



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING** of **OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL** on **TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST 2023 at 5.00pm**. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room at the Council Offices, OSM EX11 1BZ.

PRESENT: Cllrs Lucas (Chair), Cllr Grainger (Mayor), Cllr Stewart (Deputy Mayor) and Kerry Kennell, CEO and Cllr Faithfull (EDDC & Town Councillor but not a member of the Strategy Committee)

S23/08/01

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Cllrs Green (Vice Chair) and Sneller

S23/08/02

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIS) DISPENSATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Name of Councillor	Agenda Item and Interest
Cllr Lucas	No interests declared.
Cllr Grainger	Agenda item 8 – Cllr Grainger declared a personal interest as an allotment holder.
Cllr Stewart	Agenda item 8 – Cllr Stewart declared a personal interest as an employee of Citizens Advice who use the Council Offices once a week for a drop-in session.

S23/08/03

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED): TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

It was **RESOLVED** that Agenda item 6: To consider Feasibility Report on the Station Community Hub funded by EDDC via the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and agree next steps and Agenda item 8: To consider the current property portfolio in relation to the Council Offices will be discussed in Confidential Session.

S23/08/04

TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION *INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES*

There were none.

S23/08/05

Chair`s Initials.....

TO RECEIVE THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF 29TH JUNE 2023 (MINUTE REFS S32/06/01 – S23/06/12) AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE CHAIR AS A CORRECT RECORD

The Strategy Committee meeting minutes of 29th June 2023 (minute refs S23/06/01 – S23/06/12) were reviewed and amended to remove Cllr Stewart's Declaration of Interest and to add Cllr Grainger's Declaration of Interest and were then signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting. The Confidential Appendix 1 minutes were also signed.

S23/08/06

TO CONSIDER FEASIBILITY REPORT ON THE STATIN COMMUNITY HUB FUNDED BY EDDC VIA THE UNITED KINGDOM SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) AND AGREE NEXT STEPS

To be discussed in Confidential Session.

S23/08/07

TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WHICH VERSION OF CODE OF CONDUCT THE COUNCIL SHOULD ADOPT

The Committee reviewed the current Code of Conduct, that of the LGA and EDDC. The Clerk will seek confirmation whether the Council's Policy regarding Pre-Application can be added to the LGA Model as Appendix D. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the amended LGA Code of Conduct is adopted by the Council.

S23/08/08

TO CONSIDER THE CURRENT PROPERTY PORTFOLIO: COUNCIL OFFICES; STATION COMMUNITY HUB; MUSEUM; LIBRARY; STRAWBERRY LANE; HIGHER RIDGEWAY CEMETERY; ALLOTMENTS; WINTERS LANE TENNIS COURTS; 12 PARKING SPACES VICTORIA TERRACE IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Council Offices – to be discussed in Confidential Session.

Station Community Hub – a meeting is being held with users of the Station to see whether some cosmetic improvements can be made to the building to make it more attractive to users until such time as a decision is made regarding a longer-term plan.

Museum – the Council's solicitor has providing information clarifying the situation regarding any future sale of the Museum. It was **RESOLVED** that the building needs to be commercially valued. It was **RESOLVED** to get a commercial valuation on The Museum which will need to take into account the lease and the covenant that the building must be used as a museum or similar public facility. Once this information has been obtained the next step will be for a discussion to take place with the Heritage Society.

Library – it was **AGREED** that a discussion will take place with the Library to discuss the Coast meets Country tourist project and the upcoming town map and to discuss improving the current Tourist Information centre.

Strawberry Lane – the application for the MUGA will be discussed at the EDDC Planning Committee next week. The EDDC Planning Officer has recommended approval with conditions but unfortunately one of the EDDC Councillors has objected. The Committee expressed their disappointment at this. It was **AGREED** that an additional meeting will be called once a decision is made by EDDC Planning.

Chair`s Initials.....

Skatepark – Jon Williams from DCC has provided an update regarding the current situation. It was AGREED that the only way to make the skatepark viable is to improve the accessibility to the site.

The following **RECOMMENDATIONS** were made:

- That the Council enters into a Preferred Tender Agreement with Maverick
- That the Council accepts the proposed Access route as only one that is viable.

It was AGREED that subject to agreement to the above by the Full Council a site meeting will be arranged with EDDC Planners.

Highway Ridgeway Cemetery – no issues.

There was a discussion regarding the number of ongoing projects and the need for additional support to complete these projects. It was **RECOMMENDED** that all Councillors consider which ongoing projects they can support.

Allotments – The Allotment Management Committee support getting a compost toilet. A poll has been sent out to allotment holders to gather their views. The Management Committee will be submitted a report for consideration by the Council to include funding for this in the budget for 2024/25.

Winters Lane Tennis Court – no issues.

Victoria Terrace Parking Spaces – the first tenant moved out and a new tenant has moved in so an agreement has been issued. The bollard had been damaged and so it has been replaced.

S23/08/09

ANY FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were none.

S23/08/10

RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

There were none.

Cllr Faithfull left the meeting

Under s.1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the council resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

S23/08/11

TO CONSIDER FEASIBILITY REPORT ON THE STATION COMMUNITY HUB FUNDED BY EDDC VIA THE UNITED KINGDOM SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) AND AGREE NEXT STEPS

A discussion took place regarding the next steps regarding the building. Confidential Appendix 1 applies.

S23/08/12

TO CONSIDER THE CURRENT PROPERTY PORTFOLIO: COUNCIL OFFICES

The current situation with the Council Offices was discussed. Confidential Appendix 1 applies.

The meeting ended at 6.40pm

Chair`s Initials.....

Date of next meeting: 10th October 2023

<i>SIGNATURE OF CHAIR</i>	
<i>DATE OF SIGNATURE</i>	

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Chair`s Initials.....