

**DRAFT Minutes of the Town Council meeting (virtual, remote) on Tuesday
30th June 2020 at 7:30pm**

Present (remote attendance): Councillors: Anderton, Abi Baker, Karen Baker, Brownlow, Buckland, Crawford, Day, Hood, Jones, Robinson and Skinner

In the chair: Councillor Jones

In (remote) Attendance: County Councillor Anna Groskop and District Councillor Lucy Trimmell
Councillors David Fothergill (SCC) and Val Keitch (SSDC)
Alex Parmley (CEx, SSDC), Richard Birch (SSDC)
Town Clerk

20/22 Welcome and Apologies for absence

In addition to the meeting being remote it was also broadcast on YouTube. The Chairman welcomed Councillors.

Apologies were received from Councillor Hall and Councillor attempted to access the remote meeting.

20/23 Declarations of Interests

Councillor Robinson declared a personal interest in item 20/28: LGR

Councillor Anderton declared a personal interest in item 20/36: The Dove.

Councillor Buckland declared disclosable pecuniary interests in items 20/37 and 20/39: Abbey Ponds fence and Accounts for Payment.

Councillor Groskop declared a personal interest in item 20/36: The Dove.

**20/24 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting 26 May 2020 and the
Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 16th June 2020**

**Council approved the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting 26 May 2020
and the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 16th June 2020.**

Resolved 11-0-0
[For-against-abstain]

20/25 Public Question Time

None

20/26 Action Points from Previous Meeting

The Town Council continues to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A CoC representative has been asked to join MTIG and SSDC also.

Committee Membership and Representatives on Outside Bodies have been confirmed.

**20/27 Reports from District Councillor Lucy Trimmell and County
Councillor Anna Groskop**

Councillor Lucy Trimmell provided a report from SSDC:

- Weekly bin collection missed some collections;

- Dog mess is a known problem a Cuckoo Hill which the Locality team is inspecting;
- A Planning Validation guide and enforcement module have been published;
- Promoted seeking Pre-Application advice;
- Business support grant continues; and
- Playdays has been cancelled for 2020.

Councillor Anna Groskop provided a report from SCC:

- Public Health is providing a weekly update on Coronavirus;
- Call for funding of projects near to completion; and
- SCC Scrutiny will be considering One Somerset.

20/28 Somerset Local Government Reorganisation

Councillors David Fothergill (SCC Leader) and Val Keitch (SSDC Leader) and Justin Robinson (CEX, Somerset Association of Local Councils) all provided Councillors with presentations on Somerset local government reorganisation including One Somerset.

Bruton Town Councillors were provided with the opportunity to ask questions:

- The opportunity to provide input: Government White Paper expected autumn 2020, so One Somerset Business Case planed August 2020, leading to consultation and a period of shadow authority;
- The ability of Somerset councils to work together;
- Local councils' contribution to Planning to be safeguarded;
- Devolution of services/assets should proceed without cost shunting;
- Climate and ecological emergency and achieving carbon neutral targets should be prioritised above reorganisation; financial bonus derived from establishing Unitary local government is needed to achieve targets;
- The diversity and number of Unitary Councillors;

Consultation timescales are not definitive, eg response to SCC 3 July and mid July response to SALC.

Council endorsed the seven recommendations from the SALC report.

Resolved 10-0-1

Councillors considered the benefits and concerns of establishing one Unitary Somerset Council:

- The Town Council accepts that there are benefits arising from one Somerset Council;
- There has been lack of a single voice or collaboration during Covid-19 pandemic;
- There is support for devolution of services/assets to local councils and that a single council is not needed to achieve that;
- Level of democratic representation in terms of numbers and diversity of the proposed Somerset Council Councillors; and
- In the midst of a climate and ecological emergency, reorganisation of Somerset Councils is a distraction; the emergency and achieving carbon neutral targets should be the priority.

Council agreed not to respond with a select of option (question 7 of the One Somerset consultation) and to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to draft the consultation response and to submit after consultation with all Members.

Resolved 10-0-1

20/29 Committee and Working Group Terms of Reference, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Council agreed that revised Terms of Reference for Committees and Working Groups, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations will initially be reported to the Finance & General Purposes Committee and then Full Council.

Resolved 11-0-0

20/30 Annual Accountability and Governance Report (AGAR) 2019/20

To consider the draft AGAR; the report from the Council's Internal Auditor; and approval of the AGAR for submission to the External Auditor.

a) Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

Resolved 11-0-0

b) Council approved the Accounting Statements 2019/20

Resolved 11-0-0

20/31 Draft Minutes of the Planning Committee and Transport Committee

Council noted the draft Minutes of the Planning Committee 5 June 2020 and Transport Committee 9 June 2020.

20/32 Draft Walking and Cycling Manifesto for Somerset

Council considered the draft Walking and Cycling Manifesto for Somerset and support of the final Manifesto.

Council approved the draft Manifesto and supported the final manifesto.

Resolved 11-0-0

20/33 Funding Contribution to Improvement Scheme at The Plox

Council considered the Council's £3k funding contribution (from Earmarked Reserves) to the improvement works at The Plox, noting the Transport Committee's (9 June 2020) advice to Full Council.

Councillor James Buckland left the meeting.

Council agreed, contrary to the Recommendation from Transport Committee, to provide £3,000 financial contribution to the highway improvement scheme at The Plox.

Resolved 6-2-2

20/34 Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Council received an update on the ICO decision notice (June 2020) from Councillor Hood and will advise SSDC Planning. Councillor Jones thanked Councillor Hood for his continued work and tenacity.

20/35 Bruton Food Drop

Council received an update on the Coronavirus response including next steps, and Bruton Food Drop and Food Bank including use of the Engine Shed and new BTC Resilience Officer to coordinate volunteering (to be considered by HR Committee and F&GP Committee 21 July 2020).

20/36 Funding Contribution to The Dove

Council considered a funding contribution to The Dove magazine. BTC recognised the value of the Dove publication and that BTC funding has previously been provided. It was agreed that this matter will be further discussed with The Dove prior to consideration by F&GP Committee on 21 July 2022.

20/37 Abbey Ponds Proposed Fence and Grass Cutting

Council considered the estimate for provision of a stockproof fence at Abbey Ponds and grass cutting and highlighted that three competitive quotes are needed to comply with Financial Regulations.

It was decided that Abbey Ponds fence be delegated to F&GP Committee to receive quotes and award the contract.

Resolved 10-0-0

20/38 Review of Arrangements for Remote Meetings

Council deferred this Agenda item.

20/39 Reports

Council confirmed that HR Committee (21 July 2020) will consider opening of the Community Office. Also, an apology to the RBL that Remembrance Day will be discussed at a future Town Council meeting.

20/40 Accounts for Payment**Accounts for Payment (30 June 2020):**

Name	Amount	Purchased	Date
Invoices:			
SLR Outdoor Maintenance	£1,262.80	June 2020 Grounds Maintenance contract plus Jubilee CP post repair; (Invoice no. 01375)	05/06/2020
SLR Outdoor Maintenance	£150.00	Godminster CP surface repair (Invoice no. 01371)	03/06/2020
Noel Radford	£220.00	Dead Elm tree at Godminster CP	16/06/2020
Lyreco	£438.67	Envelopes, printer cartridges and A4 paper	18/06/2020
Total Gas & Power (DD)	£15.93	Jubilee Park MUGA (inv ..032)	06/062020
Opus Energy (DD)	£21.56	Comm Office standing charges246,711,741	02/04/2020- 19/06/2020
Opus Energy (DD)	£104.30	Comm Office meter 14189707001,917 (Opus balance in credit £1,200.42)	20/04/2020- 19/06/2020
Water2business (DD)	£16.62	Trough o/s605 ...906	04/06/2020
EM Accounts	£50.00	Internal Audit	15/06/2020

SSDC	£898.20	Godminster CP 2020/21 NNDR	12/03/2020
SSDC	£1,921.15	Comm Office 2020/21 NNDR	12/03/2020
SSDC	£47.85	Comm Office Insurance Recharge	03/06/2020
Rialtas	£148.80	Annual support & maintenance	13/06/2020
Google (DD)	£74.52	Cloud GSuite (May 2020) ...802	31/05/2020
Town Clerk	£1,686.43	June 2020 Salary	19/06/2020
Assistant Town Clerk	£409.03	June 2020 Salary	19/06/2020
PATA Payroll	£46.35	April, May, June 2020	19/06/2020
HMRC	£0.00	June 2020 (£27.00 PAYE; £286.40 NIC; £800.87 HMRC Credit)	19/06/2020
TPT Retirement Solutions (DD)	£149.48	Employer £74.74; Employee £74.74	19/06/2020

Receipts:

Headstone	£55.00	Plot 147	20/05/2020
Interment	£65.00	Plot 56c (prepurchased)	03/06/2020

Members agreed the schedule of payments.

Resolved 10-0-0

Meeting end 10:30 pm

Members of Council considered the following matters in the exercise of their functions: Equal opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.