

**AXBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AXBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017 IN THE TOWN HALL, THE SQUARE, AXBRIDGE**

Meeting commenced: 7.32 p.m.

Meeting concluded: 8.47p.m.

**Present:** Councillors Ham (Mayor), Wells (Deputy Mayor), Browne, Gall, Gould (from minute 133/17), Kendall, Page and Taylor

**Also in attendance:** Mrs V Brice, Town Clerk together with 14 members of the public (for part of meeting)

### **132/17 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED:** that apologies from Councillors Bridgeman (family commitment), Davies (personal commitment), Myerson (ill-health) and Walkling (work commitment) be received and approved.

### **133/17 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Members received the above minutes.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

**At this juncture, Councillor Gould joined the meeting.**

### **134/17 Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensations**

Councillor Browne – declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to planning application 02/16/00030 (relating to the erection of up to 80 dwellings on land to the South of Houlgate Way) living close to the site, and would leave the meeting should the application be considered (minute 137/17(b) refers).

Councillor Taylor – declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to planning application 02/16/00030 (relating to the erection of up to 80 dwellings on land to the South of Houlgate Way) living adjacent to the site, and would leave the meeting should the application be considered (minute 137/17(b) refers).

There were no applications for dispensations.

### **135/17 Public Participation**

Ms Humphries addressed the Council on the speed of traffic in High Street and West Street and submitted a petition to the Council, with supporting documentation, seeking support to secure traffic calming in these streets. This matter would be referred to the Highways Advisory Group, in the first instance.

### **136/17 Co-option**

Members considered the applications received from residents wishing to be co-opted on to the Town Council. The Clerk advised that one of the candidates had been unable to attend, due to ill-health. The Mayor welcomed the applications from each candidate but could only co-opt one new member at the present time.

In accordance with standing orders, a signed ballot was agreed, the candidates were duly proposed and seconded and were voted upon in accordance with recommended practice. The remaining two candidates would be invited to be part of the process again, should a further vacancy arise.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) that Mr Andrew Corp be co-opted on to Axbridge Town Council;
- 2) that Mr Corp be asked to sign his declaration of office before the end of this meeting (he was present and signed immediately)

3) that the signed ballot papers be destroyed and that the application documents held by members be returned to the Clerk to be destroyed – (the successful application to be retained by the Clerk)

**At this juncture, Councillor Corp having signed his declaration of office, joined the meeting.**

#### **137/17 Planning and Licenses Committee**

##### **a) Outline Planning Application 02/17/00022 Mendip View, Cheddar Road, Axbridge**

This application would be considered by Sedgemoor District Council at its meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017. It was recommended for approval (up to 20 houses with 35% being affordable). The Town Council had supported the application. Cheddar Parish Council had opposed the application. Members did not understand why the application was being taken to committee, given that the local Town Council and the planning officer were in agreement.

Should the Town Council wish to speak at the meeting, it must register its request to do so by 12 noon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**RESOLVED:** that, in the first instance, the Clerk register for Councillor Wells to speak in support of this application at Sedgemoor District Council's Development Committee meeting, seek clarification from Sedgemoor District Council as to why this application is going to Committee and contact the Clerk at Cheddar Parish Council to establish the current situation.

##### **b) Outline Planning Application 02/16/00030 - Land to the South of, Houlgate Way, Axbridge**

**At this juncture, Councillors Browne and Taylor, having declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following item, left the meeting**

This matter was under consideration by Sedgemoor District Council.

**RESOLVED:** that Hannick Homes and the planning officer be invited to meet with members (just prior to the January or February Council meetings) to talk about the application which has been subject to numerous updated reports and plans.

**At this juncture, Councillors Brown and Taylor re-joined the meeting**

##### **c) Sedgemoor District Council – Local Plan Examination**

The Council had made detailed written representations on the Local Plan. Councillor Wells would attend the hearing on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 as an observer.

#### **138/17 Administration and Finance**

##### **a) Report of the Administration and Finance Advisory Group**

Members received the report of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The key items are set out below.

##### **b) Society of Local Council Clerks**

This membership was due for renewal and was felt to be of benefit to the Council. The cost would be £165 for the year.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council renew its membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks for 2018 at a cost of £165.

##### **c) Christmas Trees and Fireworks**

Axbridge Sports and Social Community Association had spent £2,034 on Christmas trees this year and sought a donation from the Town Council. There had been an increase in the number of small trees purchased, hence the increased cost. The budget for both a donation towards the Christmas trees and the fireworks for New Year's Eve was £1,750. Members wished to support the provision of the trees, which provided a lovely backdrop to the Christmas festivities but, in doing so, would be unable to provide further funds towards the fireworks on this occasion.

**RESOLVED:** that a donation of £2,034 be made to Axbridge Sports and Social Community Association to meet the cost of the Christmas trees and that, given the additional costs of the trees this year, the Council do not make a contribution to the fireworks on this occasion.

#### d) Financial Monthly Report

Members considered the report below, which included payments agreed during the meeting, and a couple of recent invoices. The invoice from Adams Memorials was for 6 foundation bases and 15 blank plaques (the additional five plaques would be retained for future use). A further revised water bill was on its way to reflect an accurate meter reading.

