

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**  
**held on Monday 5 December 2011 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr Hazel Bowden, Cllr Anne Cleveland, Cllr Sally de Renzy-Martin (Chair), Cllr Ruth Gavenlock, Cllr Lin Hart, Cllr John Irven, Cllr Dave Westcott, Cllr Loretta Whetlor, Cllr Michael Whetlor

**In attendance:** Sarah Reed Town Clerk

- 11/086** **To formally resolve to suspend Standing Order 3 (c) - to allow this meeting to take place on the first Monday of the month due to the Christmas period**  
Cllr Westcott proposed to suspend Standing Order 3(c) "**meetings of the council normally to be held on the second Monday of the month**" to allow the meeting to take place on the first Monday of the month.
- 11/087** **To receive Apologies:** Cllr Peter Murphy, Cllr John Richards, Cllr Janet Tapp, District Cllr Tony Knight, County Councillor Anthony Trollope-Bellew
- 11/088** **To receive Declarations of Interest:** None at this point
- 11/089** **Town Council Minutes - to confirm and sign the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Monday 10 October 2011 and the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 14 November 2011 (LGA 1972, Sch 12 Para 41(1))**  
Cllr L Whetlor proposed the adoption of the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 10 November 2011 as a true and correct record without the inclusion of the excluded notes 11/14EX:

"With reference to the memo that the clerk circulated at the end of last week, with regard to the resolution taken in the closed session of the Extraordinary meeting held on 10 November 2011, I proposed that the minutes of this meeting are adopted without the inclusion of the excluded notes reference 11/14EX.

The reason why the excluded notes should not be approved is that there seems to be some confusion by some councillors with regard to the content of the resolution voted on in that meeting and until this can be clarified at the January full council meeting then the note and the resolution contained therein should not be adopted"

Seconded by Cllr Cleveland. Carried.

Cllr Westcott proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2011 are approved as a true and correct record with the following amendment:

**11/073 Fitzroy Barometer – to be repaired"**

Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

- 11/090** **Chairman's Report - verbal**  
Cllr de Renzy-Martin reported on the following:
- Opening of the new railway footbridge on 26 November 2011, was very well attended and a very well organised event
- 11/091** **Reports from Principle Authority Members and to receive questions from the floor:**  
**District Cllr Dave Westcott** reported on the following:
- Planning – 60 Doniford Road decision has gone to appeal
  - Council budget – looking to make savings of £150,000 in the next budget so a lot of work is being done on this
  - Goviers Lane crossing – next item on the agenda – it is going ahead and it is a good thing for Watchet

**Question from the floor:**

**Cllr Irven** asked for clarification if the plans dated 30 November 2011 were the resubmission of the East Quay plans from Urban Splash

**Cllr Westcott:** yes, but for planning permission only. Newly designed plans will be submitted in the future

11/092

**Reports from Representatives on Outside Organisations, verbal – no decisions:**

**Cllr L Whetlor** reported the following as representative on the **Carnival Committee**:

- Itinerary available for the music festival as the programme is progressing well and also the scheduled events for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend. It is a comprehensive day of events for Sunday 3 June 2012
- There has been some unrest due to some negative comments made in the community about the committee hijacking the Jubilee. This is unfair as the committee are doing the same events they do every year but are moving them to the Jubilee weekend. The committee would prefer if comments could be made direct to them so that they have the opportunity to defend themselves rather than hearsay.
- Music festival – all booked and tickets are now on sale

**Cllr Westcott** as representative on the **Memorial Ground Management Committee** reported on the following:

- Majority of the meeting was taken up with the discussion on the dog exclusion order on the memorial ground and how they want to keep the status quo and not have it removed. A letter expressing their views will be forwarded to the council.

The clerk interjected that the letter had been received

- Improvements undertaken on the pavilion – new flooring and shower heads and work to the referees' room

**Cllr M Whetlor** reported as a representative on the **Market House Museum meeting**:

- The museum has done well this year, but not quite as good as last year
- Looking to have a shelving display in the museum on the Wansbrough Paper Mill, so if anyone has any photographs or memorabilia it will be gratefully received
- Guttering on the building needs to be fixed and the Wyndham Estate and the PCC have been contacted. The Wyndham Estate pleads poverty, but someone must be liable especially if the guttering breaks and causes an accident

**Cllr Irven** reported as the representative on the **Friends of Watchet Station**:

- They have had a reasonable year but unfortunately the passengers using the trains has fallen by 5%
- Sales in the shop have been reasonable but hoping to look at ways to increase revenue in the shop
- Plans for the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations going well. There is a Victorian themed day arranged on Saturday 31 March 2012, with a special train from Bishops Lydeard, but volunteers are needed. Other organisations have been approached such as WACET, Marina etc to see how they can all mutually benefit from such a day of celebration but until plans are finalised at the end of December, this remains unconfirmed

**Cllr Cleveland** as the representative on the **Remembrance Project** gave a brief update but reported that the notes of the recent meeting would be tabled at the January full council meeting

- 26 November there was a 'bring and buy' sale where £400 was raised
- Poor turnout to the dance held at the Royal British Legion hall, but approximately £80 was raised
- The group are pressing on with the project – all positive

Cllr Irven gave the following information for members to note:

- 4 stone sculptures produced for the Conservation Society by David Milton have been laid in cement at the scrubland behind the tourist office. It is hoped that pebbles will be collected from West Beach, as permission has been granted, and added to the feature. It is not confirmed yet but it is the aim to have an official opening on the 27 December 2011.

