



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL – Council Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Langport Town Council held on Tuesday 17 March 2020 at 7.00pm in the Ground Floor Meeting Room, Langport Town Hall.

Present: Councillors:

V Saunders	N French
A Donald	S Glas
J Dromgoole	I Macnab
C Dunn	S Tate

In Attendance:

Deborah Speed, Town Clerk. There was one member of the public and no members of the press present.

Speaker 1: Following recent accidents on zebra crossings in Langport including a fatality would the Town Council request Somerset County Council to change the 3 zebra crossings into Pelican crossings (pedestrian light controlled crossings).

TC2019/134 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Cllr Saunders, Chair had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Stephen Williams
Apologies were received from Cllr Stokes and Buchy-Dury

RESOLVED to accept the reasons given.

TC2019/135 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

TC2019/136 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2020 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 February be signed as a correct record.

TC2019/137 Town Clerk's Oral Report – including use of delegated powers and update on progress since the last meeting

- Information had been received from the Market Towns Investment Group (MTIG) for applying for Capital Priority Project Funding. Councillors who have suggestions for applying for this funding should forward a brief plan outline to Cllr Dunn.
- Town Clerk had attended a workshop at Frome and the SLCC meeting where Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset was discussed.
- As a result of the tree survey carried out for the Town Council by SSDC, a tree at the Cricket Field was found to be dangerous and work to make it safe carried out.
- Due to measures put in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it is necessary to consider how to the day to day activities of the council will continue. The Council considered what decisions could be delegated to the clerk and which councillors should be consulted about these decisions.

RESOLVED that

- a) Should the Council be unable to meet for whatever reason, the Clerk be given delegated authority to progress all ongoing matters and projects and authorise all regular payments and incur expenditure in line with the council's agreed budget.
- b) Any decision taken under resolution (a) above be taken whenever possible, in consultation with the Chair and Committee Chairs. A record of all decisions and expenditure incurred under delegated authority will be kept and reported to members when the council next meets.
- c) The authority to decide the council's response to planning applications be delegated to clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Committee Chairs. Whenever possible, members of the council will be informed of applications out for consultation and will be invited to submit comments to the clerk.
- d) The provisions outlined in resolutions (a-c) above will override any requirements to the contrary in the council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Terms of Reference.
- e) In line with Government advice, staff will be encouraged to work from home.
- f) Should the Clerk be unable to perform their duties, Councillor French will assume the role of Proper Officer and RFO in an unpaid capacity.
- g) Should government allow councils to meet virtually (online), the council will take all reasonable steps to facilitate this.

TC2019/137.2 Planning Application –

Application No.

- i. [20/00249/FUL](#) and [20/00250/LBC](#) Annandale, The Hill, Langport TA10 9QD

RESOLVED to support the application but express concern about water runoff from new tarmacked areas and how it will effect surrounding properties and the town.

- ii. [20/00481/ADV](#) All Saints Church, The Hill, Langport TA10 9QD

RESOLVED to support the application but ask for comments from the Conservation Officer about the siting of the board. Clerk to discover if application includes installing of a bench.

To note

- iii. [20/00594/TPO](#) The Gateway, The Hill, Langport TA10 9QL
Application to carry out tree work

TC2019/138 To receive written or oral reports from meetings and training attended by councillors on behalf of the Council

- Cllr Macnab gave an oral report on the Flood Wardens Meeting which was well attended. The setup of local contacts and how they would be linked to agencies involved was discussed.
- Cllr Dromgoole had attended Planning training which she reported was useful but the number of planning consultations Langport Town council receives is small.

- An oral report was received from Cllr Tate on the Carbon Neutral Working Group. At the most recent meeting 2 speakers had been invited and had provide information about what a carbon audit is and how it can be achieved. He was pleased to report representatives from other parishes in the district and Cara Naden, SCC representative had attended the meeting.
- Cllr Dunn gave an oral report on Adapting the Levels meeting.

TC2019/139 The Langport River Project – to receive an update on the Langport River Project and Slipway.

It is expected that the Summer pen will be implemented at the end of March.

Wardle Marine to be asked what date they expect to return the pontoons and carry out repairs to the fixing posts.

The design for the walkway has been submitted to the EA and will need to be agreed by their Asset Performance team. Tenders can then be sought from contractors.

Application for the Leader Huish Bridge Enhancement Project is with the assessors. Somerset County Council Highways are to provide and erect the signs from their funding.

The Interpretations boards are being manufactured.

The Rural Development Programme for England have been approached to move the date of the final claim to enable the completion of the walkway.

The Slipway contractor has been asked to quote for using a coffer dam to complete works on the Slipway and the additional cost is estimated at £4,500.

TC2019/140 Phone box/defibrillator – to discuss relocation of phone box to Langport Town centre and to install a defibrillator.

The Town Council Administrator has researched the costs of purchasing or loaning a defibrillator. Moving, connecting, refurbishing the phone box.

Suggested that Network rail is asked if they would relocate the phone box to the Parrett Parade.

A further update will be given at next meeting.

TC2019/141 Finance – Bank Account Balances – to note the balances of the Council's bank accounts as of 31/01/2020.

RESOLVED – to note

TC2019/142 Finance - Accounts for Payment and Income - to note items of expenditure and income for January.

RESOLVED – to note

TC2019/143 Chairman's Report – items of information.

The LIC will be taking delivery of the new leaflets to promote Langport, tomorrow.

VE/Somerset Day events have been postponed.

The Chair and Town Clerk met with David Warburton, Somerton and Frome MP. Matters discussed with him were the lack of progress with the EA over the Walkway and how the Council Precept for Langport and the amenities the Council is responsible for, compares with other Town and Parish Councils and how it effects the effectiveness of the Council.

HEPC have expressed an interest in holding joint meetings with Langport Town Council.

The visit from the IWA Forestry team has been postponed.

The trees received from the Great Tree Giveaway have been shared and planted.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT