



## Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024** at **7.00pm**. The meeting was held in the Council Offices, 8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary.

**PRESENT:** - Cllrs Grainger (Mayor), Stewart (Deputy Mayor), Johns, Green, Lucas, Williamson, Copus, Aherne, Faithfull, Feasey, Kerry Kennell (Clerk) and DCC Cllr Bailey

24/01/01

### **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Sneller

24/01/02

### **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**

<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Agenda Item and Interest</b>
Cllr Copus	No interests declared. During the meeting Cllr Copus declared an interest in Agenda item 10 as he lives in Claremont Field but confirmed that he is not impacted by the area of open space being discussed or the proposed maintenance of the area.
Cllr Green	No interests declared.
Cllr Lucas	No interests declared.
Cllr Feasey	No interests declared.
Cllr Williamson	No interests declared.
Cllr Faithfull	Agenda item 8 – Cllr Faithfull is the Council representative for the Friends of Ottery Library. Agenda item 10 – Cllr Faithfull advised that he does not have a personal or pecuniary interest but there is a potential or perceived bias. Agenda item 21 – Cllr Faithfull is a member of the Otter Trail group.
Cllr Aherne	No interests declared.
Cllr Stewart	Agenda Item 8 – Cllr Stewart declared a personal interest as a regular customer of Able2Acheive.

Chair's initials \_\_\_\_\_

	Agenda item 16 – Cllr Stewart declared a personal interest as a patient of the Coleridge Medical Centre.
Cllr Johns	Agenda item 16 – Cllr Johns declared a personal interest as a patient of the Coleridge Medical Centre.
Cllr Grainger	No interests declared.

24/01/03

**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** that Agenda item 8b recommendation in relation to Grant applications would be discussed in Confidential Session if any of the information relating to any of the grant applicants financial positions needed to be discussed.

24/01/04

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

None.

24/01/05

**TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 (MINUTE REFS 23/12/01 – 23/12/28) AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE MAYOR AS A CORRECT RECORD**

The minutes of 4th December 2023 (minute refs 23/12/01 – 23/12/28) were reviewed and signed by the Mayor as a true record of the meeting.

24/01/06

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS**

**EDDC Cllr Johns** sent a written report. EDDC Cllr Johns added that there had been social media interest in a recent post from Simon Jupp, MP. Cllr Johns is disappointed that neither the District Council nor Town Council have seen the report.

**EDDC Cllr Faithfull** has attended a cabinet meeting. An EDDC working group is being set up in relation to the Feniton Flood Alleviation Scheme and a representative will be requested from Feniton Parish Council and Ottery St Mary Town Council. Cllr Faithfull has also attended a Strategic Planning meeting regarding the proposed new town. The preferred site is between Exeter Airport and Sidmouth Road. EDDC Cllr Bailey had a motion passed requesting that all Devon district councils and the Local Government Association agree to a legal challenge to “robustly” resist speculative development and uphold councils’ policies for where new houses should be built.

**EDDC Cllr Collins** did not send a report.

**DCC Cllr Bailey** sent a written report. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Bailey will be able to answer questions when she arrives from her previous meeting.

24/01/07

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Chair’s initials \_\_\_\_\_

a. **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 (MINUTE REFS P23/12/01 - P23/12/10)**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (minute refs P23/12/01 – P23/12/10) were noted.

24/01/08

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

a. **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 (MINUTE REFS F23/12/01 - F23/12/08)**

The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (minute refs F23/12/01 – F23/12/08) were noted.

b. **TO CONSIDER (AND APPROVE IF APPROPRIATE) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE:**

- **GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

*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.*

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Pixie Day	£300	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the grant application is approved. The Committee are disappointed that EDDC are charging for use of the Land of Canaan. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk will ask EDDC for a list of their current fees to ensure the correct charge is being raised.
Able2Achieve	£2,278	It was <b>AGREED</b> that a meeting is arranged with Able2Achieve to discuss their application in more detail.
Friends of Ottery Library	£200	It was <b>AGREED</b> that a meeting is arranged with Friends of Ottery Library to discuss their application in more detail.
Ottery St Mary Library	£120	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the grant application is approved. This is a modest grant application and if further support is required the Council would advise the Library to contact them.
Ottery St Mary Primary School PTFA	£2,000	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the grant application is approved.

*The Confidential Session ended.*

- **THAT £79,000 OF RESERVES ARE USED AND TO INCREASE THE PRECEPT TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR WORK ON YOUTH SERVICES, DEVELOPING THE SKATEPARK, REGENERATION OF THE TOWN AND MAINTENANCE OF THEIR EXTENSIVE PROPERTY PORTFOLIO.**

Chair's initials \_\_\_\_\_

• **THAT THE PRECEPT FOR 2024-25 IS £282,510 SUBJECT TO A DISCUSSION BEING HELD WITH THE COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTANT.**

The Finance Committee have met with the Council's accountant. This meeting was unavoidably delayed due to a bereavement. The Council recognise that residents need to fully understand what they are getting from the Town Council proportion of their Council Tax. The Council are working on a Strategic Plan which will drive forward the Council's plans for the next few years. A further meeting with the accountant will be held later this month. The Council intends to publish information to share with the community later this year.

