

LYNTON & LYNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM.

PRESENT: **Councillors:**
 C Sleep (Mayor)
 S Hibbert (Deputy Mayor)
 D Harding
 P Hawkins
 A Hobbs
 J Patrinos
 B Peacock
 M Pearce
 A Rodway
 A Seckleman
 (Vacancy)
 (Vacancy)

Officers: Town Clerk and Town Council Secretary

Also Present: County Councillor A Davis, who joined later down the agenda.

201/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two members of the public were present. One parishioner questioned Members about the works occurring in fields next to the Cemetery and in particular commented on muddy trip hazards on the pavement. Councillor Peacock thought the pavement had been cleared. Town Clerk suggested Report-a-Problem, County Highways website where trip hazards can be reported, whether road or pavements. The other parishioner was observing.

202/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

203/20 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Patrinos declared an interest in any planning items as he is on the Exmoor National Parks Planning Committee.

204/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 28 January 2021, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Mayor.

205/20 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Cleverdon sent an update, as the police are unable to join virtual meetings at this time. There have been 3 crimes reported for February. In the March newsletter they are highlighting the Web Chat facility on their website www.devon-cornwall.police.uk as an alternative to ringing 101, as another way to report incidents, or emailing 101@dc.police.uk 999 should still be rung should anyone suspect an offence is being committed and/or they suspect offenders are still on the scene.

The Facebook appeal was mentioned requesting assistance from public to report any sightings of off-roaders on SSSI sites. So far they have recorded 3 crimes, 2 causing damage to an SSSI site and 1 for damage to an ancient monument.

206/20 MAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

There is no update as yet from Government about continuing remote meetings after the current regulations expire on 7 May 2021. Therefore the AGM will go ahead 'virtually' on Wednesday 5 May 2021, commencing 7.30pm.

Councillor Seckleman joined the meeting.

207/20 COUNCIL VACANCY

A discussion took place about the second Council vacancy. Councillor Hawkins has already secured 10 signatures so this vacancy will go to an election in May.

208/20 UNAUTHORISED ENTRANCE BETWEEN PIG FIELDS AND LYNTON CEMETERY

Much research has been done regarding this entrance and the works foreman has no recall of any gateway. Even on an 1840's map, there is nothing. Town Clerk has received an email from the owner of these fields and they are happy to close the entrance. It was

RESOLVED

To reply to the owner stating that Council would be grateful if they would close this and thanking them for their co-operation.

209/20 PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR VALLEY OF ROCKS PICNIC SITE PROPOSALS

Members discussed granting delegated powers to Estates & Amenities Committee so they can respond on behalf of Council to meet the deadline for response. It was

RESOLVED

To grant Estates & Amenities delegated powers.

210/20 DEVON REGISTRATION SERVICE

The license is due for renewal on 15 March 2021, to enable civil marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations to take place in Town Hall. It was

RESOLVED

To renew the license

211/20 PLANNING

Councillor J Patrinos reminded members that as in all planning matters, when he obtains additional information on applications when attending Exmoor National Park Planning Committee this may necessitate him changing his views

62/41/21/002 – St Vincent Guest House, Market Street, Lynton

Proposed replacement of 6 no. windows.

62/41/21/003LB – St Vincent Guest House, Market Street, Lynton

Listed Building Consent for the replacement of 6 no. windows.

It was

RESOLVED

To support the application, as long as all the alternatives that may be available, be explored.

It is to be noted, Councillor Patrinos abstained from voting.

County Councillor Davis joined the meeting

62/41/20/021 – Amended Plans Notification Tors Hotel, Tors Park, Lynmouth

Proposed re-development of existing hotel site consisting of partial demolition of existing building and construction of 31 no. apartments, incorporation and retention of 3 no. previously converted apartments within retained section of existing building, and construction of 2 no. semi-detached dwellings (as an alternative to previously approved

application reference 62/41/17/009). It was

RESOLVED

To have no objection to the application and Councillors would like to see swift bricks put into the turrets of the building.

It is to be noted, Councillor Patrinos abstained from voting.

212/20 COMMUNICATIONS

a. Local Restrictions Support Grant

The application for this grant was not approved as Town Hall was thought not eligible. Town Clerk has challenged NDC on this and awaits reply.

b. Lyn Valley Covid-19 Hub Community Councillor Grant

This grant for project "Blankets for those that need them" has been agreed. Councillor Hawkins thanked North Devon Councillor Patrinos for the grant.

c. Covid-19 Third Wave Funding

The application has been successful for funds to remunerate Volunteer drivers.

