

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BITTON HOUSE ON TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY
2020 AT 6.30PM**

Present: Cllr. D. Matthews - Chairman
Cllr. R. Ash - Vice-Chairman
Cllr. J. Atkins
Cllr. A. Eden - *arrived during minute no. 262 and left after 265*
Cllr. A. Henderson
Cllr. J. Orme
Cllr. I. Palmer
Cllr. R. Phipps
Cllr. E.S. Russell

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

257. APOLOGIES

Cllr. P. Williams
Cllr. N. Jeffries

258. USE OF MOBILE PHONES

In accordance with Minute 30, mobile phones be limited to personal use only (in case of emergencies) and in which case the Councillor is to leave the room to respond. Mobile phones are to be switched to silent during the meeting to avoid disruption.

259. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

260. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct (section 13, Appendices A and B), Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that the timescale to alter their stated interests with the District Council's Monitoring Officer is 28 days.

Cllr Matthews declared an interest in minute no. 264

261. DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensation requests.

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

The Chairman gave an update on the Teignmouth Air Show.

263. CLERK'S REPORT

a. The Clerk read out a letter received from a Cornwall resident regarding the Network Rail proposals.

264. FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Cllr Henderson presented a report and the item was discussed.

The Chairman recommended suspending Standing Orders to allow the Chairman of the Teignmouth Traders Association to speak. Cllr Phipps proposed to suspend Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Orme and unanimously agreed.

The Chairman of the Traders Association expressed that the event would have benefitted by having more bucket collectors who could cover a wider area of the beach.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Cllr Ash proposed to support the event this year and to look at alternative events for next year, seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed by majority.

265. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING BY LIDL STORE

Cllr Eden presented a report.

The Chairman recommended suspending Standing Orders to allow a former Town Councillor who had been involved in this matter to speak. Cllr Russell proposed to suspend Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Orme and agreed by majority.

The former Town Councillor reminded Councillors of the history of this matter and the meeting held in recent years with Devon County Council Officers and local residents.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Cllr Russell conveyed the Road Safety Team at Devon County Council have been assessing the crossing and the engineer proposed to change the pedestrian crossing to a pedestrian controlled signal crossing. This change will take place in 2020-2021.

Noted, Cllr Eden temporarily left the room.

Cllr Russell thanked a former Town Councillor and former Devon County Councillor for their help with this matter.

266. LOVE YOUR BEACH

Cllr Ash introduced the item (previously raised at the Full Council meeting on 28 January 2020) and asked Councillors whether they would support having the seagulls act as part of the Love Your Beach campaign this summer.

Cllr Palmer proposed not to support the request, seconded by Cllr Phipps and unanimously agreed.

267. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEDIA COMMUNICATION POLICY

The Clerk presented a report and draft policy.

Cllr Atkins said the text about 'European Elections' under Publicity in Election Periods should be removed and this was agreed.

Subject to the above addendum, Cllr Atkins proposed to approve and adopt the Public Relations and Media Communication Policy as presented, seconded by Cllr Palmer and unanimously agreed.

268. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The Clerk presented a report and draft policy.

Cllr Orme expressed that she feels Councillors should not use social media such as Facebook and Twitter during a meeting. However, the Clerk said the Localism Act allows people to send messages via social media whilst a meeting is taking place and that a report would need to be presented separately. Cllr Atkins said the use of social media during meetings could be a standing item on the agenda as for the use of mobile phones. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the policy states the Committee Chair may decide how to address the use of social media in their meetings.

The Chairman suggested re-visiting the use of web cams during meetings and Cllr Russell will bring a report to the Committee.

Cllr Ash proposed to approve and adopt the Social Media Policy as presented, seconded by Cllr Atkins and unanimously agreed.

269. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The accounts were circulated.

Cllr Palmer proposed to approve that accounts in the sum of £8,872.27 and Prepayments in the sum of £15,933.56 be approved, seconded by Cllr Phipps and unanimously agreed.

270. 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.

271. DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018

Precludes this authority from publishing the names, addresses or other private information of individuals unless written permission is given by the individual for such details to be made public.

Therefore, where necessary, personal details have been removed from the papers attached to ensure that information held is available, but individuals are protected.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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**COUNCILLOR D MATTHEWS
CHAIRMAN**

Bitton House, Teignmouth
5 February 2020