



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE MEETING** of **OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL** on **MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024 at 5.00pm**. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room at the Council Offices, OSM EX11 1BZ.

PRESENT: Cllrs Green (Chair), Grainger (Mayor), Stewart (Deputy Mayor), Williamson and Kerry Kennell, Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Emma Grainger and Elli Pang

ELDC24/01/01

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Cllrs Sneller, Lucas (Vice-Chair), Joe Williams, Amber Waddingham and John Waddingham

ELDC24/01/02

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 Green	No interests declared.
Cllr Grainger	No interests declared.
Cllr Stewart	No interests declared.
Cllr Williamson	No interests declared.

Emma Grainger declared that she is a member of Bloom in Ottery.

ELDC24/01/03

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** to discuss Agenda item 6. To review and make recommendations (if appropriate) regarding the Quick Wins tender brief in Confidential Session.

Chair`s Initials.....

ELDC24/01/04

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

Elli Pang would like to be involved with projects in the parish involving traffic and roads, healthcare and the skatepark. It was confirmed that this committee cover the traffic and roads. The skatepark is covered by the Operations Committee and healthcare is discussed by the Full Council.

ELDC24/01/05

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20TH NOVEMBER 2023 (MINUTE REFS ELDC23/11/01 – ELDC23/11/16 AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE CHAIR AS A CORRECT RECORD

The minutes of the Environment, Local Development and Commerce Committee meeting of 20th November 2023 (minute refs *ELDC23/11/01 - ELDC23/11/16*) were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

ELDC24/01/06

COAST & COUNTRY EAST DEVON PROJECT

- a. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE NUMBER OF SIGN-UPS SO FAR**

It was confirmed that 13 businesses have signed up to date.

- b. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE PRODUCTION OF A TOWN MAP (AND MAKE DECISIONS IF APPROPRIATE)**

The Clerk has contacted the map designer regarding the issue that the Coleridge Bridge and FP are currently unavailable and it appears neither will be resolved until later this year. It was noted that it is difficult to include the dog walks provided in the style of the map creation. Any errors on the Visit Ottery website can be fed back to the Council who will request for it to be updated.

- c. **TO CONSIDER MAINTAINING THE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT WITH IGNYTE AS IT IS CURRENTLY AT A COST OF £5,000 FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS**

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Council making the same level of financial investment for the next 12 months. Cllr Green provided various stats relating to the number of followers and interaction with the Visit Ottery website and various forms of social media. It was noted that this project must be driven by the businesses and the local economy. The project aims to create an itinerary for a day visitor to Ottery whilst promoting sustainable tourism. It was felt that the project needs another 12 months to become established and generate additional visitors to the parish. It was RECOMMENDED that the Council pay £5,000 for the next twelve months to maintain it's membership of the Coast and Country project. It was AGREED that the Committee will monitor the progress of the project closely and will raise any issues or concerns with Ignyte as/when they occur.

ELDC24/01/07

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE EMERGENCY PLAN WORKING GROUP

Chair`s Initials.....

Cllr Williamson provided an update. Community Outreach meetings have been held throughout the parish with Cllr Williamson and Martin Rich of Devon Communities Together. The Emergency Plan Working Group is meeting tomorrow and will be looking at the next steps and will cover the flood plan at Tipton St John Primary School, and the restocking of the Emergency boxes. The emergency plan covers multiple scenarios occurring in the parish ranging from flood to a bomb.

ELDC24/01/08

TO CONSIDER COMMUNICATION FROM EDDC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER AND AGREE NEXT STEPS (IF APPROPRIATE)

A meeting is being set up later this month with the EDDC Economic Development Manager.

ELDC24/01/09

TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF RECENT HEAVY RAIN ON THE FOOTPATH ROUTES AROUND THE PARISH

It was noted that recent heavy rain has not had too much of a negative effect on the footpaths. Concern was raised regarding FP24 - the Council understands that several years ago the Environment Agency required that local land owners fence their land to keep their animals out of the river. However because of this, combined with the movement of the river this means that the path is reducing and residents are concerned that it will disappear altogether as the footpath erosion continues. The historic situation for FP46 which is now closed indefinitely is a warning of what might happen to other paths. The Council views these paths as an asset for tourism and the environment. It was AGREED that the Clerk will write to DCC Public Rights of Way. It was AGREED that an article will be written for social media, the local paper and the Council website to raise the profile of the potential problems affected the route. It was AGREED the Clerk will contact DCC Cllr Bailey regarding this issue. It was noted that areas such as Seaway Lane have been written off and rendered impassable by DCC which is not acceptable.

ELDC24/01/10

TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE OVERALL PLANTING STRATEGY FOR THE PARISH FOR 2024

It was AGREED that a general planting strategy should be in place for the parish. The Council should agree an overall strategy and will then liaise with local community groups to see what they can fulfil. It was noted that there is already Bloom in Ottery in the town and Eager Beavers in Tipton St John. It was AGREED that the Council should work with Otter Garden Centres. Councillors will identify groups throughout the parish who are currently working on parish planting. A meeting will be arranged with Bloom in Ottery to discuss their aspirations and their intentions for the future.

ELDC24/01/11

TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES FOR THE COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Council had declared a Climate Emergency shortly before the pandemic hit. At the time the Council were going to consider the carbon cost of Council decisions but this has not happened. The clerk confirmed that this has been included in the draft strategy document which will be submitted to the Full Council at their February meeting.

Chair`s Initials.....

The clerk will write to DCC again to ask for their intentions regarding the Metcombe gauge.

ELDC24/01/12

ANY FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were none.

ELDC24/01/13

TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

There were none.

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

ELDC23/11/14

TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS (IF APPROPRIATE) REGARDING THE QUICK WINS TENDER BRIEF

Three companies have been approached but only one company has submitted a tender. It was RECOMMENDED that the Council proceed with Quote 1 subject to the Clerk seeking confirmation of whether there is a discount if the Council progresses with all options of the quote.

The meeting ended at 6.25pm

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

Chair`s Initials.....