

40th Annual Town Meeting

To be signed at the next meeting 2014

Minutes of the 40th Town Meeting held in the Council House, 44 Old Street, Clevedon, 7.00pm, Monday 13th May 2013

Present

Cllr J Middleton – Chairman of Clevedon Town Council Presiding

District/Town Councillors C. Blades, C. Bussey, C Francis-Pester, B Garner, J. Geldart, A. Giles-Townsend, C. Hall, B. Hatch, L. Knott, L Little, J Middleton, T. Morgan, J. Norton-Sealey, N. Pennycott, A. Shopland, D Shopland, G. Watkins, C Wring.

Town Clerk – Ms P Heath MILCM, Deputy Town Clerk Mrs Johnson

11 Local Government Electors. Mr Hale filming the meeting on behalf of Clevedon News.

TM 13/1 MINUTES OF THE 39TH TOWN MEETING

Proposed and seconded that the minutes of the 39th Annual Town Meeting held on 21st May 2012 are a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

TM 13/2 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

The Council Chairman and Committee Chairman reports were circulated prior to the meeting. Copies of which are attached for information only.

The meeting felt that the reports should be available to everyone before the day of the meeting to enable those interested to read the reports. The Town Clerk pointed out that the reports are produced once all the reports had been received by the office unfortunately 3 of the reports had not been received until the previous Friday.

The following question/comments were made

Transport & Highways

Potholes: NSC would be investigating new methods of road repairs with solutions used in Germany and Scotland using recycled tyres; a French method, suggested by a resident, would also be investigated.

Station Road Bollard: it was noted that since the report the lock on the Bollard had been removed.

Holly Lane: it was reported that the double yellow lines would be painted in July

Proposed by Cllr Blades, seconded by Cllr Garner and **AGREED** by the meeting to accept the reports.

TM 13/3 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Town clerk presented the circulated annual accounts to 31st March 2012, that had been audited and agreed by the Council and the 2013/2014 budget. The 2013 accounts had been completed but not yet presented to the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Wring and **AGREED** by the meeting to accept the financial report

TM 13/4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTOR PARTICIPATION

Mr Hurley

PUBLIC TOILETS: -Expressed concern that the Pier Copse and Alexandra Road toilets which had been taken over by the Pier Trust were limited in the times they were open to the public

It was explained that Clevedon Town Council was taking over the maintenance and management of 2 of the toilet units at Station Road and the Chalet but that there was a motion in front of Council to look at the future management of the other toilets at Sixways, Pier Copse and Alexandra Road. There would be considerable cost involved in taking on these units that would have to be paid by the rate payers of the town as the income from the charging would not cover the cost

BANDSTAND: -Thanked the Town Council along with North Somerset Council for the starting of the repair work on the Bandstand.

It was explained that the Civic Society was also involved.

Mr Lovering

PUBLIC TOILETS: -Appreciated the comments concerning the cost of the toilets but felt this would be money well spent to improve the standard of the toilets. He expressed concern at the closure of Sixways and what effect this would have on the drivers and passengers of the buses that use that stop.

It was explained that the Sixways toilets were not owned by NSC but were leased by them from the Cadets. The future of these toilets had been considered by the Council but was not financially viable even if the lease could be reassigned. Currently it is understood the block is to be demolished.

Mr Niblett

PUBLIC TOILETS: -Expressed concern that sixways was closed despite there being a lot of retail activity in the area and that these should be retained

It was explained about the cost of running these toilets and pointed out that North Somerset Council did not have a statutory duty or requirement to provide public conveniences.

Mr Moore

REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS: -Expressed concern that public representation at meetings did not allow for the members of the public to enter into discussion with individual Councillors and that there was limited time to make a point within the public session. After his comments to the Council on 20th March concerning the toilets no councillor took up his request to contact him outside the meeting.

PUBLIC TOILETS: -Expressed concern in line with Mr Hurley that the Pier Copse Toilets and Alexandra Road Toilets were only open when decreed by the Pier Trust in line with the Pier opening hours

The Meeting were reminded that the Pier Trust had come forward and offered to take on the toilets till the Visitors Centre had been built and they were responsible for the opening/closing of the toilets plus cleaning/maintenance.

In response to a comment made it was explained that the Town Council administers land and buildings on behalf of the Town and cannot sell those held in a trust or allocated under statutory duty like the allotments.

ROAD SIGNS & WEEDS: -Mr Moore reported that he had attended a Committee meeting in August 2012 concerned about signage by the Motorway, which was removed, and the weeds on the seafront and Alexandra Road – Nothing had been done

It was explained that the signs were removed after pressure on NSC. The weeds in the roads were part of the highways department of NSC and they had been requested to deal with them. The Seafront comes under the Leisure Department. The Chairman explained the problems encountered by the Council & Councillors when dealing with the different departments in NSC, especially as they are sometimes unclear as the areas of responsibility.

The Meeting was reminded that the NSC Area Officer held a surgery at the Town Council offices on the fourth Friday of the month between 10am – 12 noon.

Mr Morgan

PUBLIC TOILETS: -Expressed concern that the District Councillors of Clevedon had allowed the decision to be made to close the toilets and in his opinion there were other ways to fund the cuts needed such as cancelling the Councils Life magazine. He reported that NSC were continuing to fund and run the toilets in Weston therefore the Town Council should refuse to take on the Toilets and give them back to NSC.

It was explained that NSC would close the toilets and that those in Weston were being run by Weston Town Council.

Mr Garner as a North Somerset Councillor

Explained about the difficulties being experienced by NSC in meeting the 90 million pound cuts that are required over the next 5 years, these will have a dramatic effect on all services. The NSC Magazine is enjoyed by many people in the district and provides a communication to the elderly and the housebound; the cutting of it would disenfranchise that section of the community.

Mr Lovering

PUBLIC TOILETS: -Queried who would pay for the cost of the demolition of Sixways toilet.

It was explained that this was part of the lease requirement.

HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY:- Concern was expressed as to the availability and service to Clevedon under the “out of hours” service by the doctors, especially as some of this was being done by specially trained nurses and not doctors under the agreement with a private company.

It was explained that the Clinical Commissioning Group commission the services and that any concerns are raised with them with evidential backup.

Mr Withers speaking on behalf of Clevedon Pride

TIDES FESTIVAL:- The Marlens festival this year will include an enhanced music and arts festival it is hoped that Clevedon Town Council will provide representatives to join the committee. They were not asking for finance but practical assistance to sort out parking and temporary toilets.

Concern was expressed as to the state of NSC Finance as their accounts still showed as an asset the money held by the Icelandic bank which they are unlikely to have returned. It was explained by a NSC Councillor that NS Council were expecting to receive all the finance back and that this investment had been made in line with the government criteria at that time.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE:- The need to volunteer more and get involved was expressed, this was where money could be saved and services improved. Clevedon Pride were always looking for more volunteers to help keep Clevedon tidy.

G Moore

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION:- Stated the need of the community to be able to raise points of view and of concern to the Council via the Annual Town Meeting, and to have them considered

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited all members of the public to attend the Annual Statutory Meeting to be held following this meeting

The meeting closed at 8. 04 pm

CHAIRMAN Date