213/20 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED

That open reports of the following committees, having been circulated, be noted and recommendations contained therein adopted.

Estates and Amenities Committee

10 February 2021

Minutes 186/20-192/20

Policy and Finance Committee

17 February 2021

Minutes 193/20 – 199/20

Minute number 198/20, C iii Councillor Patrinos stated that it probably would not be a problem with change of use, however there would be an issue with possible alterations, this would generally show that the current use is redundant which it is not.

214/20 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Councillor Patrinos attended a LETA meeting on 9 February. The minutes are attached to these minutes.

215/20 MOTIONS:

There were no motions received.

216/20 NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Councillor Patrinos reported:

This year around 1/10 of Council tax goes to the District Council, this will be going up by 2 1/2 %, but financial future is concerning across the board. It is likely District will be changing services so they cost less, this possibly may include black bin collection once every three weeks, and a raise in the cost of the green bin service. He stated the staff are dealing well with the pandemic.

Barnstaple town centre will be receiving a revamp, with a 6.5 million grant from Future High Street Fund

Questions

Councillor Peacock asked whether car park prices were going up. Councillor Patrinos advised his was more to do with Ilfracombe, Woolacombe and Croyde. Councillor Hawkins asked about the rationale for NDC increasing Council Tax and Councillor Patrinos responded with details and reasons why.

217/20 DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Davis talked to her report, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Questions

Councillor Rodway requested Councillor Davis expand on Adult Social Care Package.

Councillor Hobbs informed Councillor Davis that the streetlights were finally working on Esplanade.

Councillor Peacock wondered what the Highways vans were doing in Lynton.

Councillor Hawkins left the meeting at this point, as he is on call for work.

218/20 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk updated Members on the concrete survey of Lynbridge car park, following the structural assessment and this has been forwarded to North Devon Council as it is an agency asset, and they are considering their options.

He reported on his research of the Ladywell stream, and has only found out who is not responsible.

Valuation Office has inspected Hayloft. They are satisfied this is two separate units.

He had a drains meeting with Councillor Davis and a Devon County Council officer, this will improve communications, and there are plans to work alongside Councillor Hardings team, the Road Warden Volunteers.

A schedule is now in place for the ongoing repair/replacement of windows in Town Hall.

Having received Councillor Meakins resignation, the Monitoring officer has been informed and this vacancy will be subject to public election.

Outside workforce are steadily working through the work schedule.

Questions

There were none.

219/20 QUESTIONS

There were none.

Part 2

Chairman moved that

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest the press and public are temporarily excluded and they be asked to withdraw

220/20 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS FOR RESOLUTION

**a. COMMITTEE REPORTS
RESOLVED**

That open reports of the following committees, having been circulated, be noted and recommendations contained therein adopted.

Policy and Finance Committee

17 February 2021

Minutes 200/20

b. Consideration of rent issues for Council Tenants

Council considered financial situation of a Council Tenant, and it was

RESOLVED

Officers would manage a deferred payment scheme.

Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council

County Councillors Report

February 2021

North Devon Link Road.

I had the pleasure of turf cutting as Devon County Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development, to mark the start of the A361 improvements between South Molton and Portmore roundabout at Barnstaple.

Contractor [Alun Griffiths](#) will be carrying out the work to widen sections of the road in order to provide better and safer overtaking opportunities and improve journey time reliability.

Eight junctions will also be upgraded to improve safety, and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists will be introduced with new segregated pedestrian/cycle crossings of the road at Bishops Tawton and at Landkey Junction.

Work is initially starting in a number of locations which will be widened along the link road and temporary traffic lights will be in place for the first few weeks while both sides of the carriageway are cleared on these stretches.

Once these work sites are established, two-way traffic flow will be maintained but a 40mph limit will be introduced to protect the workforce and members of the public.

The scheme, which is due to be completed by the end of 2023, is expected to boost the local economy and it will also accelerate plans for 6,700 new homes in the region.

Every effort will be made to minimise traffic delays but unfortunately it will be unavoidable while this work is carried out. However, the long-term benefits will outweigh the short-term disruption.

Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council

The link below may be of interest to residents with the situation changing and many interested in what is happening locally this link is a useful starting point for questions and the current situation in Devon.

