

34th ANNUAL CLEVEDON TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the 34th Town Meeting held in the Council House, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 8.00pm, Wednesday, 25 April 2007

Present: Cllr D Shopland, Chairman of Clevedon Town Council - PRESIDING

3 District/Town Cllrs A Cotton, G Morris, J Norton-Sealey 12 Town Cllrs – M Adames, C Blades, J Dagnall, C Francis-Pester,
P Gannicliff, R Garner, L Knott, L Little, T Morgan, B Morris, G Watkins, C Wring 3 Local Government Electors

TM/07/1 MINUTES OF THE 33rd TOWN MEETING

The Chairman reported the Minutes of the 33rd Town Meeting held on 24 May 2006 had been approved at the meeting of the Town Council held on 28 June 2006. The Chairman SIGNED the Minutes.

TM/07/2 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL – summary below, full reports attached as appendices.

❖ COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr David Shopland

This being the final year in the life of this Council it has been a time for consolidation of past actions and preparation for the handover to a new Council in May. This year has been successful due to the dedication of a nucleus of councillors. It is hoped the Election will produce sufficient councillors who have the time and inclination to ensure good management of the town for the benefit of the residents they represent.

My wife and I give heartfelt thanks for the support of everyone over the last 4 years. The Council's workings and finances are in good order and we hope the new Council will be able to achieve great things for Clevedon. (Appendix 'A')

❖ ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE Report – Chairman Carole Wring

On our 6 allotment sites huge efforts are being made by most tenants, with original planting, attractive sheds, scarecrows, chickens, keeping paths tidy, badger defences etc. The Clevedon Flower show gave us an excellent opportunity to create a stunning visual display demonstrating the variety of produce. It also gives us a chance to talk to other people interested in 'allotmenting' or just finding out what it is all about.

The Annual Tenants' Meeting was held in September 06, with the usual good-humoured recognition of fine achievements. Each site is different and details are provided of their particular aspects and achievements in the full report. Our thanks to the Town Council staff for the 2 newsletters and general management – ensuring Clevedon has allotments to be proud of. (Appendix 'B')

❖ AMENITY COMMITTEE Report – Chairman Carl Francis-Pester

We have continued to monitor North Somerset Council's performance in managing the majority of amenities throughout the town, regularly following up with officers, who attend out meetings, some major works which remain outstanding, including; replacement equipment in play areas, railings around Marine Lake, fencing on Poet's Walk and enhancements to Queens Square.

We have specific responsibility for Herbert Gardens and, following recent development of the Clevedon Saleroom site, a significant sum of money became available to spend in Herbert Gardens – damaged benches were replaced, a paved platform and seating area was created on the old pavilion site and an intensive tree pruning and groundcover tidy-up was carried out.

Annually we struggle with the changes in legislation affecting Christmas Lights and the way they can be organised in public places. Whilst the Amenity Committee has overseen a number of infrastructure and display improvements, clearly more needs to be done.

A number of councillors attend meetings of local organisations and provide reports back from these, including; Clevedon Pier Trust, Clevedon Tourism Group, Community Centre and the Curzon. (Appendix 'C')

❖ ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE Report – Chairman John Norton-Sealey

There have been many decisions made this year, some of which have an effect on our entire town, especially in the near future; Clevedon Hall Estate taking care to try and achieve a good balance, the enlargement of Tescos which the committee recommended refusal, seeing the possible destruction of our shopping area. The Royal Pier application on which we are trying to get news as to when the development will eventually begin – along with a few other similar applications which need continued attention to try and influence these for the enhancement of Clevedon.

Following the completion of the Church on Queens Square this has allowed the Farmers and Weekly Markets to go from strength to strength. Our Clevedon Tree Warden continues to guide the Committee on tree matters.

Residents are encouraged and invited to visit our meetings to discuss applications, we find this to be very beneficial for the knowledge we obtain from it. We continue to serve the community in our deliberations and to try to make the town an even better place in which to live. (Appendix 'D')

❖ FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE Report – Chairman Carl Francis-Pester

It is one of our purposes to review all aspects of the financial management of the Council, to ensure income and expenditure summaries are in order. During the past year a close eye has been kept on expenditure, taking the opportunity to review the Council's insurance costs, looking for match funding and careful scrutiny of each committee's budgets, thereby successfully reducing the precept for the forthcoming year.

