to work on schemes and projects in the Town. There is to be an Open Day, an opportunity to see what plans there are for the coming months. More details to follow from Cllr Barton. **Action – Cllr Barton**

(2) To receive and agree to a quote for tree works to remove overhanging branches around the Tennis Courts in Herbert Gardens

The Council Clerk advised that a request had come from members of the Lawn Tennis Club in Herbert Gardens, seeking some tree works for branches overhanging the courts to be removed.

The schedule of works proposed received from the Council Contractor was circulated to members before the meeting.

Proposed, Seconded and **AGREED** to a quote of £680.00 + VAT.

Action – Council Clerk

1678 Finance & General Policy

(1) To receive an update on the Council Accounts from the Locum RFO

The Council Clerk confirmed that work was still progressing on the 2022/23 accounts. The fourth visit from the Rialtas Consultant is booked for the 15th February 2024 to support the Locum RFO with the 2022/23 accounts. It is not clear at this stage if the accounts will be finalised.

The Locum RFO has also commenced some work on the 2023/24 accounts.

(2) To receive an update concerning The Barn and request to a legal body for advice (Ref minute no. 1601 (i) on 1 November 2023)

Due to the nature of the discussion required on The Barn matters, the Chairman of Council, with agreement from the Council members moved this agenda item to the Confidential section of the meeting.

(3) To discuss and agree the large grant application scheme for 2024/25

The Council have committed to a budget of £100,000.00 for 2024/25. The Council would like to be in a position to offer a wider number of groups a funding opportunity this time.

The Lit Fest advised they are looking for an early response to their request for £8,000.00 to support their plans for the 2024 season. It was agreed that a decision would be made about their grant application at the next Council meeting on the 28th February 2024.

A 2024/25 Grant application scheme will be created and released for other interested parties.

Action Cllr Young and Council Clerk

Ratified at Full Council on 28th February 2024

1679 Property**(1) To receive and note the minutes from no. 42 Old Street Working Group meeting held on 22nd January 2024. To discuss and agree recommendations**

The Working Group held a meeting to discuss the required works to the property. It has been guesstimated by the surveyor that costs will be £22,300.00. The Working Group are now seeking permission from the Council to proceed with obtaining quotes from contractors.

RESOLVED: that the Council agreed to the request.

1680 Transport & Highways**(1) To receive and decide on a request from a resident concerning a formal application for 30mph reminder signs to be installed on Northern Way**

Residents who live close to Northern Way are seeking the support of the Council to provide 30mph reminder signage to be installed on the major road. The Council members debated the request and agreed the road is very busy, the location of the underpass is too far away for some residents who use Summerlin Drive as a cut through to Town.

RESOLVED: that the Council requests for NSC implement more road safety 30mph signs on Northern Way.

(2) To receive and decide on a response to a complaint from a resident concerning the condition of the Town Centre areas including B&M car park, flooding issues with blocked drains and road work debris

Councillors had received the complaint from the resident before the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the member of the public be advised that the queries should be directed to the District Council who maintain the areas concerned, with exception of the B&M car park being on private land and outside of the Town Council remit.

9.26pm – Cllrs A & D Shopland left the meeting

1681 Clerks Report

The Clerk had no items to report.

1682 To receive information from Clevedon North Somerset Councillors relating directly to Clevedon

District Councillor Pryke, Walton Ward - updated Councillors on the following items.

Highways Projects – There is to be a consultation concerning parking charges in the North of the District and he encouraged Ward members to take part.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) – Cllr Pryke encouraged Councillors to take this consultation to our residents.

AECOM Review – Public Realm – Following the review, a full proposal will be submitted to the NSC Executive Committee advising as to what the scheme will look like.

Cllr Pryke stated that the last nine months of being a District Councillor has been a huge learning curve and he has learnt many new things in the process. Looking forward to completing much more for Clevedon.

Ratified at Full Council on 28th February 2024

District Councillor Young, South Ward – thanked Cllr Pryke for the updates given.

Parking Consultation - To commence from March 2024, there are three aspects to the proposals. Strategy – use of car parks – secure parking, i.e. bikes and electric car possibilities. It is clear that there are different parking needs between the three local towns, Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead. The consultation needs to look at local needs. Cllr Young asked that Councillors strongly engage with the consult when it is launched. **Action – Councillors**

BSIP – A NSC driven public event was held at the Council offices, which was well attended. It was an opportunity to speak with local residents about the proposals and receive feedback. The consultation closes on the 26th February 2024, and the information board will remain in the Town Council foyer until this date, with feedback forms available for residents to complete and return.

Again, Councillors encouraged to speak with residents and Councillors themselves to take part in the consultation. The Council Clerk was asked to gather any further responses from Council members in order that an informed reply is submitted to NSC. **Action – Councillors and Council Clerk**

AECOM Review – Cllr Young stated that it was disappointing that only the Chairman of Council and the Council Clerk had attended the review virtual meetings. Cllr Young is very keen to engage all Councillors with updates on important projects in the Town and how this may be achieved will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Clevedon Skatepark Project (CSP) – A meeting was held on the 6th February 2024 with members of the CSP, NSC Officer John Flannigan, District Councillor Smith, Chairman of Council, Cllrs Westwood and Young. The meeting was aimed at what can be done to restart the project as it is the wish to provide clarity to the public. The CSP members have been invited to the next Council meeting to provide a presentation to all Councillors.

1683 To receive the Chairman’s Report

The Chairman had no items to report.

The Chairman of Council closed the formal session of the meeting and explained to members of the public that the meeting was moving into confidential session due to The Barn and Staffing matters.

9.43pm – All members of the public left the meeting.

Formal session of the meeting closed at 9.43pm

CHAIRMAN DATE

Ratified at Full Council on 28th February 2024