The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

Mass vaccination programme

- Work is continuing across the county at pace to deliver the local mass vaccination programme. The CCG is producing [regular vaccination briefing notes](#) and I shall endeavour to circulate these as they are published. People aged 70 and over and the clinically extremely vulnerable have begun to [receive invitations for vaccinations](#) as of the 18 January, alongside frontline Health and Care staff and the over 80s who were the initial priority groups.
- With so much going on and at such pace it can be hard to keep track with developments. To date there are three main ways the vaccine is being delivered in Devon:
 - All four of the county's main hospitals – in Plymouth, Exeter, Torquay and Barnstaple – are giving the vaccination to priority groups in line with national guidance
 - GP practices are working together in groups to set up local vaccination centres. Across the county, 20 centres are now in operation, serving all 123 of Devon's GP practices
 - GP-led facilities are delivering the vaccine to residents and staff in care homes

Barnstaple Community Testing Centre,

The Test centre is in the car park at Barnstaple's Taw View, Civic Centre, on North Walk road, and will be open 9am to 5pm, seven days a week, with extended hours 7am to 7pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

It provides lateral flow tests for anyone who leaves the house to work or volunteer, and who comes into contact with others.

The purpose of community testing is to identify people likely to have the virus, so that those testing negative can continue their day while still following public health rules. Anyone testing positive is instructed to go home and self-isolate.

The tests are for people who may not know they are carrying the virus. One in three people with coronavirus do not show any symptoms and could be going about their day passing it to others unknowingly.

People who can't work from home and who are in contact with others regularly are encouraged to take these quick tests twice a week to prevent the potential spread of the virus.

The results are back with you within the hour. If you test positive, you'll be asked to self-isolate for ten days. If you're negative, you can continue your day while still adhering to public health rules – keep your social distance, wear a face covering when indoors in a public space, and wash your hands regularly.

Community Testing Centres are for people who are not showing any symptoms and who aren't already accessing regular testing, through their employer for example.

To book a rapid test and to find out more about Community Testing in Devon, visit

Devon County Council Budget 21-22

More than £37 million extra will be going into vital services with an additional £21.7 million for adult care and health and £11.4 million more for children's services.

In addition, there will be £600,000 extra to tackle the county's potholes and road drainage and a £600,000 hardship fund for residents who have been hard hit economically by the pandemic.

In total the council's spending will be almost £580 million in 2021/22.

The budget provides significant additional resources to adult social care and health, children's services and highways. Caring for the elderly and disabled, children and the vulnerable are our highest priorities.

We know that we have immense pressure on both our adult and children's services, we want to maintain and improve what we are offering.

We will continue to support rurality, rural buses, and highways but we will also look to invest in our green agenda.

Continue to invest in LED lighting on our streetlights, saving money but also cutting our carbon emissions.

There will be more charging points for electric cars, solar panels on the roofs of DCC buildings and we are looking for more land to plant trees to offset our carbon footprint.

The average Band D council tax bill for Devon's services will rise by 4.99 per cent to help pay for it – that's 1.99 per cent for general services and 3 per cent dedicated solely to adult care.

It means the Band D bill will rise by £71.82 to £1,511.28 – the equivalent of £1.38 a week extra.

We are very conscious that many people living in Devon are on fixed and low incomes but every year we have to balance imposing more costs on them with the need to ensure our most vulnerable residents get the help and support they need and deserve and all our residents get the best services we can provide. The budget for 2021/22 includes significant investment in core services to support the most vulnerable people in Devon, some 73 per cent of the budget spend is on the most vulnerable.

The backdrop to the budget is one of huge uncertainty and risk – we do not know how long the pandemic will continue or what the longer term impact on the economy, public health and demand for services will be.

We are in unprecedented times and the authority faces significant risk of increased demand for services, increased costs and reducing funding. We face a challenging future in every respect, and it will not be an easy path to navigate.

Devon Recycling Centres are still open, with restrictions.

Our recycling centres are still open, although the resale areas within them are closed.

The national lockdown advice right now is for us to stay at home as much as possible and only to make journeys out of the house for essential reasons only.

Therefore, we are encouraging you to think about how you can reduce the amount of waste you create.

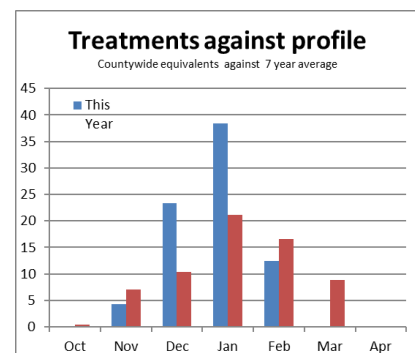
- Try to postpone projects at home that produce waste that would normally require you to make journeys to recycling centres
 - If you do produce waste that you would normally dispose of at a recycling centre, can you temporarily store it at home safely instead, until we're out of the current lockdown restrictions
 - Remember that garden waste and other recyclable material can be removed as part of your usual curb side collections
- If you make a visit to the recycling centre, please expect them to be operating differently during this lockdown period. Restrictions are in place, including social distancing, which may lead to queues. If queues do start forming, we may need to restrict vehicles from joining the queues towards the end of the day and if queues become a safety hazard on the public highway, we may need to temporarily close the site.

