

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

Present: Cllr Campbell, Cllr Ellwood, Cllr Irven, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Moss, Cllr Richards, Cllr Summers, Cllr Ward and Cllr Westcott

In attendance: Sarah Reed, Town Clerk, County Cllr Davies and Woods, District Cllr Aldridge

22/47 To receive Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, section 85 (1)- Cllr Summers proposed that '**apologies from Cllrs Terrett and Whetlor are accepted**'. Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried.

22/48 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 Irven & Murphy	22/54a	Members of FOSL and WLF	Personal	Cllrs remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting

22/49 **Town Council Minutes** - To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12 September 2022 - (LGA 1972, Sch 12 Para 41 (1))
Cllr Summers proposed that '**The minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 September 2022 are approved as a true and correct record.**' Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried with 7 votes for and 3 abstentions.

22/50 (i) **Chairman's Report:** – verbal

- A very quiet month, Wells Cathedral hosted a service to give thanks and celebrate the work of Somerset's Lord-Lieutenant Annie Maw, who retires at the end of October. To mark the occasion, I and Deputy Mayor Cllr Whetlor attend the Evensong in the Cathedral Nave on Sunday October 9 at 3pm.
- Made aware of a Health & Wellbeing project by SALC, would like to hear more about it and invite a presentation by Ann Diment.

(i) **Clerks Report-update and recommendations:** The Clerk reported that she had contacted SW&T Council regarding the removal of camera 8 -
Email sent 17 March 2022-

Thank you for your response. I think if I had queried camera numbers rather than locations, I may have made more sense. I attach cameras 9 & 10 at the top and bottom of Goviers Lane, I have a copy of the report you refer to and I am aware that these two cameras are no longer operational. The camera we are concerned with, is camera 8 (attached) this camera did provide coverage of the railway pedestrian crossing and the bottom of the lane. This camera is no longer situated on the side of the Harbour Masters building (Marina) and we wondered if you have any information on why it has been removed and where it is? It is very important to the town that the areas stated are covered by a camera.

Hi Sarah – response 21 March 2022

The cameras on Goviers Lane were removed as a result of CCTV Operational Requirement Assessment in August 2019. This was carried out by an independent consultant who concluded that the camera should be removed. I'm sorry but I don't know if the Town Council was consulted at the time. You'll be aware that the law requires us to keep the relevance of each camera under regular review. As you know, we are undertaking a review of the entire suite at the moment to ensure that it is fit for purpose. Therefore, the next time we have a consultant on the ground in Watchet, we can ask that they check this site. I do recall from the previous officer that he had often said that it provided no operational value.



I attach a copy of the consultant's report from 2019 of which I was sent a copy relating to camera 8, which contradicts your statement that it was removed as it had no operational value.

I also attach a report recently approved at the September Full Council meeting relating to the Goviers Lane Crossing and how partners are requesting that the camera is reinstated. Please see recommendation 3 in the report. I have also received several requests from residents asking that the camera is reinstated as there was an assault on an elderly resident, and also as a result of the assault the Police have enquired why there is no camera located on the Marina Office and why it was removed, of which I cannot give an answer. I am aware that this is a grey area, and no one has been able to give an update on the whereabouts of the camera or why it was removed due to the sad passing of the former officer, but if we could look at this matter afresh as the Town Council are requesting that camera 8 is reinstated in its original location as a matter of urgency. If it is a matter of cost, there are partners who may consider a contribution, but we all have the same aim presently to reinstate a camera in this vital location in Watchet.

Please can you respond as soon as you can with a proposed plan of action.

Response from SW&T Officer:

Sorry, this got confused and I may have given inaccurate information. It wasn't my intention. The Community Lead Officer (SW&T) is looking into this for us and will be in touch, with a view to finding a workable solution.

• **Transfer of Assets** – correspondence received from the Asset Manager (SW&T) Council
I am sorry that it has taken us so long to get back to you on your EOIs for the Community Asset Transfers.

As you are aware, we had issues with:

- Market Street PCs – we are arranging for the electricity supply for the car park light to be moved from the electricity supply for the toilets so that you do not have to work out recharges for the SWT retained electrical items (this is still in progress).
- Sea Scout Changing Rooms – we are progressing the lease renewal to hand over a tidy arrangement, but the tenant is proving somewhat slow to respond.
- Play Areas – we are checking the legal status of these pieces of land as it is unclear whether they are retained housing land and if that can be disposed to a third party non-registered housing provider.

Unfortunately, during that period of work, it has been confirmed by LGR Governance and SWT SMT that all CAT disposals are on hold until post vesting Day. The only transfers to Town and Parish Councils which are able to continue are those well advanced to public notice under s123 LGA and instruction of legal transfer stage.

The principle of asset devolution and Community Asset Transfers is embedded in the case for Unitary and the new administration polices so I am sure that this technical delay will not prevent this and similar requests proceeding post Vesting Day. In the meantime, we will work in the background to solve these impediments.

