



TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
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MINUTES FROM THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM

This was a virtual meeting On Zoom

Attendance: Councillors T Faith, M Harrison (Chair), B Height (to Item 10.14), C Inchley, G Kennedy, M Lovell, A McGuire, G Mayall, T O'Connor, N Shearn, N Tolson (to Item 10.15)

Absent: Councillors S Hale, G Kayum

Present: C Starkie, Town Clerk, L Evans, RFO and T Jessop, Project Officer

Public: 6 members of the public, 1 representative from Somerset County Council, 3 representatives from Skansa, 1 representative from the Shepton Mallet Alms Houses

10.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Hale and Kayum.

10.2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lovell declared an interest in matters related to the Alms Houses (Item 10.10), as his wife is a trustee.

Councillor Height declared an interest in matters related to the Alms Houses (Item 10.10).

10.3 Chair's Announcement

It was proposed and agreed that Item 10.13 in matters on the agenda be moved in advance of Item 10.7.

10.4 Update from PC Stephen Reading

Councillors received a written report from the local police force and thanked them for the information.

10.5 Update from Somerset County Councillor John Parham

Councillors received a written report from Councillor Parham. Councillor Harrison thanked Councillor Parham for the update.

SIGNED: (CHAIRMAN) DATE:.....

10.6 Update from Mendip District Councillors, Cllr E Hobbs, Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Inchley

Councillors received a written report from 3 district councillors.

Councillor Kennedy gave a verbal update on the Local Plan hearings with the inspector, information about which can be found on the Mendip District Council website.

Councillor Inchley informed Councillors about the Stronger Somerset case which is going forward.

10.7 Town Centre resurfacing

Councillors received a written report from the Project Officer with recommendations.

There was discussion around the recommendations and costs.

Resolved that:

- 6.1 To proceed with the electrical works for the market hook up points at a cost of approx. £17.5k.
To delay the purchase and installation of street furniture.
- 6.2 To proceed with the upgrade of the power supply to the Market Place at an approx. cost of £6.5k.
- 6.3 Not to relocate the Shambles due to costs and risk to the structure.
- 6.4 To delay the reconnection of the Victorian water fountain.
- 6.5 Councillors accepted the colour choice of new surface as recommended by the working party.
- 6.6 To proceed with the installation of underground ducting to support additional lighting around the Market Place, providing it falls within the overall budget of £30k for additional works.
- 6.7 For a risk assessment to be carried out on the feasibility of offering the old slabs to the public and how and where they could be stored.
Somerset County Council will keep some at the depot for any future repairs.

10.8 To Consider and approve the minutes from the meetings held on 8th September, 6th October and 10th November 2020

The minutes from these meetings were accepted by the council as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Inchley requested for it to be noted that a member of the public who spoke at the Full Council meeting on 10th November 2020 does not live in the parish of Shepton Mallet but had been noted as a resident in Appendix A – Public Question Time.

Resolved that:

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th September, 6th October and 10th November were agreed and signed.

10.9 To note that the following draft minutes from the committee meetings have been circulated

Human Resources – 29th September 2020
Place-Making and Protection – 13th October 2020
Town Development & Planning – 27th October 2020
People and Promotion – 3rd November 2020
Collett Park Management – 20th October 2020
Policy and Resources – 17th November 2020

Resolved that:

Councillors noted that the above minutes had been circulated to councillors and placed in the public domain.

10.10 Updates from the Committee Chairs

Policy and Resources

Councillor Lovell, as Vice Chair, had nothing to report.

Place-Making & Protection

Councillor Inchley would like to prioritise items in the Town Plan, especially the Community Wood and Strawberry Line projects.

Town Development & Planning

Councillor Harrison thanked Councillor Lovell for his work on the responses to the White Paper Planning consultation.

Councillor Harrison informed Councillors of the proposed meeting to be held with Mendip District Council and Wessex Water in regard to recent flooding issues.

Councillor Harrison informed Councillors of the reduction of the number of houses on the CG Fry development from a proposed 600 to 569. All properties must come in line with phosphate neutral regulations.

Collett Park Management

Councillor Kennedy gave reference to future Collett Park events depending on the availability of a Covid-19 vaccine.

Councillor Kennedy suggested that the Council moves forward on the Feasibility Study for Collett Park.

Human Resources

Councillor Mayall, acting Chair, informed Councillors that he was in regular contact with the Town Clerk and Town Council staff.

People & Promotion

Councillor O'Connor updated Councillors on future items to be discussed at meetings which will include linking Arts & Tourism into the Mendip Strategic Tourism Group and the library.

Councillor O'Connor wishes to review arts organisations in the town for future partnership work and work on a heritage trail.

10.11 To consider the nominations of a councillor position of Trustee for Shepton Mallet Alms Houses

Mr Jeff Curtis, Chair of the Shepton Mallet Alms Houses Association, informed Councillors of the vacancies which currently exist on the board of Trustees and they would be very grateful of a representative from the Town Council. He informed Councillors that 2027 would be the 400th birthday of the Alms Houses in Shepton Mallet and they were hoping to expand.

Resolved that:

Councillor Kennedy be the Town Council representative for the Shepton Mallet Alms Houses Association.

10.12 To nominate councillors to vacant positions on the committees

Resolved that:

Councillor Shearn be the reserve Councillor on the Human Resources committee. There were no nominations for the other committee vacancies.

10.13 Update on the Neighbourhood plan

Somerset County Councillor John Parham gave a verbal update on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which had recently been re-formed. Planet (Evolving Together) are the consultants engaged to help with the plan and Richard Hudson has been engaged as transport consultant. More grants have been applied for and the target is for the Neighbourhood Plan to be completed in the summer of 2021, to go out to referendum in the autumn of 2021. Councillor Harrison thanked Councillor Parham for the update.

10.14 Branding

The Project Officer informed Councillors of development work that had been undertaken to develop the new brand. The new design will be available in 2021.

10.15 Annual Governance and Accounting Return

Councillors received a written report from the Responsible Financial Officer on the satisfactory completion of the external yearend financial governance process.

Resolved that:

The AGAR and certificate from the external auditor be noted.

10.16 Financial position

Councillors received a written report from the Responsible Financial Officer on the financial position of the budget at the end of Month 6.

Resolved that:

The report be noted.

10.17 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be rescheduled to be on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 21:05

APPENDIX A – Public Comments – 1st December 2020

Two members of the public and one Councillor spoke at the meeting:

1. A member of the public raised questions in relation to the following:
 - Recycling of slabs as a result of the resurfacing of the Market Place;
 - The rebranding of the Town Council;
 - The money set aside to support library services;
 - The summary of the financial position;
 - Expenditure on Councillor and staff training.
2. Another member of the public gave a presentation around the history and position of the Shambles in the Market Place.
3. A Councillor expressed a concern that the new committee structure, as agreed at the Full Council meeting on 6th October 2020, excludes him from committee membership. His concerns of being unfairly treated were noted.

DRAFT