Highways Update.

Winter is certainly here, although the lowest road temperature for this season is still the -7.2°C on Dartmoor on 31st Dec.

The graph right highlights the number of treatments this year (blue) compared to the average of the last 7 years (red). So far, we have used 50% more salt this year at over 15,000 tonnes and we are currently restocking the salt barns.

Lockdown traffic flows average out at about 36% below the equivalent day last year.



Assistance to NHS with COVID vaccination centres

The Network Operations Team have been supporting the NHS with their deployment of Vaccination Centres by:

- Supplying salt and grit bins where requested
- Increasing salting routes to take in most centres where not already on the network
- Enabling the NHS to achieve an acceptable Traffic Management Plan for Westpoint and working with TCS to allow local buses to divert through the site.
- Supporting with VMS where appropriate.

Esplanade Lynmouth

The suspension of parking order has come through, it runs from 8th March- 31st October. Very happy to cover the cost (£800) unfortunately I couldn't run to £10k for planters instead of barriers. The planters would have been much more attractive. Kevin and I did have a conversation earlier about what we may be able to do instead, I will keep this in mind and ask around to see if I can find something more attractive.

Goodleigh Road closure.

I haven't got dates yet; was hoping for this week so at least it would be in lockdown but negotiations are still ongoing with the landowner. As soon as I have the dates I will of course let you know.

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

telephone: [0345 155 1004](tel:03451551004)

Andrea Davis

Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

LETA MINUTES OF 9 FEBRUARY 2021

Present: Kevin Harris, Liz Cwilewicz, Suzette Hibbert, Ashley Clarke, Rob Newman, Nick Woodall, Jason Broughton, John Patrinos.

Apologies: Dan James, Sally Cleary, Victoria Hodges.

No attendance: Adrian Hobbs, Keith Vingoe.

1) Lyn Valley Workhub

The history of the project, the way the £100,000 grant was won, the location, the plans for the building, the timescale for delivery, and the likely day-to-day management were explained. The group discussed and welcomed the planned delivery of 5/6 office spaces and 4 hot desks by December 2021, all for short term rent. The feasibility of using the Town Hall for this purpose was also discussed.

Action: all group members to spread the good news and seek potential tenants for the offices and work spaces in the proposed building.

Action: Jason to publicise through VLL once drawings/plans were more advanced.

2) Lynmouth Esplanade traffic control.

There was no report from Adrian & Sally on the action assigned to them at the previous meeting. However no adverse reaction to the proposals had been found.

The Cliff Railway, with the backing of LLTC and the County Councillor has prepared for the arrangements for the 2021 season to be similar to 2020. It was anticipated that this would be ready for Easter.

Action: Ashley to ask Andrea for planters.

3) Openreach Ultrafast Broadband project.

Is still progressing despite the terrible communications by Openreach and confusion sown by both BT and DCMS. Still scheduled for completion this year.

4) Drive-in cinema proposal.

Blackbeam Cinematic, a company from Braunton, has suggested a summer cinema on Manor Green and a winter drive-in at Bottom Meadow car park. Possibly starting from around Easter 2021.

Action: Kevin to take to LLTC with LETA's backing.

5) Time of future LETA meetings.

Victoria has asked for our meetings to be at 4pm rather than 2pm.

Action: as a trial the 13 April meeting will be at 4pm with the agenda to include the time of future meetings.

6) Covid.

Everything depends on the progress of the disease and the control regime in place at the time. Currently:

- Cliff Railway plans to open at Easter but has concerns about capacity if travel restrictions are lifted while distancing remains.
- APs seem divided between those wanting to open while others are more cautious.
- Cafes/restaurants are generally keen to reopen.

Action: Liz to research ways of encouraging the economic casualties of C19 to self start enterprises.

7) AOB.

A new open top bus between Minehead and Lynmouth was planned for 2021 running 7 days a week with 5 or 6 trips a day.

Decision on whether to hold the Lyn Valley Classic event this year will be made at the end of February.

Lyn in Bloom has been moved into the LCDT. Gift aid now available on donations.