

Minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee
held on Thursday 21 October 2021 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Brake, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Irven, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Terrett and Cllr Westcott (Chair)

In attendance: Sarah Reed, Town Clerk, affiliated member of the Traffic Analysis Working Group

21/160B To receive apologies for absence: (LGA 1972, section 85 (1)- None received

21/161B To receive any Declaration of Interests:

Cllr	Item no.	Reason	Personal or Prejudicial	Outcome
Cllr Murphy	T/37/21/002	Lives in neighbouring property	Personal & Prejudicial	Cllr withdrew from the meeting and did not take part in the discussion or voting
	T/37/21/003	Applicant is his spouse		

21/162B Exclusion of Press and Public

“That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw” (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Cllr Westcott proposed that ***‘in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted that Standing Order 1c is invoked and the public are instructed to withdraw from the meeting’***. Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried

See Excluded notes 21/45EX

21/163B Recommendation from Traffic Analysis Working Group:

(i) Removal of an affiliated member – *paperwork circulated via Appendix 1 prior to the meeting* Working Group members and the affiliated member reported their version of events surrounding this recommendation. Members voted in favour of the removal of the affiliated member from the Working Group.

21/164B Issues affecting Watchet:

(i) Potential removal of Tower Street Bus Station – *Clerk’s update report on this matter was circulated to members prior to the meeting*. A brief discussion ensued where members expressed a strong view on the bus station remaining in this location and deplored the limited consultation undertaken by Somerset County Council on this matter where several Parish/Town Councils including Watchet had been omitted. This was proposed by Cllr Murphy, seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

(ii) Extra provision of litter bins on the Esplanade - the Clerk had made enquiries with the Watchet ward member, Cllr Whetlor, who had responded that: SW&T Assistant Director for Commercial Services has stated that litter bins are due for replacement with split recycling and litter bins, around 120 out of 1000 bins currently in the district will be replaced. A letter will be going out to all Parish/Town Councils explaining the bins and the locations which were planned to be replaced as part of the project prior to their installation. There is an option for local parishes to increase the number being replaced if they have funds available. The cost of a new bin is £875 which includes fitting and emptying will continue to be under the SW&T remit. Since this information was received, District Cllr Whetlor has secured two new bins on the Esplanade at no charge to WTC, and thanks to District Cllr Whetlor for her work on this.

Members would like clarification that:

1. The current bins will remain in situ and the two new bins are additional and not replacements.
2. The new bins will be seagull proof.

(iii) Insufficient information conveyed to the public regarding the road closure of A39 from Minehead, diversionary routes and bus services available – *referred by Full Council at the meeting held on 11 October 2021* - a long discussion ensued where members expressed their dissatisfaction with the way in which Somerset County Council has managed this matter. The information provided was inadequate to serve the Watchet residents. The Council staff had been put in a difficult situation in trying to allay resident's concerns as the information provided was insufficient. Cllr Westcott proposed that **'a complaint is lodged to Somerset County Council'**. Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried.

(iv) To appoint a representative to attend a site meeting with SW&T Parking Manager and Watchet ward members on 10 November 2021 to assess car parks in Watchet - Cllr Westcott proposed **'Cllr Murphy to attend as the Council representative'**. Seconded by Cllr Terrett. Carried.

(v) Condition of the footpath at Seaview Terrace – Cllr Murphy reported that in 2017 an agent from the Orchard Wyndham Estate who has this footpath within their ownership assessed the condition of the footpath through the insistence of a Watchet resident, promises were made to repair the footpath and were not fulfilled. Cllr Murphy proposed that **'the agents for the Estate are contacted and discussions are re-opened'**. Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried.

(vi) Small Improvement Scheme – *discuss whether to apply for a 20mph restriction throughout the town referred from Full Council* – members expressed an interest in re-applying through County Councillor Davies, as this scheme is important to Watchet and there was great disappointment when the previous application was refused by Somerset County Council in 2018. Cllr Johnson proposed that **'this matter is progressed through County Cllr Davies and an application submitted'**. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

21/165B Licensing Matters:

- (i) Licensing application to hold a Christmas Market on the East Quay – *paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 2* - Cllr Murphy informed members that he was predetermined in this matter as he had expressed an opinion on behalf of the Watchet Coastal Community Team and withdrew from the meeting at 7.25pm. Cllr Irven proposed that the **'Licensing application is supported'**. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Unanimously carried.

21/166B To address items received from the planning authority requiring attention prior to the next Somerset West & Taunton / Somerset County Council / planning meetings: Nothing to report

Member of the public and applicant of planning application T37/21/003 joined the meeting at 7.26pm.

Planning and plans to be discussed:

T/37/21/002 15 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG
Notification to fell one Ash tree within Watchet Conservation Area
The Committee recommends approval.

T/37/21/003 17 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG
Notification to fell one Ash tree within Watchet Conservation Area
The Committee recommends approval.

21/167B Matters for the next meeting

- liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed:.....


Date:.....
