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| Great Torrington Town Council Fleur de Lis logoGREAT TORRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL |

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th July 2022 at 7pm in the Committee Room, Great Torrington Town Council, Castle Hill, Torrington

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs K Allin, C Bright, M Brown, P Cloke, C Cottle-Hunkin, H Cox, D Davey, S Ford, D Maisey, S Mills, D Parish, J Rose, D Smith and L Ward

### **ALSO, PRESENT:**

Karen Chapman, Town Clerk and Charlotte Kirby, Assistant Town Clerk

### THE OPENING PRAYER

Read by Rev. Rob Blackhall, Mayor’s Chaplain.

### APOLOGIES

Cllr G Clayton.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR: CLLR SAYWELL

Please see Appendix A for details of Cllr Saywell’s report.

### POLICE REPORT

A report outlining crime numbers for the last month was provided to Members by PCSO Brown from the local police team.

PCSO Brown commented on recent reports of antisocial behaviour on social media, however the police had only received one formal report of this. She emphasised the need for members of the public to report any incidents such as this directly to the police. The best way to do this is online, either via email or web-chat.

Cllr Mills raised the fact that there has been another large amount of hand sanitiser fly-tipped at the dairy: PCSO Brown confirmed that this is in hand and the owner is working to have it removed.

### PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

None.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### Mayor’s Introduction Ceremony minutes: 31 May 2022

Cllr Smith proposed that minutes were correct and approved; Cllr Allin seconded the proposal; a vote was taken: all in favour.

### Planning Committee minutes: 08 June 2022

Cllr Cloke proposed that minutes were correct and approved; Cllr Rose seconded the proposal; a vote was taken: all in favour.

### MATTERS ARISING

None.

### CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIR AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

**Funeral of Brian Woods:** The Chair informed Members that Brian Woods’ funeral will take place on Friday 22nd July at 11:40am at the crematorium in Barnstaple. Cllr Mills will say a few words about Brian and his role with the Town Council over the years and Cllr Smith may do a reading.

**Antisocial Behaviour:** The Town Council is facilitating a meeting with representatives from the police, Great Torrington School and Torridge District Council to discuss the recent issues with antisocial behaviour in the town on Thursday 14th July 2022 at 12 noon. District councillors Brown, Bright and Cottle-Hunkin will be invited to attend along with the Mayor.

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN NOON, WEDNESDAY 6th JULY 2022

None.

### THE AGENDA WAS AGREED BETWEEN PART A AND PART B (CONFIDENTIAL AND RESTRICTED INFORMATION)

### PART A

### HISTORY ALIVE UPDATE: ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

The Assistant Town Clerk provided Members with an update on plans for the History Alive event on Saturday 10th September 2022. Details of the activities have almost been finalised, with just two more items requiring clarification. An article summarising the programme will go in the next edition of The Crier and work will commence on printing the programme and starting to publicise the event on social media and throughout the town.

### DELEGATED AUTHORITY RE: POSITION OF NEW TOWN CLERK

Members noted the delegated authority given to the interview panel to make the decision regarding recruiting to the post of Town Clerk on behalf of the Council.

### COUNCILLOR SUPPORT: THE MAYOR

The Mayor’s diary is getting busier with official engagements and he is keen for any councillors who are interested, to accompany him on some of his official visits. The Town Clerk suggested sharing the Mayor’s diary with Members and if anyone is interested, they should contact the office. Places to accompany the Mayor will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

### OUTSIDE BODIES

**Museum:** Cllr Mills informed Members that the museum had 71 visitors today, including a pre-booked group of 33 from Barnstaple, for whom the museum had arranged a talk about gloving, and 10 people from Woolsery Historical Society. Since the museum re-opened last year, they have had over 1000 visitors. Cllr Mills thanked Dave Gibbons, Chair of Trustees for his hard work setting the museum up.

**Rotary:** Cllr Allin informed Members that she will officially step down as President of Rotary next week and she will hand over the reins to Jenny Staines.

**Tarka Valley Railway:** Cllr Smith reminded Members that Tarka Valley Railway will be celebrating their 150th anniversary over the summer and to keep an eye out for information about celebrations.