11/093

**To receive and sign minutes of the following committees and to adopt the resolutions and recommendations contained therein:**

**Finance & General Purposes Committee (17 November 2011)**

Cllr Irven, in the absence of Cllr Murphy who is chair of the committee, proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2011 are approved as a true and correct record. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

**Matters of Report:** None



### **Tourism & Leisure Committee (17 November 2011)**

Cllr L Whetlor, in the absence of Cllr Tapp, the chair of the committee, proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2011, are approved as a true and correct record. Seconded by Cllr Gavenlock. Carried.

**Matters of Report:** None

### **Environment & Planning Committee (21 November 2011)**

Cllr Westcott as chair of the committee proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2011, are adopted as a true and correct record. Seconded by Cllr Cleveland. Carried.

**Matters of Report:** None

11/094

### **Verbal reports from sub-committees, working groups, and other outside organisations where Watchet Town Council does not have representation**

**Cllr de Renzy-Martin** reported that the meeting between the chair and vice-chair of council and West Somerset Council officers to discuss the Flashpark scheme had taken place on 29 November 2011 and the notes of the meeting are tabled for members.

The clerk enquired if the newly formed working party to research "Action in Communities in Rural England" (ACRE) had met. The group replied that a meeting will be arranged soon.

### **Cllr Irvén gave an update from the Dog Control Order Working Party**

The first meeting has been held where the party agreed on the remit of the working group in order to make recommendations to full council in February on the potential or not to review the current dog exclusion order on the memorial ground.

- For clarity the boundaries of the order have been marked out in red by the groundsman, so that the boundaries can be physically seen by interested parties
  - The working group has decided on two phases within the consultation process:
    1. Meeting with interested parties on 3 December 2011 in the Council Chamber
      - (i) Memorial Ground Management Committee (2 representatives)
      - (ii) Watchet Dog Owners Forum (2 representatives)
      - (iii) Doniford Road residents
    2. "Drop in" day on 14 January 2012 in the Council Chamber from 10.00am to 3.00pm for members of the public to express their views
- A leaflet has been printed in house and will be distributed by the Trader on Wednesday 11 January 2012 and advertised in the West Somerset Free Press on 13 January 2012

All representations on this matter must be made in writing and sent to the Council Chamber, email and verbal contact will not be considered.

### **Watchet Library**

**Cllr Irvén** reported on the recent court case in relation to the Watchet Library Friends Group

- A judgement has been handed down on libraries by the High Court that the decision made by SCC was illegal and that the authority was failing in their public duty in relation to equalities
- All costs to claimants will be reimbursed and all libraries will be kept open and mobile libraries restored
- Clarification is still pending from the solicitors on whether SCC will accept this decision and further developments are awaited
- Until clarification is given none of the money pledged can be returned including the money pledged from Watchet Town Council

### **Watchet 2025 Energy Group**

**Cllr Cleveland** reported that the Centre for Sustainable Energy which is an independent national charity who gives advice on energy savings tips and grants has congratulated this area for carrying out more surveys than any other area and for the number of people who have been put forward for energy efficiency grants – very positive feedback

11/095

### **The Chair of Council to sign the Annual Return for the Watchet War Memorial Ground Management Committee in the Council's capacity as the holding trustees of the Memorial Ground**

Information on the annual return for the Watchet War Memorial Ground Management Committee had been circulated to all members via appendix 1 prior to the meeting

After a brief discussion, Cllr de Renzy-Martin proposed that notice is moved that the accounts are signed off on the understanding that more clarity is provided in the breakdown of the figures presented to council in the future. Seconded by Cllr Gavenlock. Carried with 6 votes for and 3 abstentions.

**11/096 Matters of correspondence for report:**

Correspondence read out to the meeting by the clerk:

- Thank you from WHEELS organisation for donation of £100
- Thank you from St Margaret's' Hospice for a donation of £75.00

The councillors were informed that correspondence is addressed on a daily basis and filed and the file is available for all councillors to inspect at their leisure.

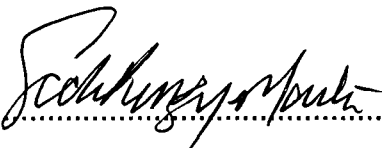
**11/097 Accounts for Payment – To adopt the November Accounts, due for payment in December**

Cllr Westcott proposed that the accounts for November due in December are approved and duly paid. Seconded by Cllr L Whetlor. Carried.

**11/098 To note matters for the next meeting – no discussion or decisions made**

- To liaise with the clerk

**The meeting ended at 7.50pm**

Signed:  .....

Dated: 9-01-12 .....