

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BITTON HOUSE ON TUESDAY, 25<sup>th</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2020 AT 6.30PM**

**Present:** Cllr. D. Matthews - Chairman  
Cllr. R. Ash - Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. J. Atkins  
Cllr. D. Cox  
Cllr. A. Henderson  
Cllr. I. Palmer  
Cllr. J. Orme  
Cllr. R. Phipps  
Cllr. E.S. Russell  
Cllr. P. Williams

**In attendance:** Mr. A. McKenzie - Acting Clerk  
Miss. A. Winston - PA to the Clerk  
Members of the Public

The Chairman welcomed everyone. He said there were a few comments from the public gallery at a previous meeting when the Network Rail consultation was discussed which will not be accepted this time.

The Chairman thanked Mr McKenzie, Town Clerk at Dawlish Town Council for attending in the Town Clerk's absence.

## **290. APOLOGIES**

Cllr. A. Eden  
Cllr. N. Jeffries  
Cllr. J. Clatworthy, DCC

## **291. 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.

## **292. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A local resident and business owner spoke about the Network Rail consultation. He said the coastline is an outstanding gem and he urged the council to ask Network Rail to go back to the drawing board with their plans.

### **293. 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.

There were none.

### **294. DISPENSATIONS**

A request for a dispensation is to be made to the Town Clerk, no less than 5 working days before Council meetings. The Council may grant a member(s) a dispensation(s) to participate in a discussion and vote on a matter at a meeting even if he/she has an interest in Appendices A and B.

There were none.

### **295. MATTERS OF URGENCY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN (IF ANY)**

There were none.

### **296. CLERK'S REPORT**

a. Reminded Councillors to reply to the PA to the Mayor regarding attendance at the Civic Service.

### **297. TEIGNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE TO NETWORK RAIL CONSULTATION**

Cllr Ash introduced the item and Councillors discussed.

Key comments made by Councillors included:

- Concerns raised about how the work would affect the coastline in the wider area not just at Teignmouth and Holcombe;
- The railway was paramount to the area with 60 return journeys a day between Teignmouth and Exeter;

- A request that the beach groynes were improved and the beach re-charged in conjunction with the Environment Agency so that the beach was in a sound condition before any work takes place;
- Disappointment that the environmental impact assessment had not yet been completed;
- There were no wave buoys monitoring the sea;
- A request to improve other amenities, for example, the instalment of a lift at the railway station to improve accessibility;
- There was a need to strengthen the cliffs to protect properties and the railway;
- The railway line was also important for freight, not just passengers; and
- Would be beneficial to have a safer footpath.

Cllr Ash proposed that a review be immediately undertaken in conjunction with local stakeholders and councils to consider all engineering options to defend the railway, improve public safety and to reduce the injurious impact on local communities, businesses and the environment. The review could benefit Network Rail by delivering not only greater line resilience and service reliability, but by encouraging more members of the public to travel by rail for the enhanced experience our coastal railway resorts could offer. Seconded by Cllr Cox.

Cllr Russell suggested replacing the word 'injurious' with 'negative' and this was agreed. Seconded by Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed.

## **298. TEIGNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL REPOSE TO STAGECOACH CONSULTATION**

Cllr Ash presented a report and Councillors discussed the item. Cllr Orme suggested inviting a representative of Stagecoach to a future meeting.

Cllr Ash proposed to ask Stagecoach to introduce an express / limited stop X2 service to supplement service 2 at peak times, encompassing limited stops with no deviation from A379. Seconded by Cllr Cox and unanimously agreed.

## **299. 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.

### **300. 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 7.26pm.

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**COUNCILLOR D MATTHEWS**  
**CHAIRMAN**

Bitton House, Teignmouth  
26 February 2020