



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL – Council Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Langport Town Council held virtually on Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 7.00pm

Present (remote): Councillors

V Saunders

A Donald

C Dunn

H Sheerman

J Dromgoole

S Glas

S Tate

In Remote Attendance:

Deborah Speed, Town Clerk. District and County Councillor Clare Aparicio Paul and District Councillor Tiffany Osborne. 1 member of the public and 1 member of the press were present.

TC2020/45 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies were received from Cllrs French and MacNab

RESOLVED – to accept apologies and reasons given

TC2020/46 Declarations of Interest.

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

TC2020/47 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2020 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

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

TC2020/48 Town Clerk's Oral Report.

Including use of delegated powers and update on progress since the last meeting

Due to the Government's Covid-19 rule of only 6 people meeting, erecting the Winter Festival Lights would be difficult. It would be possible to arrange a timetable for groups of volunteers to work at different times so no more than 6 volunteers are erecting lights at any one time.

One of the reindeer has been repaired and repairs to the others is ongoing.

LABG are arranging late night business opening from mid-November throughout December.

Langport Library has reopened for browsing.

A mini-festival supported by Take Art arranged to take place on 20th September on Cocklemoor has been cancelled.

The fencing of the first section of the Langport and Huish Episcopi Cycleway has been completed. The pedestrian gateway to the Old Railway section has also been repaired,

The Town Clerk has attended a virtual Clerks discussion group organised by SALC.

Safer Somerset Partnership has launched a County Lines campaign.

Information from Somerset's District Councils on their proposals for Unitary authority for Somerset, called a Stronger Somerset has been received,

Town Clerk has completed a risk assessment for the return to work in the Office. It is not possible for both the clerk and administrator to work in the office together. The office will reopen on a Tuesday and Thursday from 10am - 4pm. Home working will continue at other times.

Cllr Stokes has not sent his apologies for Town Council meetings since March. As this is now 6 months the Town Clerk will contact SSDC to commence the process to replace him.

TC 2020/49 To receive written or oral reports from meetings and training attended by councillors on behalf of the Council

Cllr Saunders will send written reports to Councillors on an APB meeting and a SALC meeting on One Somerset

TC2020/50 Receive recommendations from the Tourism and Marketing committee.

To receive recommendations from the Tourism and Marketing committee.

- i. 4 tenders had been received to upgrade the website. The committee recommended that Somerset Web Services be asked to radically overhaul the website based on a Lighthouse layout and that the Councillors emails are changed to google mail.

RESOLVED – to accept recommendations

- ii. The committee recommended that LABG be asked to fund additional signs for shops and cafes on the pillars at the entrance to the Whatley car park and that the Digital Display board is not used for business advertising.

RESOLVED – to accept recommendation

TC2020/51 Market Towns Investment Group Capital Priority Projects application

To discuss projects to be included in our application for Capital Priority Projects.

An expression of Interest has to be made by 28th September 2020. All projects will need to be match funded.

Items to be included

- Contribution boxes. Sited at Huish Bridge, Public Conveniences
- Website upgrade
- Kiosk box – to move the kiosk to the Parade, refurbish it and install a defibrillator
- Signage showing do's and don'ts on and near the river
- Bus shelter

Solar lighting for the Car Park had not been included as quote received was for over £50,000.

HEPC to be asked if they had any projects they might wish to be included in the EOI

TC2020/52 Market

To discuss allowing

- Market trading to continue on a Saturday
- Christmas Chalet market stall to operate during December

RESOLVED – to continue Saturday Market Trading and to allow a Christmas Chalet market stall to operate during December.

TC2020/53 Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund

From 1st October town and parish councils can bid for between £5,000 and £75,000 for innovative projects that can make a real difference in reducing carbon emissions and can contribute to making Somerset resilient to the effects of Climate Change. To discuss

- making a bid. [Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund](#)

RESOLVED – to make a bid for Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund

- supporting Somerset Wildlife Fund with Somerset Climate Action Network to make a bid for £75,000 to support two new roles.

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would not be able to be part of this bid but wish Somerset Wildlife Fund our support.

TC2020/54 Planning for the future

To discuss making comments on the Government's consultations on proposals to reform the Planning system in England

Town Councillors to forward their comments to the Town Clerk by 27th September

TC2020/55 The Langport River Project

To receive an update on the Langport River Project, Slipway and Huish Bridge Enhancement

- **Walkway** The installation of the walkway has started at the Cocklemoor end. Councillors met with Brian Martin, consultant who was happy with how the walkway is been installed.
- **Huish Bridge Enhancement** The contractor has cleared the area and pollarded the willow trees. SSDC has agreed to fund 3 large round picnic tables for the amenity area. The installation of the highway signs has been delayed due to Covid
- **Slipway** There are negotiations between interested parties about the angle of the repaired slipway for ease of use by vehicles with trailers.

Councillors have been dealing with people ignoring the road and footpath closure signs. Councillors can only confirm that it will be of benefit to all once completed.

Town Clerk to arrange for Pontoons to be taken into storage for the winter.

Somerset Landscapes have been asked to erect safety rails to the fishing platforms.

TC2020/56 Town Council Year 2020/21 Year to Date Budget

To review and note the budget information for the year to date as at 31/08/2020 (Account & Audit Regulations 2015)

To note

TC2020/57 Finance – Bank Account Balances

To note the balances of the Council's bank accounts as of 31/08/2020

To note

TC2020/58 Finance - Accounts for Payment and Income

To note items of expenditure and income for July and August.

To note

TC2020/59 Funfair deposit

To agree return of deposit cheque to the Funfair Operator

RESOLVED – to return deposit cheque

TC2020/60 NJC Pay Award

To approve the new NJC pay scales, backdated to 1st April 2020.

RESOLVED – to accept the new NJC pay scales and pay arrears to staff

TC2020/61 Chairman's Report

Items of information.

Following successful SWOT meeting, propose another group meeting to be held in January to compare SWOT 2020 with Langport Area Forum 2002's vision for 2020.

Following incidents of large vehicles driving through the Hanging Chapel pressure to be put on Somerset Highways to reduce volume and size of traffic using the Hill and Hanging Chapel.

The Chair will prepare a report for a trading arm to continue the River Project under a separate commercial arm. Details to be presented at the October Town Council meeting.

Paperwork has been given to Greenslade, Taylor, Hunts valuer who will value the entrance to Whatley Car Park.

Research had been undertaken at the Heritage Centre for information about the Fishing Rights and Regalia held by the Trust.

Meeting closed at 9.06pm

End of Minutes

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