

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 4 April 2022 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Sarah Reed, Town Clerk, 2 members of the public

Before the meeting commenced, Chair of Council paid tribute to Cllr Hazel Bowden, who has decided to stand down from Council after 32 years of service, having been elected in 1990. He continued that she was leaving at a time of even greater change with the formation of the new Unitary Authority, and the need for the Town Council to develop a new relationship. He continued that Cllr Bowden had been a studious and steadfast member of council and given input in a number of areas including as representative to the Watchet War Memorial Ground Management Committee, and Watchet Twinning Society, and when Cllr Irven joined the Council, she was involved in the challenge of Dog Control and Public Space Protection Orders. The Chair concluded that to mark such a moment, the Clerk had organised a presentational memento which all members hope she will enjoy as an indication of their appreciation of her service and the respect that she is held in.

The Clerk presented Cllr Bowden with a bouquet of flowers and an engraved glass vase. Flowers were also presented to Cllr Corlett-Shaw who is not standing for re-election in thanks for her contribution to the Council. As she was not in attendance, Cllr Whetlor would present them to her on the Councils behalf.

- 22/445** To formally resolve to suspend standing order 1 (z) to allow this meeting to take place on the first Monday of the month due to the Easter period - Cllr Irven proposed that **'this is approved'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.
- 22/456** To receive Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, section 85 (1)- Cllr Johnson proposed that **'apologies from Cllrs Corlett-Shaw, Ellwood, Richards and Terrett are accepted'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.
Apologies from County Cllr Davies and District Cllr Aldridge were noted for the record.
- 22/457** 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
Cllrs Whetlor	All items	As a Watchet Ward Member	Personal	Cllr remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting
Cllrs Irven and Murphy	22/464(b)	Members of FOSL and WLF	Personal	Cllrs remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting

- 22/458** **Town Council Minutes** - To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14 March 2022 - (LGA 1972, Sch 12 Para 41 (1)
Cllr Irven proposed that **'The minutes from the Council meeting held on 14 March 2022 are approved as a true and correct record.'** Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

22/459

(i) **Chairman's Report:** – verbal

In the three weeks since last Full Council I have only attended one meeting on behalf of WTC together with Cllr Sarah Ellwood I was invited by Michelle Cusack, Director Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning at SCC to attend a session on 17th March with the CCC (Climate Change Committee) who advise the UK Government on achieving carbon zero. Because SCC and SW&T came out top in recent surveys of UK Councils the CCC had requested a visit to Somerset to understand what is being done here and the challenges of zero carbon in a rural setting. The original plan was to bring the committee to Watchet during the visit to see some of the initiatives here across local authority and community activities. For example, WTC/WCCT community electric vehicles, Quantock Foodbank mobile pantry programme, and WTC Western Power programme addressing fuel poverty and Onion Collective Community developments. Due to travel schedule and the rural road network, they were not able to visit Watchet. There was some suggestion whether they could have used the number 28 bus to show them the problems of the road systems and public transport, but that was never a real option. Cllr Ellwood may be summarising in her report the inputs we and Onion Collective made together with a summary of key observations from the meeting, which as she has sent apologies for this meeting may need to be another time.

Report from EH&S Officer – attended the West Street car park to assess subsidence at the allotment plot site, although a comprehensive report will be presented at the April Environment & Planning Committee meeting, it is very important that members are updated on this. Two allotment plots have subsided by 2-3 metres and as an emergency measure they have been closed and cordoned off and the tenants informed. An expert consultant's opinion has been sought and SW&T Council has been informed.

22/460

Reports from the Principal Authority Members: No reports due to the Pre-Election Period

22/461

Reports from Representatives of Outside Organisations, Verbal – no Decisions

Cllr Irven as the Council representative on '**Quantock Foodbank** reported:

- A stakeholders meeting was held by the Quantock Foodbank too start to build support for the mobile food pantry electric vehicle concept. This was co-ordinated by Hugh Lort Phillips of 'Action Against Hunger' with SW&T and Somerset County Council and other supporters' involvement. An initial project team, of which Cllr Irven is part has been formed to develop a further proposal.

22/462

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 Committee (17 March 2022)
Cllr Whetlor, Chair of the Committee, proposed that '**the minutes of the meeting held 17 March 2022 are adopted as a true and correct record**'. Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried.
- Finance & General Purposes Committee (21 March 2022)
Cllr Murphy, Chair of the Committee, proposed that '**the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2022 are adopted as a true and correct record**.' Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.
- Watchet Community Centre Management Committee (24 March 2022)
Cllr Brake, Chair of the Committee, proposed that '**the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2022 are adopted as a true and correct record**.' Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried
- Environment & Planning Committee (24 March 2022)
Cllr Westcott, Chair of the Committee, proposed that '**the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2022 are adopted as a true and correct record**.' Seconded by Cllr Brake. Carried

22/463

Verbal reports from sub-committees, working groups, and other outside organisations, where Watchet Town Council does not have representation: (Notification to the Clerk prior to the meeting) – No notifications given.

22/436

Reports from Working Groups: *any relevant paperwork will be issued prior to the meeting*

- a. **Climate Change** – no report
- b. **Watchet Library** – Cllr Irven reported that the notes of the recent quarterly Community Library Partnership meeting had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The meeting was very positive. Reference was made to the re-dedication ceremony which had to be postponed due to COVID and how the working group will be working with SCC to reschedule this event, together with an initiative to hire out the building to community groups outside Library hours which can be progressed through the newly formed Asset Management Committee.

22/465 Legal Matters:

- (i) Draft lease for the Watchet Market House Museum – *no update*

22/466 Recommendation from the working group delegated under the Tourism & Leisure Committee to review the current Service Level Agreement with the Watchet War Memorial Ground Management Committee- Appendix 1- circulated to members prior to the meeting

RECOMMENDATION to Full Council - *'a deferral of payment for 6 months to the end of September 2022 rather than a change to the current SLA and financials to assist and support the WWMGMC post COVID recovery and build up their income. This will be in the form of a letter of agreement signed by both parties. In September another meeting will be held, and this matter further reviewed'*.

Cllr Whetlor proposed that the **'recommendation as presented is approved'**. Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Unanimously Carried

22/467 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.

22/468 Accounts for payment – to approve the March Schedule (paid in April) circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Johnson proposed that **'the Payment Schedule is approved, and the invoices duly paid.'** Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

22/469 To note Matters for the next meeting – no discussion or decisions made

- Liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed: 

Dated: *16/5/22*