Various consultation documents such as the draft Freedom of Information & Data Protection paper were considered and comments submitted. The Council's Risk Logs were checked to make sure they are still appropriate for the Council's business. The Annual Audit process was overseen and our thanks to Committee Chairmen for their diligence in managing their budgets. (Appendix 'E')

❖ LIAISON COMMITTEE Report – Chairman Cllr P McNeill

Consultations have taken place with many organisations - Clevedon CCTV Management, MARLENS, Clevedon Local Action Team, North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau, Gwilliam & Woodward Trust. Monitoring has continued to ensure the wishes of the people are known concerning Clevedon Cottage Hospital. Grants applications were considered and given to many (non profit) organisations; divided between small local groups and the larger Citizens Advice Bureau, Clevedon Community Centre, Victim Support etc.

The Committee also had concerns about the policy of not recycling certain household etc items from the Black Rock quarry civic amenity site and it was recommended the District Council should reconsider their views, which had positive results. A sum of money in the budget assisted with the funding the very successful Brunel event. Throughout the year members have overseen the Council's 12 newsletters published in the North Somerset Times. (Appendix 'F')

❖ PROPERTY COMMITTEE Report - Chairman David Shopland

Administering the Council's properties has proved to be a relatively easy matter during the past 12 months – no major repairs only small maintenance tasks. Discussions are taking place with the Citizens Advice Bureau regarding the use of the Village Hall, as the Baptist Church no longer has a need to use it. Our tenants in the cottage have proved to be amendable and helpful. Happily the Triangle Clock keeps its own peculiar and regular record of the passage of time. (Appendix 'G')

❖ TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE Report – Chairman Graham Watkins

The committee continues to address the problems of speeding traffic in various parts of the town. In Old Street efforts have been made for the construction of a raised, controlled pedestrian crossing near the Health Centre along with increasing the height of the dome in the mini-roundabout at the Highdale Avenue junction. Speed activated illuminated signs have been called for in Southern Way and Northern Way. There has been further consideration of a 20mph speed restriction in Fosse Way with costings presently being sought.

A review of yellow lines around the town is being carried out to enable recommendations to be presented to North Somerset Council. Sadly adequate enforcement remains a problem to be resolved. Past pressure from the committee has seen the installation of a crossing in Kenn Road near Dawes Close.

Following consultations, proposals for limited coach parking in Salthouse Fields car park was supported – subject to review and enforcement. New charging at the Hawthorns car park is designed to encourage greater use. Finally a bus shelter survey was carried out and efforts are currently be made to replace the worst ones and reinstate one damaged by a bus (currently the subject of an insurance claim for the cost). (Appendix 'H')

TM/07/3 FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The report – attached as appendix 'I' – of the 2006/2007 Financial Year ended 31 March 2006 was circulated.

TM/07/4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS PARTICIPATION
Electors present;

The Chairman opened the meeting to the Local Government

04.1 Mr J Dagnall, 60 Dial Hill Road – felt that this meeting should send a message with regard to the proposed Tesco development, that being; *'Tesco already has too much power and little regard for local shops. The company is profit orientated and motivated by greed – which will have an adverse affect on a town the size of Clevedon.'*

Some people present spoke for the need to keep a mix of shops in the town and others about concerns regarding the increase in traffic going to the new larger store. Another stated that during canvassing they had enquired the local residents' view, which were mostly in favour of the new store, another person expressed concern they would go somewhere else if they met with too much resistance, thereby taking trade away from Clevedon.

The Chairman called for a vote; 9 FOR 4 AGAINST sending a message.

04.2 OTHER ISSUES RAISED

- Royal Pier Hotel – concern at the deplorably long delay in developing this important seafront building. District Councillors provided an update on the planning situation.
- Advertising Town Council meetings – a suggestion was put forward for a noticeboard to be located in Queen Square. Agreed to give this consideration after the forthcoming election.
- North Area Committee – it was felt these District Council committees should meet in the area they represent and not in Weston super Mare.
- Sustainable Energy – a discussion around the merits of Wind Turbines and the Severn Barrage and whether North Somerset Council had a Sustainable Energy Policy.

There being no other questions or comments, at 8.20pm the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....