

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting  
held on Monday 10 January 2022 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr Brake, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Corlett-Shaw, Cllr Ellwood, Cllr Irven (Chair), Cllr Murphy, Cllr Richards, Cllr Westcott, and Cllr Whetlor

**In attendance:** Jo Grellier – Clerical Officer (in the absence of the Clerk)

- 22/392 To receive Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, section 85 (1)- Cllr Brake proposed that **'apologies from Cllr Bowden Cllr Johnson, Cllr Terrett, are accepted'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

Apologies from *District Cllr Aldridge and County Cllr Davies* were noted by members.

- 22/393 To receive any **Declaration of Interests** under Watchet Town Council's Code of Conduct (adopted on 9 July 2012) issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 Si No: 1464

Name	Minute No:	Description of Interest	Personal / Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr Whetlor	All items	As a Watchet Ward Member	Personal	Cllr remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting

- 21/394 **Town Council Minutes** - To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 6 December 2021 (LGA 1972, Sch 12 Para 41 (1))  
Cllr Campbell proposed that **'The minutes from the Council meeting held on 6 December 2021 are approved as a true and correct record.'** Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

- 21/395 **Chairman's Report:** – verbal

- **Western Power Grant for alleviating fuel poverty** - Last month I reported on the grant application that was put together with the help from District Councillor Ian Aldridge and submitted to Western Power. Initially we considered a joint bid by Watchet and Williton, but after advice we used a template provided by Cllr Aldridge but customised for Watchet. This was able to include our successful track record including with the Bickwatch electric vehicle project and grant, together with our support for COVID help groups and Foodbank, and existing SLA and funding to Citizens Advice. It also was able to show that West Somerset has the lowest social mobility in the country exacerbating issues such as fuel, food and transport poverty. We were very pleased to be informed that we were successful in being awarded £10,000 for use in alleviating fuel poverty and providing advice on fuel efficiency, but disappointed that the parallel Williton bid was deemed unsuccessful.

Our clerk has requested an initial exploratory four-way meeting between WTC (Cllrs Irven & Johnson), Somerset Citizen's Advice, Village Agents and Williton Parish Council (Clerk plus Cllr Aldridge) to explore how this can be taken forward. This is scheduled by ZOOM for Thursday 13th Jan. The bid requires the two agencies (Citizens Advice & Village agents) to help deliver financial and practical help under the programme and as detailed in the proposal. Monies have to be spent by 31/3/22 and to simplify matters we would hope to be able to build on the existing SLA already in place with CA to avoid delays in establishing new contracts. We hope to be able to explore with Williton whether there can be any synergy and support to Williton Parish from this and the recently announced SCC 'Somerset Household Support fund' which covers a similar initiative and where under the terms of our award we need to show to Western Power that there is no duplication of funding. A report will be made back to FC with recommendations as to how this situation will be best managed and governed going forward.





**21/396 Reports from the Principal Authority Members:**

In the absence of County Cllr Davies, his report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.  
*Questions from the floor:* None

The report from District Cllr Whetlor was circulated prior to the meeting for members information, Cllr Whetlor highlighted the following points:

- Meetings attended were regarding LGR and the setting up of a town council for Taunton. There has now been a consultation document sent out to surrounding parishes to see if they are interested in becoming part of a new town/parish council. Results expected at the end of January.
- At a recent Corporate Scrutiny meeting there was a long discussion regarding the Commercial Property Investment Strategy where SWT are investing up to £100m. Most of that investment is now completed and details are available on the SWT website. There is also a detailed report in the Corporate Scrutiny Meeting papers for January 5th 2022.
- A long discussion around the benefits of CIL and S106 and how it is used. Details on how CIL was spent and also a list of S106 monies spent in the old West Somerset area (this area does not get CIL) are in the report. Good to see Watchet Town Council in there regarding the MUGA

*Questions from the floor:* None

**21/397 Reports from Representatives of Outside Organisations, Verbal – no Decisions**

- Cllr Corlett-Shaw, on behalf of Cllr Terrett, Council representative on '**Conservation Society**' informed members that the January open meeting of the Conservation Society has been cancelled due to high Covid cases.
- Cllr Whetlor as the Council representative on '**Market House Museum**' informed members that the open meeting of the Market House Museum Committee due to be held on 12 January 2022 has been cancelled due to high Covid cases.
- Cllr Murphy as Council representative on '**Watchet Harbour Advisory**' updated members with the following: A meeting was held on 13 December 2021 where there were two matters for attention;
  1. Concerns regarding the East Quay access – ongoing
  2. Dredging update: The dredger will be back in February, with a new bigger dredger taking its place in March 2022.

