

Minutes of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held at 7.30-pm on Tuesday 8th February 2022 at the Methodist Church.

Present: Councillors Anderton, Grahame Baker, Buckland, Crawford, Day, Fradley, Jones and Robinson.

Chair: Councillor Jones

In attendance: Community Development Officer, Assistant Clerk.

21/093 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Brownlow, Cullen, Hood and Pickering, and also from District Councillor Lucy Trimnell and County Councillor Anna Groskop.

21/094 Declarations of Interests

Councillor Anderton declared a possible interest in item 21/099

21/095 Confidential Business – motion to exclude the Public

Since the business to be transacted (contracts and staffing matters) was likely to include commercially confidential and personal matters it was considered in the public interest for the press and public to be temporarily excluded and asked to withdraw.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

21/096 Abbey Ponds – to consider quotations for works which are due to commence before 1st March 2022.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the quotation presented by MSG Keynes Agricultural and Groundwork Contractors be accepted, subject to the agreement of the donors funding the work.

21/097 Station Road car park:

- i. **To consider quotations for the engagement of a planning consultant.**

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed by a majority vote that the Council appoint Carter Jonas and instruct them to proceed with the review of reports and plans, the preparation of a Planning statement and covering letter and the submission of a Planning application.

Members asked for the vote to be recorded.

FOR: 5 - Cllrs Anderton, Baker, Crawford, Fradley and Jones

AGAINST: 2 - Cllrs Buckland and Robinson

ABSTAIN: 1 - Cllr Day

- ii. **To consider a variation to the lease to enable arrangements for the provision of electric vehicle charging points.**

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the lease be varied so as to enable the provision of electric vehicle charging points.

21/098 Staff resignation and interim working arrangements

Members understood but regretted that the Town Clerk had tendered her resignation for personal reasons.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to advertise the position of Town Clerk with a degree of flexibility about the precise number of working hours but an expectation of c.25 hours per week.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the current Clerk be asked to extend her notice for a short period on greatly reduced hours if that were possible.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Somerset Association of Local Clerks (SALC) be asked to assist in the recruitment of a locum Clerk.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to request financial support from Somerset County Council to enable officer time to be set aside for the piloting of a Local Community Network.

21/099 Recruitment process:

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that 28th February 2022 be the deadline for applications for the position of Town Clerk, with interviews conducted in the first week in March by an interview panel comprising Councillors Anderton, Day and Jones with Justin Robinson of SALC providing expert advice.

The meeting ended at 20:15.

Patrick Pender-Cudlip

Assistant Town Clerk