24/01/09

**TO APPROVE THE PRECEPT FOR 2024/25 AND MAKE DECISIONS IF APPROPRIATE**

It was RESOLVED that the Precept for 2024-25 is £282,510.00

*Cllr Faithfull left the meeting.*

24/01/10

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLAREMONT FIELD OPEN SPACE WORKING GROUP AND MAKE DECISIONS IF APPROPRIATE**

A further letter is being sent to residents of Claremont Field regarding the possibility of setting up a Residents Association where the residents would contribute to the cost of maintaining the open space but Betterments will retain ownership of the land and will continue to insure it. Residents will be asked to register their interest by the end of January.

*Cllr Faithfull joined the meeting.*

24/01/11

**CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

There were none.

24/01/12

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**a. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE DECEMER 2023 COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the December 2023 Council schedule of payments in the sum of £30,163.30.

**b. TO NOTE THE Q3 ACCOUNTS (OCTOBER-DECEMBER)**

The Q3 Accounts (October – December) were noted.

24/01/13

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) AT STRAWBERRY LANE AND MAKE DECISIONS IF APPROPRIATE REGARDING BEST WAY TO PROGRESS THE PROJECT INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF SETTING UP A WORKING GROUP AND IF APPROPRIATE, AGREEING TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The tender specification is under final review before it is published. EDDC have returned the signed funding agreement to the Council. This provides up to £165,000 of Section 106 money of which up to £15,000 can be used on consultant fees.

24/01/14

Chair's initials \_\_\_\_\_

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE EVENTS WORKING GROUP FOLLOWING THE CHRISTMAS LATE NIGHT EVENT**

Positive feedback has been received on the Festive Cheer event. A follow up meeting is being held on 25<sup>th</sup> January for those that took part in the event.

24/01/15

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FOLLOWING THE CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING AND TO AGREE NEXT STEPS**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct as soon as all Councillors have completed the revised Register of Interests form. Councillors who have not already attended the Code of Conduct training were urged to attend the next event which will be taking place late January/early February.

24/01/16

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING COLERIDGE MEDICAL CENTRE**

There is no update. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will request an update before the February Council meeting.

24/01/17

**TO CONFIRM CURRENT SECTION 106 PROJECTS**

It was **AGREED** that the Section 106 projects need to be reviewed by the Strategy Committee and should form part of the Strategic Plan for the Council.

24/01/18

**TO DISCUSS THE OTTER TRAIL AND TO CONSIDER WHAT SUPPORT THE COUNCIL CAN PROVIDE THE PROJECT**

It was **AGREED** this will be kept as a standing agenda item and the Otter Trail group will keep the Council informed of their progress.

24/01/19

**TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor has attended various meetings. The Mayor is concerned about the impact of the recent weather on the footpaths within the parish. The Footpath Wardens will be meeting to discuss this. The Mayor reinforced the need for the repair to the Coleridge Bridge to be treated as urgent.

24/01/20

**REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk welcomed Cllr Ben Feasey to the Council and was encouraged that there are now no vacancies on the Council. A Cream Tea event was held before Christmas to thank Council volunteers for their help throughout the year which was well received by those that attended. The roof repairs to the Council office have now been completed.

24/01/21

**TO NOTE ANY SPECIFIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Cllr Johns has been contacted regarding damage to the fence alongside The Tumbling Weir Hotel.

Cllr Johns has been contacted in her EDDC capacity regarding Pig Lane being used as a car park.

Chair's initials \_\_\_\_\_

It was AGREED that Cllr Johns in association with the Clerk will complete the appropriate paperwork to formally apply to DCC for the path at Slade Road to become a Public Right of Way.

The Clerk will escalate the poor quality repair to the footpath in Silver Street to The Neighbourhood Highways Officer. This is not acceptable in a conservation area. Cllr Williamson and Cllr Aherne are meeting with the Executive Head at Tipton St John C of E Primary School. A written report will be provided to the Council of this meeting.

24/01/22

**TO NOTE ANY REPORTS PREVIOUSLY E-MAILED BY COUNCILLORS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED**

There were none.

24/01/23

**COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS ON COUNCILLORS BUSINESS**

It was AGREED the Clerk will write to DCC asking them to repaint the white lines in the town. The clerk will also request that an arrow is painted on the Exeter bound carriageway (by Coleridge Medical Centre) as 100m of the stretch is not one way. It was AGREED that the one way signage needs to be improved. Shop keepers have reported cars coming into the town from Otter Garden Centre going the wrong way down Silver Street. The yellow chevrons also need to be repainted as they have faded.

Cllr Faithfull feels that there should be a bigger event to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council. He feels that this is a historical event and should be open to the whole community. To date Cllr Faithfull has found details for approximately 40 previous councillors.

Cllr Faithfull suggested that the Council should consider employing their own lengthsman to carry out maintenance work.

24/01/24

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS**

DCC Cllr Bailey spoke about the social media post in relation to the relocation of Tipton St John C of E Primary School. It was AGREED that the Clerk will write to the DfE requesting a copy of the report. It has been the Council's stated view that the school should remain in the community. The Council is very disappointed that they cannot comment on the post as they have not had sight of the report into the potential sites. The Council feel strongly that they should have been a consultee. It was noted that in 2020 the dioceses stated it had £1 million in their budget for use towards a new school building. As this is now being paid for through the Schools Rebuilding Programme it was asked whether those funds could be used to buy a suitable site within Tipton St John? The consultation regarding the 20mph should be launched shortly.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

<b>SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR</b>	
<b>DATE OF SIGNATURE</b>	

Chair's initials \_\_\_\_\_

<b>DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Council Offices, Ottery St Mary
-----------------------------------	---

Chair's initials \_\_\_\_\_