

MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at The Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Monday 7th November 2011 Commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor: Cllr P Myers
Deputy Mayor: Cllr Mrs L Dunford
Councillors: Cllr M Evans, Cllr B Lawrence, Cllr Miss J Lewis, Cllr P Moccock, Cllr S Plumley, Cllr Mrs L Robertson, Cllr R Robertson, Cllr J Slade, Cllr S Wellington

Also Present: Five Members of the Public and one Member of the Press

In Attendance: Michael Curry – Town Clerk
Mrs Carole Sims – Administrative Assistant

109. Fire Safety – Evacuation Procedure

The Officer present explained the fire evacuation procedure as detailed in the Agenda.

110. Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence as all Members were present.

111. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers advised Members that exploratory discussions had taken place with Welton Rovers Football Club for a possible lunch event for children and an evening function for adults to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee. The Mayor proposed that the item be included in the 5th December 2011 Council Agenda for discussion.

The Mayor wished his thanks to be noted in respect of Bath & North East Somerset Council's '*Public Path Creation Order*' confirming the creation of a public bridleway at Withies Lane, Midsomer Norton.

The Mayor expressed his concerns to secure the future of the two market traders who currently use West Clewes car park every Thursday. The Mayor requested that the item be included in the 5th December 2011 Council Agenda as their presence provides a local service. A possible development could be the Town Council running a 'Thursday Market'.

112. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs L Dunford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 116 and 117 as Treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust and a personal interest in Agenda Items 118, 119 and 120 as Treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust.

Councillor P Myers declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 116 and 117 as Secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust and a personal interest in Agenda Items 118, 119, 120 as Secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust and in Agenda Item 125 through his involvement with the Twinning Association.

Councillor S Plumley declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 125 as Vice President of the Norton Radstock Twinning Association.

113. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To agree any items to be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) has been excluded under Standing Order 28.1.

Resolved: That Agenda item 130 be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

114. Minutes of Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting – Monday 3rd October 2011

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Midsomer Norton Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2011 be signed and adopted as a correct record.

115 Standing Committees

The Minutes of the Council's Standing Committee had been circulated in the Agenda:

a) Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 17th October 2011.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 17th October 2011 be noted.

Councillor P Myers and Councillor Mrs L Dunford withdrew from the meeting at 7.22pm.

Councillor S Plumley took the Chair.

116. Accounts for Payment

Members were asked to review and approve a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

Resolved: That the Schedule of Accounts for Payment is approved and cheque signatories would be Councillors S Plumley and R Robertson.

Councillor P Myers and Councillor Mrs L Dunford rejoined the meeting at 7.26pm.

Councillor P Myers resumed the Chair.

117. Town Hall Sound System

Members received an assessment of a proposal from Primo for a Town Hall Sound System to be jointly purchased by the Council and the Sarah-Ann Trust at a total cost of £2190.00 plus VAT.

Councillor P Myers, having given the Council an outline of the intended joint purchase with the Sarah Ann Trust for the Town Hall Sound System withdrew from the meeting at 7.33pm

Councillor Mrs L Dunford withdrew from the meeting at 7.33pm

Councillor S Plumley took the Chair.

- Resolved:**
- a) That Councillors P Moccock (work commitments permitting) and J Slade represent the Council to observe the system in use;
 - b) That if Councillors P Moccock and J Slade recommend that the system be suitable, the Council purchase the equipment and invoice the Sarah Ann Trust accordingly.

Councillor P Myers and Councillor Mrs L Dunford rejoined the meeting at 7.38pm.

Councillor P Myers resumed the Chair.

118. Midsomer Norton Town Council – Christmas Social

Members considered a report and plan from the Office in respect of the Christmas Social.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Christmas Social for Senior Citizens of Midsomer Norton be agreed;
 - b) That the Christmas Social takes place on Wednesday 14th December 2011;
 - c) That the budget be agreed;
 - d) That the plan be agreed and the Office co-ordinate the event.

CLlr M Evans congratulated Carole Sims for compiling the plan at such short notice.

119. Christmas Lights Switch-on

Members considered a proposal 'To host a civic reception on Friday 2nd December in the Town Hall for representatives of registered local community organisations prior to the Christmas Lights switch-on ceremony'.

- Resolved:**
- a) That a budget of £150.00 for the event be agreed;
 - b) That the Town Clerk on behalf of the Council invites representatives from Community organisations.

120. Community Assets

Members were asked to consider the following proposals in preparation for the possible transfer of community assets from Bath & North East Somerset Council:

- a) The Town Council commissions a consultancy project from Charity Skills on the legal constitution of the entity to manage any properties so transferred for a cost of £800 plus VAT;
- b) The Town Council commissions the Percy Centre, Bath to research the current operation of the community assets and prepare an assessment of the future potential, supported by a business plan with a budget of £1400.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Council commission the Charity Skills Centre to advise on the legal framework suited to what the Council wish to achieve on the managing of any such properties transferred to the Council at a cost of £800.00 plus VAT;
 - b) That the Council commission the Percy Centre to research the current operation of community assets and prepare an assessment to demonstrate the future potential of properties/assets which may be passed to the Council, and to be supported by a business plan at a cost of £1400.00;
 - c) That the Town Clerks 'Community Assets Briefing' be used as guidance and that the Council continue dialogue with Bath & North East Somerset Council.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.56pm to allow Dave Dixon, Stronger Communities Manager, Bath & North East Somerset Council to address the Council in connection with this matter.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.58pm.

- Resolved:** To thank Bath & North East Somerset Council for their continuing support to reach a sustainable solution

121. **Bath & North East Somerset Council Response to the discussions on Economic Development**

Members were asked to consider the response from Bath & North East Somerset Council to the Council's proposals on developing an economic development strategy.

- Resolved:** That the three proposals within the letter received from Councillor Cherry Beath, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, Bath & North East Somerset Council be noted.

122. **Radstock Road Allotments – Rent Increase/Tenancy Agreement**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk in respect of the Radstock Road Allotments rent increase and revised Allotment Holders Tenancy Agreement. The report reflected the feedback given at the Allotment Holders meeting.

- Resolved:**
- a) That each Allotment Tenant be charged on a £0.30 per square metre basis per annum capped to a maximum of £25.00 per plot (subject to a review in eighteen months time);

- b) That the new rental year run from 1st October to 30th September to match the growing season;
- c) That an invoice for 6 months rent be issued in April 2012 to bring the new rental year into effect;
- d) That the new Tenancy Agreement be agreed;
- e) That new Tenancy Agreements be issued to all Allotment Tenants.

123. Pedestrian only Red Zones

Members were asked to give consideration to the idea of zones free of cyclists and skateboarders which had been discussed at a PACT meeting. The Council noted the clarification with regard to the nature of the scheme given by Mr Terry Taylor during the public session preceding the meeting.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Operations Working Party investigate the options available and consult with residents;
 - b) That proposals be brought back to a future meeting of the Council for discussion.

124. Community Alcohol Partnership

Councillor M Evans updated Members on the encouraging progress of the establishment of a Community Alcohol Partnership. The formation of a Community Alcohol Partnership being seen as an appropriate first step before looking at a Designated Public Place.

- Resolved:** That the progress of the Community Alcohol Partnership be noted.

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers on behalf of the Council thanked Councillor M Evans for his contribution.

125. Twinning

- a) Members received a progress report on formalizing a Civic Twinning Agreement following a letter from Councillor P Myers to the Mayor of Ambares et Lagrave.
- b) Members were asked to consider a motion that: 'The Council requests Bath & North & East Somerset Council delegation visiting China in November take with them a letter of friendship from this Council seeking a twinning partner in the Chinese province to be visited which matches socially and economically with Midsomer Norton'.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Town Council progress a possible civic agreement independently;
 - b) That the Town Clerk draft a letter of 'friendship' from the Town Council and request that the Bath & North East Somerset Council delegation visiting China in November pass to the

Chinese expressing the Council's interest in pursuing a twinning partnership with them.

126. The Recommendation for Midsomer Norton in the Parliamentary Boundaries Commission's 2013 Review

Members were asked to consider the Council's position following the recommendation for Midsomer Norton in the Parliamentary Boundaries Commission's 2013 Review:

"The remaining Bath and North East Somerset wards, specifically the towns of Midsomer Norton and Paulton and the surrounding area, are combined with the towns from the Somerset District of Mendip, specifically Frome and Shepton Mallet, both of which are connected to the communities in the north of the constituency by established communication links. We propose that the resulting constituency is named North East Somerset"

Resolved: That the Mayor, Councillor P Myers convey at the Review's Consultation Event being held on Tuesday 8th November 2011 the Town Council's preference of being linked with Wells as opposed to Frome.

Councillor S Wellington left the meeting at 8.48pm.

127. Midsomer Norton Life

Members were asked to approve the following before publication of the first edition of Midsomer Norton Life:

- a) The content
- b) The method of distribution

Councillor Mrs L Dunford thanked Councillor P Myers for the amount of work he had put into the creation of the first issue of the Midsomer Life Newsletter.

Resolved: a) That subject to comments received and the approval of artwork that the Newsletter be printed;

The Mayor, Councillor P Myers on behalf of the Council thanked Monica Evans for proofing the Newsletter.

- b) That Midsomer Norton Football Club Under 11's be asked to distribute the Newsletter in exchange for a £450.00 Grant which would enable them to purchase their new kit;
- c) That more volunteers be recruited to distribute future copies of the Newsletter;
- d) That discussions relating to the Town Councils corporate logo be deferred to the next meeting of the Council on Monday 5th December 2011.

128. Provision of a Remembrance Day Wreath

Members were asked to approve the following motion in respect of the purchase of a Remembrance Day Wreath:

‘That the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: the purchase of a Remembrance Day Wreath’.

Resolved: That the Town Council purchase a Remembrance Day Wreath.

129. Personnel Working Party

Members were asked to approve the reconvening of the Selection Panel originally put together for the recruitment of the Town Clerk (Cllr P Myers, Cllr Mrs L Dunford, Cllr S Wellington, Cllr R Robertson and Cllr M Evans) in order to create a Personnel Working Party.

Resolved: That the Personnel Working Party consist of:

- Councillor P Myers (Mayor)
- Councillor Mrs L Dunford (Deputy Mayor)
- Councillor M Evans
- Councillor R Robertson
- Councillor S Wellington

130. Resolved – that in view of the confidential nature of the business transacted, the press and public were excluded during consideration of this item – Commercial in Confidence.

Resolved: That the draft tender documents be passed to Ellis Whittam (Employment Law & HR Support) for scrutiny prior to issue.

Meeting finished at 9 55pm

A signed copy of the minutes can be viewed at the Town Council Offices

Signed:

Dated: