

44th Annual Town Meeting

To be signed at the next meeting 2018

Minutes of the 44th Town Meeting held in the Council House, 44 Old Street, Clevedon, 7.30pm, Monday 24th April 2016

Present

Cllr Jane Geldart – Chairman of Clevedon Town Council Presiding

Town Councillors N. Barton, C. Blades, C. Francis-Pester, A. Giles-Townsend, S. Hale, B. Hatch, G. Hill, L. Little, J. Middleton, A. Shopland, D. Shopland, C. Starr, G. Watkins, J. West. District Councillor Cllr R. Garner NSC South Ward.

Town Clerk – Ms P Heath MILCM,
Local Government Electors x 20

Apologies for non-attendance had been given by Cllr Hall (illness) Cllr J. Norton-Sealey (family commitments)

The Chairman Cllr Geldart welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting was being filmed on behalf of Clevedon TV.

TM 17/1 MINUTES OF THE 43rd TOWN MEETING

Proposed and seconded that the minutes of the 43rd Annual Town Meeting held on 11th April 2016 are a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

TM 17/2 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

17.2.1 Chairman's Report; Cllr Geldart read her report as circulated prior to the meeting.

17.2.2 Allotment Chairman's report; Cllr Middleton presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

17.2.3 Finance & General Policy Committee Chairman's report; Cllr Francis- Pester presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

17.2.4 Planning Committee Chairman; Cllr Hill presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

17.2.5 Property Committee Chairman; Cllr D. Shopland presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

17.2.6 Town Events and Amenities Committee Chairman; Cllr Francis-Pester presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

17.2.7 Transport & Highways Committee Chairman; Cllr Alex Giles Townsend presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

Members of the Public raised questions on the reports to which the individual chairman responded.

Toilets at Pier Copse – what is the current position concerning the Pier Copse Toilets? A concern was raised by one member of the public that she felt uncomfortable using the unisex toilets when there are a crowd of men around the toilet block.

Cllr Francis-Pester responded explaining that the toilets are not in the Town Council's control. The Pier Copse Toilets are being managed and maintained by the Clevedon Pier & Heritage Trust, They had applied for funding to refurbish the toilet block which will remain as a unisex facility as the former gents' toilets have to be removed due to safety issues.

Litter on the Beach – concern was expressed at the increasing amount of litter and mess being left on the beach after visitors and residents had left. Following the power boat competition in the summer a large amount of plastic tags were removed from the beach by a resident; these would have been washed off the beach into the sea and caused danger to the marine life. Cllr Francis- Pester responded to explain that the organisation of these events and clean up was with North Somerset Council. The Town Council would discuss measures to reduce the amount of litter generated by the event and ensure that a clean-up mechanism was introduced for sea front activities. Also it was felt that the Town Council could work with groups to raise awareness of the need for personal responsibility for users of the beach to remove their rubbish.

Station Road Toilets – a request was made for the outside of the Station Road toilets to be painted and maintained; possibly using some of the money from the rental of part of the building by the market. Cllr Francis-Pester, Cllr Shopland and the Town Clerk responded to explain that the rental of the building was through the contractor and the money not received by the Council. Discussions would be held with the Contractor in respect of painting the doors and clearing the guttering, this had been delayed pending the discussions on the facilities at Station Road. It was explained that the working group of the council had looked at increasing the facilities at the toilets but this proved to be financially unviable.

Cleaning of the Roads – Concern was expressed that the roads in Clevedon were not cleaned, that the grass verges were not maintained and the gully's were full of rubbish and last year's leaves. Cllr Giles-Townsend and Cllr Geldart explained that the maintenance of the highway was the responsibility of North Somerset Council; the Town Council frequently works with the officers from North Somerset Council to highlight concerns and issues surrounding the highway. The Area Technician holds a monthly surgery in the Council's offices on the first Monday of the month between 10am and midday, anyone is welcome to attend and report issues. It was also explained that the road sweeper cannot always clean a road due to the amount of parked cars. The Town Council has requested that the schedule of the road sweeper is advertised in advance so that car owners can be requested to move their vehicles to enable the roads to be swept. This would also enable the verges to be cut at the kerb side which they cannot do at the moment in case they damage the parked vehicles.

Planting and Watering – a request was made for assistance with watering areas the Clevedon Community Gardeners had planted. In response Cllr Francis-Pester explained that the contractors for North Somerset Council did carry out watering, if the information of what areas needed water was given to the Council via the Town Clerk then the Town Events & Amenities Committee could investigate assistance.

Proposed seconded and **AGREED** to accept the Chairman's & Committee reports.

TM 17/3 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Town Clerk presented the circulated audited annual accounts to 31st March 2016, proposed, seconded and **AGREED** by the meeting to accept the financial report

TM 17/4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTOR PARTICIPATION

Parking regulation

Concern was raised that the introduction of the Civil Enforcement by North Somerset Council, although solving the problem of parking on Hill Road has created a problem with dispersed cars now parking on the surrounding streets and in the one way section of Hill Road. At the junction of Hill Road and Herbert Road vehicles are now parking on both sides of the road virtually blocking the road to anything larger than a car; there was a call for double yellow lines on this section. In Wellington Terrace the amount of vehicles has increased so that there are no longer any “pull in” sections to enable vehicles going in opposite direction to pass each other. It was pointed out that much of the additional Wellington Terrace parking is due to builders’ vehicles from the Marine Parade development.

Disabled Parking Bays

There was concern raised at the amount of disabled parking bays both on Hill Road and in other areas of the town, particularly where a disabled bay had been created outside a residency, and where that resident has now left. In response Cllr Giles-Townsend explained that there is no mechanism in North Somerset Council to review these bays once permission has been given for a bay for a specific householder.

Multi Storey Car Parks

A request was made for the Council to consider building one or more multi storey car parks in the Town Centre at Marsdon Road or Gt Western Road to alleviate the parking problem. It was explained by Cllr Shopland that this had been considered by Woodspring District Council in the past but public opposition prevented the scheme which would have a major impact on the surrounding area.

The Chairman, Cllr Geldart thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm

CHAIRMAN DATE