<b>DECEMBER</b>			
<b>Payments made since last meeting for ratification by Council</b>			
Ref.	To	For	Value
DC	Post Office	Postage	<b>15.60</b>
DC	Cheddar Valley Press	Stationary	<b>15.99</b>
<b>Payments for authorisation by Council - December</b>			
	Mrs V Brice	Reim. of Expenses	<b>26.85</b>
	Mrs P Ham	Reim. of Civic Expenses	<b>23.45</b>
	Somerset County Council Pension Fund	Pension deficit (Dec)	<b>70.00</b>
	Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance Ltd	Printing of Oyez (Nov) *	<b>55.80</b>
	Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance Ltd	Civic Award nomination papers	<b>61.20</b>
	Mr A Laken	Town Maintenance Contractor - Nov	<b>157.50</b>
	Rapide System Supplies	Black Toner	<b>65.94</b>
	Mr G Bailey	Hedgetrimming at Cemetery & Allotments	<b>180.00</b>
	Sedgemoor District Council	Reim. of advert fees - Chestnut Ave Land	<b>291.60</b>
	water2business	Changing Rooms - 11/3/17 - 28/09/17*	<b>246.37</b>
	LexisNexis	Local Council Administration book*	<b>75.00</b>
	Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership renewal	<b>165.00</b>
	Adams Memorials	Foundation bases and blank plaques	<b>465.00</b>
	Ax. Sports and Social Community Assoc.	Donation - Christmas Trees	<b>2034.00</b>
	Som. Association of Local Councils	New councillor training* (previously agreed)	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Direct Debits &amp; Standing Orders to be</b>		<b>paid next calendar month (Dec/Jan)</b>	
DD	Vodafone	Council telephone	<b>12.39</b>
DD	Plusnet	Broadband etc for office	<b>24.60</b>
DD	Southern Electric	Changing Rooms	<b>31.00</b>
DD	Southern Electric	Elec. - street lights at Town Car Park (Nov)	<b>5.15</b>
DD	Eon	Elec. - street lights at Moorland Street (Dec)	<b>4.42</b>
DD	Sedgemoor District Council	Business rates (public conveniences)	<b>79.00</b>
DD	Sedgemoor District Council	Business rates (Town Car Park)	<b>136.00</b>
DD	Sedgemoor District Council	Business rates (Moorland Street Car Park)	<b>140.00</b>
DD	Sedgemoor District Council	Business rates (Office)	<b>86.00</b>
	TOTAL to be authorised		<b>4,461.27</b>
	* on receipt of invoice/product		

**RESOLVED:** that the expenditure detailed above be approved

#### 139/17 Leisure and Recreation Advisory Group

##### a) Play Area and Furlong Safety Check Log and Public Convenience Log

The Play Area and Furlong Safety Check logs and Public Convenience logs for November were circulated at the meeting. Various issues were ongoing and being addressed, including quotes for the public convenience repairs, safety surfacing, chicken springy toy, the ground around the ball wall and grass cutting. The logs were being altered to enable the recording of more specific detail and to better assist in ongoing maintenance. It was also intended for the ladies and

gentleman toilets to both become unisex facilities, with the urinal and disabled toilet remaining as is.

**RESOLVED:** that the Play Area and Furlong Safety Check Log and the Public Convenience Log for the period commencing 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 until the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be approved and be signed by the Mayor.

**b) Public Conveniences - Repair**

Quotes for the repair were being obtained.

**c) Town Maintenance Contractor**

Members received the report of the Town Maintenance Contractor. He had worked 10.5 hours during November 2017. Approximately 4.25 hours has been spent clearing litter, trimming the hedge and gully clearance work in the car park (and some litter picking in the car park by the surgery), 3.25 hour removing litter, trimming the hedge on the furlong, 1 hour removing rubbish from Wood Lane, 1 hour tidying up Back Lane and 1 hour carrying out hedge trim at the cemetery. The work needed to the water pipe was being progressed. The Clerk was asked to contact Sedgemoor District Council regarding general maintenance of the car park by the Doctor's surgery and an abandoned vehicle.

**140/17 Personnel and Protocol Committee**

**a) Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**

Members received the draft minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017. The advert and supporting papers for the assistant to the clerk had been agreed, with the advert to be placed in January 2018.

**141/17 Axbridge Parochial Charities**

The Council had been asked to re-elect Mr John Chard as a trustee of the Parochial Charity for a further four year term and to elect Mrs Tara Bennett as a trustee, to fill the vacancy following the resignation of Dr Miles. Members expressed support for these appointments and would discuss in the Personnel and Protocol Committee the format of the Jack Todd Bequest/Parochial Charity body.

**RESOLVED:** that the Parochial Charities be advised that the Town Council are happy to re-elect Mr John Chard and to elect Mrs Tara Bennett for a four year period accordingly.

**142/17 Correspondence and Diary Dates**

Members noted the correspondence page and diary dates. Information on the parochial charities meeting dates would be raised at the January meeting, for inclusion in Oyez. Reference was made to the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Strategy for 2017-2012, Mendip Hills AONB Partnership vacancies and to an event on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 on future health service proposals being considered for Weston General Hospital. The Clerk would display the information on the notice board. The Town Trust had asked the council to consider removal or replacement of the old cycle rack covers which may be a trip hazard. This would be investigated. Residents had appreciated the new street names plates on the cul-de-sac in Old Church Road.

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Chairman

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Date