



## LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL – Council Minutes

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Langport Town Council held on Tuesday 18 February 2020 at 7.00pm in the Ground Floor Meeting Room, Langport Town Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors:

V Saunders  
B Buchy-Dury  
A Donald  
C Dunn  
N French  
S Glas  
I Macnab  
S Tate

**In Attendance:**

Deborah Speed, Town Clerk. District Councillor Tiffany Osborne. There were no members of the public and one member of the press present.

**TC2019/120 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dromgoole, Stokes and Williams

**RESOLVED** to accept the reasons given.

**TC2019/121 Declarations of interests** - Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

None

**TC2019/122 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January be signed as a correct record.

**TC2019/123 Town Clerk's Oral Report** – including use of delegated powers and update on progress since the last meeting

Town Clerk reminded Councillors about:

- Adapting the Levels drop-in event on 29<sup>th</sup> February at Ridgway Hall and the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March at Great Bow Wharf

- River Sowy/King's Sedgemoor Drain enhancement drop in event on 19<sup>th</sup> February at Aller Village Hall.
- Climate Emergency drop-in on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at Vicarage Street Methodist Church, Yeovil
- Bibic Open Evening on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 6-7.30pm

The Town Clerk had received reports of dog fouling on the footpaths on North Moor and Cocklemoor. An officer from Locality, SSDC has walked both paths and placed dog fouling signs where appropriate. The Great British Spring Clean is happening between 20<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the Langport History Society had applied for permission to erect an interpretation board and new pathway in All Saint's Churchyard. The Clerk will contact the Society to ask who will be responsible for upkeep and maintenance.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March, Frome Town Council are hosting a Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset event which the Town Clerk will attend.

### **TC2019/124 To receive written or oral reports from meetings and training attended by councillors on behalf of the Council**

Oral reports were received from:

Councillor MacNab reported on Flood Wardens meeting. More Flood Warden volunteers are needed. Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.

Councillor French reported about the Memorial Field Committee meeting. More funding is required. Due to bad weather the Saints Juniors were not able to use the pitch. The MUGA is under used. Plans are underway for raising funds

Councillor Tate reported about the Essential Councillor training he had received and recommended other Councillors to attend similar training. Councillor Tate also made a report about the Carbon Neutral Group. At the next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March, there will be 2 speakers Mark Letcher, Environmental Consultant and Sonya Bedford who will talk about how Wedmore used their carbon audit to implement change

Written reports were submitted by Councillor Saunders of SALC and APB meetings which are attached to the minutes

### **TC2019/125 The Langport River Project – to receive an update on the Langport River Project and Slipway. Approval of payment to SSDC for legal costs for licence for Cocklemoor car park.**

A compromise has been reached with the Environment Agency. A sustainable walkway will be installed on the line of the existing path which is in very poor condition. Where the level of the path is less than 8.20m AOD the EA has agreed to the height being raised. Where the level already exceeds 8.2m the height will not be reduced. The top surface will be a cellular material, either block or recycled plastic, which will stop stone from migrating. Final design work is in progress. Quotes have been sought for the Huish Bridge enhancement for the Leader application. When quotes were received it was obvious that the quotes were higher than anticipated in the original Expression of Interest (EOI) so a second EOI was submitted and has been accepted. This would provide a landscaped amenity area for car parking and picnics with road signage. Details of how to segregate parking including parking for disabled and boat trailers will be discussed later.

Mike Slade, volunteer coordinator IWA arranged the first River Parrett Litter pick supported by both volunteers from IWA and Langport.

On the weekend 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> March the IWA Forestry group will spend the time clearing overhanging branches. The River Group are exploring setting up an arms-length trading company for management and maintenance of the river.

Celebration of the river will form part of the VE Day and Somerset Day celebrations.

The District Councillors have intervened with the officers of SSDC about the legal costs for the licence for Cocklemoor car park and a decision about paying the invoice will be delayed until an answer is received from district officers.

**TC2019/126 Recommendations from Tourism and Marketing Committee** – to receive recommendations from Tourism and Marketing Committee

The committee recommended becoming a Silver member of Visit Somerset. SSDC will pay for a Bronze membership meaning it will cost a further £110 for Silver membership. By showing support for Visit Somerset it will enable them to improve their website.

**RESOLVED** to become Silver members of Visit Somerset

The Committee supported the production of three new flyers promoting the river. Gordon McKerrow (Langport Information Centre) is happy to create the flyers. The total cost of the flyers including printing would be £400. These will be distributed at the Tourism leaflet exchange in March.

**RESOLVED** to create and print the flyers.

**TC2019/127 Environment Champion** – to appoint an Environment Champion to receive and send environment/climate information between the Town Council and SSDC.

**RESOLVED** to appoint Stephen Tate as the Environment Champion

**TC2019/128 Draft Calendar of Meetings** - to consider the draft calendar of meetings for the municipal year starting May 2020.

**RESOLVED** to change date of December meeting to 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**TC2019/129 Finance - Budget for 2020/2021** - members to approve the budget and precept demand for the financial year 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.

No change from agreed budget

**TC2019/130 Finance - Town Council Year 2019/20 Year to Date Budget** - to review and note the budget information for the year to date as of 31/01/2020. (Account & Audit Regulations 2015)

**RESOLVED** – to note

**TC2019/131 Finance – Bank Account Balances** – to note the balances of the Council's bank accounts as of 31/01/2020.

**RESOLVED** – to note

**TC2019/132 Finance - Accounts for Payment and Income** - to note items of expenditure and income for January.

**RESOLVED** – to note

**TC2019/133 Chairman's Report** – items of information.

A reminder for Councillors to report issues which arise in the town to the Clerk who will make the most appropriate response to the appropriate authority.

Both the Chair and Clerk had met with the District Councillors to discuss the Council's position in regard to the Precept/Council tax. Democratic services would be involved with any future Community Governance Review. The Chair and Clerk are due to meet David Warburton, member of Parliament for Somerton and Frome to bring this to his attention on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

60 trees had been collected from SSDC as part of the Great Tree Giveaway. Councillors to supply ideas of areas of planting.

Also wish to establish wildflower areas on verges as you approach the town and on Cockle Moor.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

DRAFT