

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BITTON HOUSE ON TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL
2019 AT 6.30PM**

Present: Cllr. D. Matthews - Chairman
Cllr. A. Eden - Vice-Chairman
Cllr. D. Cox
Cllr. J. Green
Cllr. R. Phipps
Cllr. J. Orme - *arrived during minute no. 323*
Cllr. E.S. Russell
Cllr. P. Williams

In attendance: Ms. T. Higgs - Town Clerk
Miss. A. Winston - PA to the Mayor and Clerk
Members of the Public and Press

317. APOLOGIES

Cllr. T. Falcão
Cllr. J. Phillips

318. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

319. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As existing declared interest by those in attendance.

320. DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

321. MATTERS OF URGENCY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN (IF ANY)

There were none.

322. CLERK'S REPORT

- a. The Communities Together Fund has now closed and will not re-open. There will be three other funds to replace it - a Making Connection Fund, Doing What Matters Fund and Crowdfund Devon. The Clerk will publicise the funds. Cllr Cox mentioned the Incredibles Fund which is still open for applications until 30th April 2019.
- b. The Bitton House Wedding show took place on 7th April 2019 and the PA to the Clerk told members the event had gone extremely well and a couple who attended have already booked their wedding. Cllr Cox suggested recompense for the staff involved in the event and the Clerk said this is in hand.
- c. The next stage of the neighbourhood plan is taking place with specific topic groups.

323. ARMED FORCES DAY

Cllr Matthews presented the update report which included the notes of the meeting held on 9th April 2019. He informed members that the application to the Ministry of Defence for a grant had been successful and £2,000 awarded for eligible items. The update report was accepted.

324. CLLR / OFFICER PROTOCOL

The Clerk presented the draft Cllr / Officer Protocol which was accepted.

325. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2019

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19th March 2019. Cllr Cox proposed to approve the minutes, seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed by majority. Cllrs Orme and Russell abstained.

326. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2ND APRIL 2019

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2019. Cllr Orme proposed to approve the minutes, seconded by Cllr Russell and unanimously agreed.

327. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

The Chairman presented the update report and notes of the meeting held on 27th March 2019 which were accepted.

328. COMPLAINT INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS OFFICE (ICO)

The Clerk presented the report and recommendation to review the Town Council's position with regard the non-disclosure of pages 36 to 78 element of the investigation report (CIC recent events). The Clerk conveyed it is an opportunity to present a compromise.

Councillors discussed the item and comments included:

Cllr Cox - said he has no problem releasing the report but it may deter people from being involved in an investigation in the future if there is a chance that their comments are made public.

Cllr Orme – said public money was used to pay for the investigation and therefore the public have questions.

Cllr Phipps – said he would be happy for the report to be published but he is not included in it.

Cllr Eden – conveyed that the parts that have not been published in the newspaper are the parts that will cause the most damage. She asked who is liable if the investigation was published in full, would it be the Clerk's office? The Clerk will check and take legal advice.

The Chairman suggested adjourning the meeting and holding an Extraordinary meeting.

Cllr Cox proposed the Clerk contacts the compliant offering to redact names of those who want to be redacted and libel statements in the report and see whether this would be acceptable as a compromise and to seek legal advice and hold an Extraordinary meeting. Seconded by Cllr Green and unanimously agreed.

The Clerk asked if the compliant is happy with the compromise, does it go ahead and Cllr Cox said yes which was unanimously agreed.

329. TO RECEIVE A REQUEST TO DONATE £150 TO SUBSIDISE TAKING ART WORK TO PERROS-GUIREC

The Clerk presented the request to donate £150 to subsidise taking art work to Perros-Guirec for the Twinning visit. The Chairman proposed to approve the donation of £150, seconded by Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed.

330. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Accounts for Payment were presented.

Cllr Cox proposed that Accounts for Payment in the sum of £19,825.92 be approved and paid, seconded by Cllr Williams and unanimously agreed.

331. THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Deems that all information held by this Council should be freely available to the public unless it falls under one of 23 exemptions.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.

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COUNCILLOR D MATTHEWS
CHAIRMAN

Bitton House, Teignmouth
17th April 2019