**Town Hall:** Cllr Mills informed Members that Anne Tattersall has left the Town Hall.

**Christine Porter’s Memorial:** Cllrs Brown, Davey and Clayton were pleased to have attended Christine’s memorial at the Castle Hill Community Hall on Sunday 3rd July. Cllr Brown commented on what a special person Christine was and how much she had done for the town.

**Harry Cramp’s Funeral:** Several Members, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, attended Harry Cramp’s funeral in June. Cllrs Smith and Allin commented on what a special day it was and how important it was for the Town Council to be represented at the funeral, given Dr Cramp’s close links with the council.

### REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

**Cllr Bright:**

Torridge District Council (TDC) has approved the application for a **Levelling Up Fund** Bid to central government to help redevelop an area in Appledore (focussing on maritime heritage), in conjunction with Plymouth and Exeter universities. TDC has pledged £1million towards the development and hopes to receive £15million from central government.

**Biodiversity Plan:** There continues to be a potential flood risk in the district if no action is taken: the biodiversity plan hopes to try to resolve this.

**Members Budget Working Group:** a working group has been established to look at trying to find cost savings across the district.

**Household Support Fund:** TDC has been experiencing difficulties with the roll-out of the Household Support Fund. The team is working to try to fix the problem.

**Cllr Brown:**

**Levelling Up Fund:** if funding is approved, the new development in Appledore is due to open in Autumn 2025.

**The Creamery:** Cllr Brown met with Helen Smith to discuss progress with the Creamery site: things are moving along and Helen hopes to be able to speak to the Town Council once current discussions are finalised.

**Dog Fouling:** Cllr Brown informed Members that in the Torridge District, only 6 prosecutions for dog fouling have been made in the last 8 years. The Town Clerk informed Members that she will be meeting with a representative from the Environmental Protection team at TDC on Thursday to discuss dog fouling.

**Cllr Cottle-Hunkin:**

**Levelling Up Fund:** Cllr Cottle-Hunkin has asked our MP, Geoffrey Cox, to speak up in favour of the Appledore bid and he has confirmed he is very much behind it.

**External Overview & Scrutiny:** Cllr Cottle-Hunkin reported on a presentation by Harry Barton, CEO of Devon Wildlife Trust, on the Nature Recovery Network Map and the need for wildlife corridors. He is campaigning for the government’s scheme to be more challenging and ambitious. Members of TDC have written to Geoffrey Cox, M.P. and George Eustice, M.P. (Secretary of State for the Environment) to raise their concerns about the scheme and Geoffrey Cox has offered to raise his concerns directly with the Secretary of State.

**Torrington Pool:** The pool reopened in June and so far, there have been very positive comments about its cleanliness. Cllr Cottle-Hunkin encouraged everyone to use it as much as possible.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE AND ACCOUNTS PAID

Members were provided with a copy of the latest financial documents including Accounts Paid for April and May, in advance. Members noted the contents of the reports and payments made. Cllr Mills proposed the documents and payments be approved by Members; Cllr Allin seconded the proposal; a vote was taken: all in favour.

### PART B: Confidential and restricted information:

No Part B.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 1st September 2022 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 19:50.

Signed ………………………………………… Date ………………………..

**Appendix A: Report from County Councillor, Cllr Andrew Saywell**

**Chief Executive Officer Retiring:** Cllr Saywell updated Members on the recent announcement that the CEO of Devon County Council will retire at the end of August 2022. An interim CEO will be recruited for externally and will likely be in place at least until Christmas, with a new permanent CEO being appointed in the new year.

**Budget:** DCC is forecasting an overspend of £30million by the end of the financial year if nothing is done to curb costs. All departments have been tasked with looking to transform services in order to streamline and reduce costs. The biggest spenders at the council are children’s services and adult social care.

**Highways:** Cllr Saywell confirmed that double yellow lines have been approved for South Street, opposite the entrance to Sydney House Car Park. This will now go through the system to be scheduled this financial year.

Cllr Cottle-Hunkin asked Cllr Saywell if he had an update on the parking issues at Hatchmoor Estate (concerns have been raised that emergency vehicles may not be able to get into the estate due to parking on both sides of the road). Cllr Saywell confirmed the Fire Service has visited the estate several times and so far haven’t had an issue with access.