



**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Holsworthy Town Council held by Zoom on.
Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.00pm.**

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

In attendance: TC, ATTC

Cllr. Hackett, Mr. Tom O’Sullivan, Mr. Nigel Kenneally, Holsworthy Post, North Devon Journal and DCC Cllr. Barry Parsons

4582. Apologises for absence.

Cllr. Johns, & PCSO Mark James Holsworthy Police.

4583. 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.

4584. Public Open Question Time – To receive questions from the Public.

No questions were raised.

4585. Police Report (Appendix A) The Police report had been forwarded to all Cllrs. on 3rd March.

No questions were raised.

4586. County Councillors’ Report

Cllr. Parsons informed members that this is the last Council meeting that he will be attending as he will not be standing for re-election in May. He thanked the Council, Town Clerk and the ATTC for all their hard work and support over the years. Cllr. Parsons also thanked the Mayor Cllr. Parker for her contribution to the Council.

The Mayor thanked Cllr. Parsons and stated that he will be very much missed in Holsworthy.

4587. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr. Jones stated that there will be an increase in Council Tax next financial year, Cllrs voted on this to be able to maintain the current level of services. “Hardship Funds” are available from TDC for those suffering from reduced incomes.

TDC have increased the Parking Charges for all Car Parks, Cllr. Jones stated that he did not agree with this rise as each town have different catchments. He is encouraging TDC to ensure that 1610 gets the Sports Hall and Swimming Pool back open and running asap.

Cllr Jones has allocated some his TDC Cllr Grant funds towards the Holsworthy to Bude Cycle path Feasibility Study as he felt this was a priority for Holsworthy and the surrounding areas.

Cllr. Hutchings added that at the next Council meeting he should have further information to report to the Council on 1610 and the reopening of the Holsworthy Leisure Centre. He will also be supporting the Holsworthy to Bude Cycle path Feasibility Study with some of his Cllr. Grant fund money.

He has reported the tree causing concern in Holsworthy Manor Car Park and is awaiting an update.

The Chairman returned to Standing Orders.

4588. Council Meeting Minutes - To approve and sign the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 3rd February 2021.

4595. To give an update on the current position regarding the improvements to the public realm in the Square and the renewal of the streetlights and agreed any financial contribution to be made towards the cost.

Further information and costings are needed before a decision can be taken as DCC still need to confirm the weight loading capacity of the proposed new streetlights and the cost. The TC informed members that further discussions and meetings are to take place.

Cllr. Allen stated that Cllr. Hutchings had put together a good plan of the lights that would need replacing. Cllr. Musker requested clarification where the new streetlights would be situated. The TC confirmed that the streetlights in the Square are the ones to be replaced with a view to then continue with those in Victoria Square and Fore Street.

It was agreed that a Streetlights and Public Realm Working Group should be set up to include Cllrs Parker, Allen, Hutchings and Musker.

Cllr Hutchings stated that it would be good to have the new streetlights in place for April when the Covid restrictions are lifted so that the Square looks inviting. The TC stated that she will chase up DCC and will bring back to Council the required information as soon as possible.

4596. To consider a request from Connect Bude.

After a discussion it was agreed the TC should contact Connect Bude in relation to costings and any updated information and maps that they have, and that a report should be given to a future Council meeting.

7.40pm a representative from the North Devon Journal joined the meeting.

4597. To consider ideas for the future Marketing of the town.

The Councillor that had previously led on this project had now resigned from the Council. The project had been at an early stage with discussions being held with Waitrose regarding possible joint marketing initiatives to promote the town. After discussion, it was agreed that the TC temporarily take the lead on this project until after the May elections when there would be more councillors. The TC to contact Waitrose and revisit any plans or ideas that they may have.

Cllr. Allen proposed that the Town Clerk temporarily take the lead of any proposed project for the future marketing of the Town. This was seconded by Cllr. Briggs and agreed. (Vote; 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

4598. To consider the recommendations made in the Holsworthy Community Involvement Group Healthier and Happier Holsworthy.