22/51

Reports from the Principal Authority Members:

A report from County Cllr Davies was circulated prior to the meeting for information, and was summarised as follows:

- New CEO Duncan Sharkey joined the County Council on Monday 3 October 2022.
- Update on LGR Programme from LGR Programme Director, it is currently rated as Amber, this means that overall, everything is on track, but there are issues to be addressed to keep it this way. The key issues are resourcing, teams are working well with all five councils to create the new council, maintain services and contend with the significant challenges ahead.
- OFSTED Inspection result for Children's Social Care Services- from a rating of inadequate in 2017 to good in 2022, a splendid improvement due to the commitment of the Children Services team and the Director of Children's services.
- Dillington House in Ilminster – SCC Executive has confirmed that the Council will seek to end its activities at this venue on 30 September 2022.
- Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Project – briefing session on Tuesday 18 October 2pm-4pm or Thursday 10 November 5pm-7pm.

A report submitted by County Cllr Woods was also circulated prior to the meeting, and reference was made to an extraordinary full council meeting held on Wednesday 5 October concentrating on the formation of the new Taunton Council.



Cllr Aldridge gave a short verbal report and also referred to the formation of the new Taunton Town Council, which he stated was a positive meeting.

In the absence of District Cllr Whetlor, a report was circulated prior to the meeting and was noted by members.

Questions from the floor: none

Principal Authority members were thanked by the Chair of Council for their reports.

22/52 Reports from Representatives of Outside Organisations, Verbal – no Decisions

- (i) To appoint one member as 'Flood Warden' to attend the West Somerset Flood Group meetings and join the Flood Plan Working Group- Cllr Johnson informed members that he no longer wished to undertake the role, he was thanked for his work to date. After a brief discussion, Cllr Moss proposed that **'Cllr Campbell is appointed Flood Warden'**. Seconded by Cllr Summers. Carried.

Cllr Whetlor as the Council representative for **SALC** circulated a report prior to the meeting for information. Members agreed to note the report.

22/53 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) – (i) Local Community Networks (LCN's) Conference- in her absence Cllr Whetlor had circulated a report summarising the event providing information on the 3 proposals put forward for the number of LCN's. Option A -18 in total was the favourable option by attendees at the event. Members were encouraged to participate in the consultation as it will give a broader understanding of future proposals, the deadline date for this is 17 October 2022. Cllr Whetlor recommended that **'all councillors complete the consultation individually rather than as a corporate body'**. Cllr Campbell proposed that **'the recommendation is approved'**. Seconded by Cllr Ward. Carried.

22/41 Reports from Working Groups: any relevant paperwork will be issued prior to the meeting

- a. **Watchet Library** – Cllr Irven informed the meeting that working group members had attended a meeting of the Watchet Community Library Partnership (CLP) on Tuesday 13 September 2022, and a report outlining the outcomes of the meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting, he then highlighted the following:
1. The funding for self-service kiosks had ceased and there was not a unit in Watchet, costings are being explored to see if this is a feasible option for Watchet Library in the future.
 2. 'Safe, Warm Space' initiative has identified Watchet Library as a potential venue, and Watchet Town Council has been asked to consider this. After a brief discussion, Cllr Irven proposed that **'Watchet Town Council support SCC in principle to adopt the 'Safe, Warm, Space' initiative at Watchet Library'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.
- b. **Wheeled Park** – update and recommendations report circulated via **Appendix 1-** as the group had not met there was no report to circulate. However, as the Town Council had been asked a request the Clerk reported the following:

Before the report was made, Cllr Westcott declared a Personal Interest in this item, he remained in the meeting and participated in the discussion but did not vote.

- c. *All members should be aware of the email from the Minehead Eye Community Development Officer asking Watchet Town Council to agree in principle to work together to secure funding from YIF (Youth Investment Fund phase 2). The criteria on how the funding will be allocated is not confirmed but it is youth based and may or may not include the wheeled park, and there has been a brief mention of solar panels on the WCC.*

Recommendation:

WTC agree in principle to support Minehead Eye in exploring the funding stream from the Youth Investment Fund Phase 2 (YIF) and if they are successful in securing funding then this can be discussed further by the relevant committee depending on what project the funding is allocated to'.

A long debate ensued, whereby members gave some strong views. Cllr Irven proposed that **'the recommendation as presented is approved'**. Seconded by Cllr Moss. Carried with 7 votes for, 2 votes against and 1 abstention.

22/55 External Audit:



- (i) To note the contents of the External Auditors report and acknowledge its contents and the 'Notice Closure of Audit' – *paperwork was circulated prior to the meeting via **Appendix 2*** – members agreed to note the report and thanked the Clerk/RFO for her work in achieving 'no matters of concern' comment in the report.

22/56 **Matters of Correspondence for Report** - Correspondence is addressed daily and filed – nothing to report.

22/57 **Accounts for payment** – to approve the September schedule for payment in October. Cllr Johnson proposed that '***the Payment Schedule is approved, and the invoices duly paid.***' Seconded by Cllr Richards. Carried.

22/58 To note **Matters for the next meeting** – no discussion or decisions made

- Liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed:

Dated: