



## LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL – Council Minutes

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Langport Town Council held virtually on Tuesday 21 July 2020 at 7.00pm**

**Present (remote):** Councillors:

V Saunders

A Donald

B Buchy-Dury

N French

I Macnab

S Tate

J Dromgoole

C Dunn

S Glas

H Sheerman

**In Remote Attendance:**

Deborah Speed, Town Clerk. 3 members of the public were present and no members of the press.

**TC2020/30 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))**

No apologies were received from Councillors

**TC2020/31 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)

There were no Declarations of interest

**TC2020/32 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16 June 2020 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16 June be signed as a correct record.

**TC2020/33 Town Clerk's Oral Report** – including use of delegated powers and update on progress since the last meeting

The Community Champion at Tesco's has been in contact about arranging a Community Thank you. Please let the Town Clerk have any suggestions of how the Town Council can be involved.

The Fair had to be cancelled in May, Edward Stokes is looking to rearrange the Fair on Cocklemoor in September, under government guidance and advice from the Showmen's Guild.

A local trader has asked for extra signs to be erected at the entrance to the Parrett Parade to advertise businesses in Cheapside and Bow Street. The existing signs had been erected to advertise independent businesses with irregular opening hours. The signs are within a conservation area so an application for

advertising signs might be needed. Other businesses at Westover should also be included. The Tourism and Marketing Committee will consider this with the current Advertising Policy at their next meeting.

Requests have been received for information about the Trim Trail and Pontoons from visitors who would like similar items installed where they live.

Town Clerk had attended a virtual meeting with the SSDC Chief Executive. Items discussed were staff losses from Planning Department, loss of income and rise in residents applying for Council Tax benefit, the District Councils response to forming a Unitary Authority in Somerset and outline plan to support businesses and the Somerset economy.

There will not be a Town Council Meeting in August, the next meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**TC 2020/34 Covid-19** – to receive an update on current situation and discuss continuing emergency delegated powers.

Signs provided through SSDC reminding the public of social distancing have been erected throughout the Town.

**RESOLVED** to continue with the current delegated authority, homeworking and remote meetings.

**TC2020/35 Recommendations from Finance and Personnel** – to receive recommendations from the Finance and Personnel committee.

The Committee had

- accepted the Internal Audit report
- agreed to recommend the continued payment of homeworking allowance

**TC2020/36 Finance** - To approve the Annual Governance Statement (s.1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 19/20). ([Account & Audit Regulations 2015](#))

- To consider each of the assertions on the Annual Governance Statement  
Each of the assertions on the Annual Governance Statement were considered in turn

**RESOLVED** – to approve the Annual Governance Statement

- To consider the Accounting Statement

**RESOLVED** – to approve Accounting Statement

**TC2020/37 Langport Town Trust Car Park Entrance** – to receive an update about the valuation of the Car Park Entrance.

A quote for providing a valuation of the Car Park entrance had been received. It was felt that the Town Trust as the sellers should pay the valuation costs.

**TC2020/38 The Langport River Project** – to receive an update on the Langport River Project, Slipway and Huish Bridge Enhancement

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) had agreed the supplier variation for the Walkway to David Civil engineering. There will be a saving on the cost of installing a gridlock elite surface compared to a boardwalk. Quotes for various additional items are being sought before submitting a further variation to RDPE.

The FRAP for the walkway has been submitted to the EA.

The footpath from Huish Bridge to Cockle Moor will need to be closed while the Walkway is being constructed. A notice giving details of the closure has been sent to the Leveller. It will be a managed closure with alternative marked routes.

7.50pm Councillor Tate virtually joined the meeting

**TC2020/39 Somerset Highways** – to discuss highway matters

- i. New road markings on The Hill
  - Concerns were raised about where displaced vehicles would park.
  - Existing parking slows the traffic.
  - Vehicles are parked at owners' risk.
- ii. Bollards at Hanging Chapel

The installation of bollards was a solution to reduce traffic volume agreed between Somerset Highways and South West Heritage following extensive discussion. Once installed results will be monitored and if successful made permanent.

- iii. Speed watch

Speed watch had been successfully reducing the numbers of speeding traffic which during the Covid-19 lock down has reversed.

Speed Watch is looking to operate from new sites in Langport, particular Bow Street and North Street. Avon and Somerset Police need to authorise these sites.

**TC2020/40 Winter Lights** – to consider erecting Winter Lights at end of October, beginning November to encourage shoppers to visit Langport.

It was agreed to erect the Winter lights at the beginning of November and to be guided by Covid-19 restrictions at that time. Householders to be reassured that costs for the whole period of Winter lights would be less than £1 but to offer to make a payment to occupants to cover this. Concerned Residents asked to contact Town Council office.

**TC2020/41 Town Council Year 2020/21 Year to Date Budget** – to review and note the budget information for the year to date as at 30/06/2020 (Account & Audit Regulations 2015)

To note

**TC2020/42 Finance – Bank Account Balances** – to note the balances of the Council's bank accounts as of 30/06/2020

To note

**TC2020/43 Finance - Accounts for Payment and Income** - to note items of expenditure and income for June.

To note

**TC2020/44 Chairman's Report** – items of information.

Research for moving the Phone box and installing a defibrillator is progressing. SSDC Planning have been consulted; the cost of moving and disconnecting power sought and Community Heartbeat consulted for advice.

Chair attended a SALC virtual meeting and a report would be written and circulated regarding Unitary Authority for Somerset.

Propose a social meeting, adhering to government guidance to discuss serious issues and preparing the Town Council for future actions, SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses opportunities and threats).

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

DRAFT