After a discussion it was agreed that the TC will wait further correspondence from Geoff Cusick on the best way forward which may include a Website Page and or leaflet drops etc.

4599. To consider the procedure for the co-option of the two Town Councillor vacancies not subject to a By Election and also whether Poll cards should be sent to electors for the Holsworthy Town Council By-election for two Councillors scheduled for 6 May.

The cost implication of the sending of Poll Cards for the Town Council By-Election was explained. The TC confirmed that Poll Cards are not essential, however the Council would need to inform TDC by Friday 05.03.2021.

Also discussed was whether the Council Meeting in April should be moved to 14.04.2021; this date is after the closure of persons nominated for the election so that the Council would be aware of any persons interested in becoming a Town Councillor.

Cllr. Hutchings proposed that the next Council Meeting should be held on the 14th April 2021, also that no Poll Cards be issued for the Town Council By Election. This was seconded by Cllr. Allen and agreed. (Vote; 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

4600. To Receive an Update from the TC, on the Earmarked Reserves of the Council and to recommend the current projects to be brought forward into the Earmarked Reserves for the financial year 2021/22.

The TC went through the existing Earmarked Reserves and also the projects proposed for 2020/2021. Because some of the 2020/21 projects were not carried out because of the Covid Restrictions and because the Councillors that were the lead for the some of the projects have now resigned these projects will be discussed at the Council Meeting in April to see if they to be continued.

All Cllrs agreed.

4601. To receive External Committee Updates (relevant reports have already been circulated to Cllrs.)

None received.

4602. To Receive Correspondence

The TC stated that she has received two items of correspondence as follows:

Hatherleigh Town Council emailed stated that the regarding the planned reintroduction of the Okehampton to Exeter Rail Service, they have written to Stagecoach Bus Company to ask if they would consider making changes to the route and timetable of the 5A bus service. The TC was instructed to write to Stagecoach to also give the Council's support.

A letter had been received by a concerned member of public in relation to two figures which have appeared on the pavement in Victoria Square. The member of public, stressed that he and his family amongst others are not happy with this and feel during the current climate that these figures should not be placed where they are. It was agreed that the shop owners be contacted and informed of the concerns.

4603. Town Clerk's report –

The next Market Committee is to be held on 17th March with a view to opening the Market on 12.04.2021. Further updates on the opening are awaited from NMTA and the Government.

The TC asked if a Cllr who was a nominated bank signatory could attend the office to sign off the Finance sheets. Cllr. Musker agreed to attend.

4604. Exchange of information.

Cllr. Hutchings mentioned that Insp Kenneally has retired from Devon and Cornwall Police and that he played a vital role in solving various issues over the years in Holsworthy. He requested that a retirement card be sent to him on behalf of the Town Council to thank him for his many years' service to the Town and the wider area. Cllr. Allen was also in agreement. The TC confirmed that a card will be sent to him.

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. Hutchings and agreed (Vote 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Absentations).

Mr. Kenneally, Mr. Tom O' Sullivan, Cllr. Hackett, Cllr. Parsons and the representatives from the Holsworthy Post and North Devon Journal left the meeting at 8.10pm

4605 To discuss and approve ideas to recognise DCC Barry Parsons services to the Town and surrounding Parishes.

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons will not be standing for re-election at the May County Councillor Elections. Cllr. Parsons has given many years of valuable service and support to the Town and to the wider rural area and it was felt that this should be recognised in some way. Some of the other rural Parishes in Cllr. Parson's area has also asked if the Town Council would lead on any collection for a present for him.

After a discussion it was agreed that the Council recognise Cllr. Parsons service with a present and will lead on any collection.
Members requested that the TC clarify amounts from the other parishes that have agreed to participate.

4606. Close

Cllr. Parker closed the Full Council Meeting at 8.13pm

Signature.....

Date.....