**21/398 To receive and sign the minutes of the following committees and adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein. (LGA 1972, SCH12 Para 41 (1))**

- Tourism & Leisure (9 December 2021)  
Cllr Whetlor, Chair of the Committee, proposed that '**the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 are adopted as a true and correct record.**' Seconded by Cllr Richards. Carried
- Finance & General Purposes (13 December 2021)  
Cllr Murphy, Chair of the Committee, proposed that '**the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 are adopted as a true and correct record.**' Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.
- Watchet Community Centre Management Committee (16 December 2021)  
Cllr Brake, Chair of the Committee, proposed that '**the minutes of the meeting held 16 December 2021 are adopted as a true and correct record.**' Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

**21/399 Verbal reports from sub-committees, working groups, and other outside organisations, where Watchet Town Council does not have representation:** No notifications received.

**21/400 Reports from Working Groups: any relevant paperwork will be issued prior to the meeting**  
**Climate Change** – Cllr Ellwood informed members that there is a planned beach clean for Sunday 16 January 2022 at 11am, meeting at West Beach.

**21/401 Legal Matters:**

- (i) Draft lease for the Watchet Market House Museum – *update from the Clerk*  
The Clerk has chased up Savills again about the lease and has not had a response.

**22/402 Dispensation to set the Town Council Precept** – Under the Localism Act 2012, members who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in land in the Watchet Parish will need a dispensation in order to

participate in the business of setting the Town Council's precept. The Clerk having received the completed Dispensation Forms from members by noon on Monday 10 January 2022 will grant the dispensation to all members accordingly (*forms sent out with the agenda*)  
Cllr Irven, as Chair, proposed that **'this item is deferred to the Extraordinary meeting to be held on 17 January 2022'**. Seconded by Cllr Richards. Carried

**22/403 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 Irven, as Chair, proposed that **'this item is deferred to the Extraordinary meeting to be held on 17 January 2022'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

**22/404 Financial Matters:**

To consider the recommendations from the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the 2022-23 Precept to approve the Staffing Costs – (**See Appendix 1.1**) – *circulated to all members prior to the meeting*

Cllr Irven, as Chair, proposed that **'this item is deferred to the Extraordinary meeting to be held on 17 January 2022'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

**22/405 To consider the recommendations from the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the 2022-23 Precept:**

(i) To approve the Running Costs, Committee Budgets and Project Costs - (**See Appendix 1.2**) *circulated to all members prior to the meeting*

(ii) To approve Ear Marked Reserves for 2022-23- (**See Appendix 1.3**) *circulated to members prior to the meeting*

Cllr Irven, as Chair, proposed that **'this item is deferred to the Extraordinary meeting to be held on 17 January 2022'**. Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried.

**22/406 Grounds Maintenance Vehicle:**

To consider the purchase of an Alke ATX vehicle - (**See Appendix 2**) – *circulated to members prior to the meeting*

Cllr Irven, as Chair, proposed that **'this item is deferred to the Extraordinary meeting to be held on 17 January 2022'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.


**21/407 Matters of Correspondence for Report** - Correspondence is addressed daily and filed, the file is available for all Councillors to inspect at their leisure.  
Nothing to report.

**21/408 Accounts for payment** – to approve the December Schedule (paid in January) circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Richards proposed that **'the Payment Schedule is approved, and the invoices duly paid.'** Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

**21/409 To note Matters for the next meeting** – no discussion or decisions made

- Visitor Centre/Council Office – issues with door access and ongoing maintenance concerns regarding water ingress
- Full reported update on CCTV
- Liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed: .....  


Dated: .....  
17/2/22