

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting of Clevedon Town Council held at the Council Offices 44 Old Street Clevedon which commenced at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th September 2024. The following business was transacted.

PRESENT Chairman of the Council – Councillor C Blades together with Councillors N Barton, B Culblait, C Francis-Pester, C Lord, T Morgan, D Shopland, R Westwood and H Young,

Town Clerk – Tony Jay

Members of the Public – 4

1792 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

It was resolved to approve apologies from Councillor A Goodliffe and K O'Brien.

1793 To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

1794 To receive and approve the minutes of the Council meeting dated 31st July 2024.

It was resolved to approve the minutes. The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

1795 To receive a short presentation from a North Somerset Council officer regarding proposals to create a transport hub in Clevedon. This will be followed by a question and answer session with Councillors.

The presentation took place prior to the meeting commencing.

1796 To consider the procedures regarding new councillor co-option to be adopted during the meeting of the Full Council on 10th September.

There are currently thirteen qualified candidates who have put themselves for co-option to fill the eight vacancies. The closing date for applications has been set for 5pm Thursday 5th September.

The Town Clerk explained the procedure which will be taking place during the meeting on 10th September.

1797 To consider the appointment of the Clevedon Town Council internal auditor for the financial year 2024-25.

It was resolved to appoint Paul Russell as the Town Council's internal auditor for 2024-25. His fee will be £700.

1798 To discuss the Town Council trusts – Cllr Shopland.

A discussion took place regarding the Town Council Trusts. It was resolved to defer this agenda item for the Town Clerk to check legal procedures regarding the management of the trusts.

1799 To receive an update regarding The Barn.

The Chairman reported that he has been working with the original trustees. They are supportive of keeping The Barn open, but they have all quit their position as trustees. There are three options available.

1. That the YMCA may take it on as an asset.
2. The Town Council manages The Barn itself.
3. The Barn closes.

The Chairman will approach North Somerset Council to enquire whether it will release the Town Council from the terms of its lease.

1800 To receive the Clerk's report.

In addition to the eight vacancies already mentioned, there are two more councillor vacancies. One in East Ward and one in West Ward. Ten members of the public who live in these wards have called for public elections to be held. These elections will be held on Thursday 17th October. There will be two polling stations, one at the Town Council offices and one at the Scout Hut.

If only one candidate puts themselves forward in either of these elections then that person will be elected unopposed.

If two or more candidates put themselves forward then the cost of the election will be paid for by the Town Council as follows:

Without poll cards the cost will be approximately £5,000 to £6,000 per election.

With poll cards the cost will be approximately £7,500 to £8,500 per election.

It was resolved that poll cards will be requested.

The Clerk has attended an inaugural meeting with NSC officers regarding new and existing projects in Clevedon. These meetings will be held quarterly, with the Chairman also invited, and are a work in progress.

A quote of £142 plus VAT has been obtained to update the Chairman's notice board. The work will be carried out in the near future.

The Town Clerk gave an update regarding staffing matters. The Locum RFO is making inroads into the backlog on work in updating the council's accountancy package with the current year's transactions. When this work has been completed the usual financial reports will be published.

The temporary Assistant Clerk has started her duties, and the temporary office assistant has also begun.

The new website is being formulated, and a draft version will be finished shortly. A small group of councillors will be appointed to decide what should be included on the website. This will be a work in progress, as additional pages can be added at any point in the future. A set of photographs of the town will be required for the website. The Civic Society will be asked to assist with this.

1801 To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that he recently had a very successful visit to the twin town of Effingham on the request of their mayor to attend the marketfest. This was attended by all the twin towns of Ettlingen. The trip has been funded partly by the Effingham Twinning Association, the town of Ettlingen, the Town Council's Chairman's Allowance and the Chairman himself.

- 1802 To receive information from Clevedon North Somerset Councillors relating directly to Clevedon.
- 1803 To resolve to exclude members of the public and the press for the following agenda items as it is likely that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was resolved to exclude the members of the public from the meeting.

- 1804 To consider the confidential email received on 20th August from the North Somerset Council Leader Mike Bell.

A discussion took place regarding the content of the email.

A discussion then took place regarding the councillor co-option process.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed by the Chairman

Date

1805 To consider recommendations of the Property Committee relating to the Town Council offices.
A quote of £254.30 (£134.30 parts £120 labour) has been obtained to fit a new door lock.
Patio doors. Listed building.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm

Approved as a correct record

Chairman.....

Date: