



**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Holsworthy Town Council held by Zoom on.
Wednesday 9th December at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllr. Parker, Cllr. Briggs, Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Shepherd, Cllr. Hutchings, Cllr. Musker, & Cllr. Stanton

In attendance: TC, ATTC
DCC Cllr. Barry Parsons, TDC Cllr. Pete Watson, Mr. Tom O'Sullivan & Mr. Nigel Kenneally

4517. To elect a new Mayor for the remainder of the year 2020/2021

Cllr. Allen proposed that Cllr. Helen Parker be elected as Mayor for the remainder of the year 2020/2021. This was seconded by Cllr. Hutchings and agreed. (Vote 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

4518. The Mayor will read and sign the prescribed 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr. Parker will attend the office to sign the prescribed Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4519. Apologises for absence.

Cllr. Johns, Cllr. Tallon, Cllr. Thomas, PCSO Mark James Holsworthy Police, TDC Cllr David Jones & Holsworthy Post.

4520. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Parker asked Councillors to declare any relevant interests as they arose. As the meeting is being held by Zoom the ATTC will mark the DOI Book and Cllrs will need to attend the office to sign.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

4521. Public Open Question Time – To receive questions from the Public.

No Comments were raised.

4522. Police Report (Appendix A) The Police report had been forwarded to all Cllrs. on 07.12.2020
No comments were raised.

4523. County Councillors' Report (Appendix B)

Cllr. Parsons expressed his sadness that Cllr. Jo Heaven has resigned and thanked her for all her work on the Council.

Cllr. Parsons informed the meeting that he will be regrettably standing down as a County Councillor at the next election in May 2021 and will not be standing again.

4524. District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Jones had sent his apologies to the meeting.

Cllr. Hutchings thanked Cllr. Parsons for all his work for Holsworthy and stated that it will be a great loss to the Town when he leaves.

Cllr. Parker requested an update on the current situation with the Holsworthy Sports Hall and the Operator 1610? Cllr. Hutchings confirmed that all staff at Holsworthy 1610 have now been placed back on furlough.

The play equipment at Glebelands has been removed by Westward Housing and both the Town and District Councils have received complaints about this.

Cllr. Hutchings urged residents of the area to contact Westward housing who own the area to inform them of their views and whether they wished for the play equipment to be replaced.

The Chairman returned to Standing Orders.

4525. Council Meeting Minutes - To approve and sign the Minutes of the Full Council held on the 11th November 2020.

Cllr. Shepherd proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th November 2020 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Musker and agreed. (Vote 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

4526. Matters Arising.

No comments were raised.

4527. Mayor's Announcements – To receive a report from the Mayor.

Cllr. Parker thanked all members for electing her as Mayor.

The Mayor thanked Cllr. Heaven for all her work whilst she was Mayor of Holsworthy. It had been a difficult time for her on a personal level as well as all the other issues that had occurred whilst holding this post.

The Mayor reminded the meeting that bullying is not acceptable at any level this includes bullying via social media and asked all members that if they are ever subject to such abuse this should be reported to the TC as well as the Police.

Due to the current pandemic, not many events have been happening. Holsworthy Army Cadets will be having a Zoom presentation evening which Cllr. Parker will be attending.

Cllr. Parker thanked everyone involved with the Christmas Lights.

4528. Accounts Due for Payment and Budget Review

The Tree Carving in Stanhope Park has now been completed and paid for. The Council has received a lot of positive feedback.

Cllr. Parker proposed that the accounts for payment be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Briggs and agreed. (Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

It was pointed out that the Market is still running at a loss and it was also closed for many weeks during the Covid 19 lockdown.

4529. To note the decisions made under delegation (previously circulated).

The TC went through the decisions made under delegation. It was confirmed that a £100 grant had been given to Holsworthy Mutual Aid Group for the Carols Around The Tree on Christmas Eve. The ongoing expenditure on the repairs to Penrose Terrace had been agreed with the Mayor and Cllr. Allen as the Chair of the F&GP Committee.

4530. To give an update and authorise additional expenditure on the Council's property at Penroses Terrace.

The TC went through the additional works which are required at Penroses Terrace. After discussion it was agreed that further works be done to repair the pointing and slates, the Boiler House repairs and the improvements to the rainwater fittings including the new drain connection.

Cllr. Allen proposed that up to £3550 be spent on the further works required to Penrose Terrace. This was seconded by Cllr. Musker and agreed. (Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

4531 To discuss the draft Budget for 2021/22 (previously circulated).

After a discussion on the items in the draft budget, the TC confirmed that the budget for the

financial year 2021/22 will be finalised at the Council Meeting in January 2021 when the Precept will also be set. The information on the Council Tax Base for Holsworthy on which the Precept is calculated should be received from the District Council next week, it will then be forwarded to all Cllrs.

4532. To discuss possible projects the Council may wish to undertake for the financial year 2021/2022 (previously circulated).

The TC confirmed that current draft projects for the Council (and the Lead Councillor for the project) for 2021/2022 are as follows:

Skateboard Park including Youth Shelter

Holsworthy Hospital

Cllr. Hutchings

Halloween Happening

Cllr. Tallon

Recycling Initiatives

Cllr. Johns

Disabled access to Badock Gardens, lighting & CCTV

Cycle Friendly initiatives

Community Garden

Defibrillators replacement

Marketing

Cllr. Thomas

Cllr. Allen stated that it was important that the council also completed the projects previously agreed. Cllr. Hutchings stated that Cllrs should take more of an active role with the projects for the Town to monitor and ensure that they are completed.

4433. To give an update on the Christmas Events.

The Christmas Market is to be held on Saturday 19th December from Midday – 5pm. Also, on Christmas Eve, there will be Carols around The Tree in The Square. Cllr. Hutchings mentioned that the Mutual Aid Group will be doing a New Year's Hamper for a deserving person.

4534. To receive External Committee Updates (relevant reports have already been circulated to Cllrs.) – Holsworthy Town Councillors appointed as representatives to outside bodies to report on any recent news.

Cllr. Hutchings stated that he will be asking a representative of the CCG to speak to the Town Councillor nominated Group to update them on the current work of the CCG and what has yet to be actioned.

4535. To Receive Correspondence. – To receive any relevant correspondence received and make decisions on any actions to be taken on matters arising from these.

The following 2 items of correspondence have been received these will be discussed further in the next Parks meeting:

HCC have requested a grant towards the Artificial Cricket Wicket

HASP have suggested a Stanhope Park Sports Hub Development Plan

4536. Town Clerk's report - To receive a report from the Town Clerk for information only.

The TC thanked the ATTC and the Council for the cards, flowers and support given to her on the death of her mother.

The Office hours over the Christmas period will be as follows:

Closed from Noon Christmas Eve

TC to work from home, ATTC to be in the office.

Reopen 4th January 2021.

Between this period the ATTC and Maintenance Operative will come into the office and ensure that all general upkeep of the town is being done.

The next Council meeting will be held on 13th January 2021.

If any Cllrs are available could they come into the office to countersign the finance sheets.

Cllr. Musker volunteered.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

4537. Exchange of information

Mr. Tom O’Sullivan was granted permission to speak by the Mayor and expressed his gratitude to Cllr. Parsons for all his valuable work in his many years as County Councillor.

The Chairman returned to Standing Orders.

Cllr. Shepherd mentioned that the telephone box has been vandalised and asked if the Council can arrange for its repair. It was explained that the Box is owned by BT and not the Council. Cllr. Shepherd agreed to obtain photos of the damage which can then be passed onto the relevant people.

Cllr. Shepherd congratulated Cllr. Parker on her election as Mayor of Holsworthy, and also thanked Jo Heaven when she was Mayor for all her hard work.

4538. To give an update on the Christmas Lights installation.

The Mayor read the following statement:

In October 2020, the Town Council voted to hire new Christmas lights from a specialised Lighting Supplier over a three-year period. Also, an installation company was appointed to install the lights and infrastructure required to support and power the new lights.

It would appear that the original plan for the layout of the lights was changed at the last minute. The infrastructure was installed (wires and electrics) and last week the Installation company started to erect the display. Whilst installing part of the display fell off of the GSD shop in the square. The installation company at the request of their insurance company removed everything that had been erected at that point.

Currently the problem is being dealt with by insurers of the building owner and the installation company. Discussions with the light suppliers have been ongoing to try and reduce the overall costs of new lights as some unfortunately were not able to be used this year.

However, with the assistance of volunteers and a few councillors a limited display of lights has been erected in the town and our thanks goes to all those who have helped in some way at short notice.

Options to be considered to go forward with the Christmas lights:

1. Carry on with the existing three-year Contract with the Lighting Supplier
2. Enter a revised contract for a reduced sum with the Lighting Supplier with the Council returning some of the lights that currently cannot be used.
3. Purchase the reduced number of lights outright saving money on the 3-year hire costs.

Cllr. Parker proposed that in view of the special or confidential nature of the following business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press temporarily be excluded and they will be instructed to withdraw. This was seconded by Cllr. Briggs and agreed (Vote 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Absentations).

There followed a discussion on the different options and the financial and legal implications of each option.

Cllr. Hutchings proposed that that the previous contract entered into with the Christmas Lights Supplier, be altered to purchase a reduced number of lights outright in 2020 rather than hire the lights previously agreed over a three-year period. This was seconded by Cllr. Parker and agreed. (Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

4539. Close

Cllr. Parker closed the meeting at 8.18pm

Signature..... Date.....