



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF Full Council Meeting held on **Monday 02 December 2024** at **19:00**. The meeting was held in the **Ottery St. Mary Town Council (8 Broad Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon, EX11 1BZ)**

Present: Cllrs Richard Grainger (Mayor), Dean Stewart, Peter Faithfull, Richard Copus, Vicky Johns, Matt Williamson and Janice Aherne

In Attendance: EDDC Cllr Collins, Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk and four members of the public

Minute Taker: Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk

C24/12/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were noted for Cllrs Green, Lucas, Feasey and Sneller.

C24/12/02 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

To receive Declarations of interest for items on the Agenda and receipt of requests for new Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) dispensations for items on the Agenda

Cllr Grainger	No interests declared.
Cllr Stewart	No interests declared.
Cllr Faithfull	Agenda item 7.2 – Cllr Faithfull declared that he is a member of the EDDC Planning Committee and will not take part in the discussion.
Cllr Copus	No interests declared.
Cllr Johns	No interests declared.
Cllr Williamson	Agenda item 10 - Cllr Williamson declared an NRI.
Cllr Aherne	Agenda item 10 - Cllr Aherne declared an NRI.

C24/12/03 ADMISSION TO MEETINGS

In consideration of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted): to agree any items to be dealt with after the public and press have been excluded

There are none.

C24/12/04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair's initials _____

To allow members of the public present to submit questions/comments for consideration
Individual contributions will be limited to 3 minutes

Three members of the Gerway Action Group came to speak in relation to planning application 22/1973/MOUT to thank the Council for their support in fighting the appeal. The co-operation from all parties involved resulted in a collective response. The Council thanked members of the Gerway Action Group for their efforts..

A member of the public spoke in relation to Agenda item 9.1 to ask what the Council wanted to achieve. The member of the public felt there should be a firm recommendation going forward for improved pedestrian and cycle access.

It was AGREED to bring forward Agenda item 9 and 9.1.

C24/12/05 MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of 4th November 2024 (*minute refs C/24/11/01-C/24/11/32*) and to approve the signing of the Minutes by the Mayor as a correct record

The minutes of 4th November 2024 were reviewed and signed by the Mayor as a true record of the meeting.

C24/12/06 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS

(if any)

The reports from EDDC Cllr Johns, Faithfull and Collins and DCC Councillor were noted.

C24/12/07 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE EDDC STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 22ND NOVEMBER AND 29TH NOVEMBER 2024

There has been no response received from EDDC in response to the letter that was sent to the Council regarding their disappointment in relation to the EDDC Strategic Planning Process. The Council expressed their disappointment to EDDC Cllr Collins who is a member of the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee. It was AGREED that The Mayor will speak at the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting to register the disappointment of the Council that no response has been received.

C24/12/07.1 TO CONSIDER THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL IN HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE CYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS IS PROVIDED FROM STRAWBERRY LANE

The Clerk presented a report to the Council. Cllr Faithfull was at the EDDC Strategic Planning Meeting on 22nd November where it was suggested that there should be a pedestrian/cycle route and that the Council should act as a facilitator. It was **RESOLVED** that a working group will be set up to look at this. It was AGREED that Cllrs Stewart, Grainger, Johns and Faithfull would join the working group which will consider what are the alternatives and what is a solution as well as confirming whether there is any CIL/S106 left over from the Bovis development.

Chair's initials _____

It was AGREED that the Clerk will add progressing a footpath from Butts Road to Otter Nurseries to the next ELDC agenda.

C24/12/08 PLANNING

C24/12/08.1 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 19 NOVEMBER 2024 (MINUTE REFS P/24/11/01-P/24/11/10)

The minutes of 19th November 2024 were noted.

C24/12/08.2 TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE OBSERVATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION:

Reference	Applicant	Details
24/2316/PDQ	Mr P Moore Four Elms Farm Alfington Road Ottery St Mary EX11 1NY	Prior approval application for conversion of 1 agricultural buildings including associated works to form 2 dwellings (C3 use) under Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (GPD) (England) order 2015 (as amended)
The Council do not support the application which they do not feel is significantly different from the last application. They Council continue to be concerned that no consideration is given to the frequent flooding on the B3177 which is adjoining the property. <i>Cllrs Faithfull and Stewart abstained.</i>		

C24/12/09 ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

A. To note the Minutes of the 19th October 2024 (*minute refs ELDC/24/10/01 - ELDC/24/10/18*)

The minutes of the 19th October 2024 were noted.

B. To consider (and approve if appropriate) recommendations from the Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that £5,000 should be allocated to Tourism and increasing footfall to the town but it should not be specified to a particular project until consultation has been carried out with the businesses.

It was **RESOLVED** that paid services are investigated in relation to planting strategy.

C24/12/10 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER TIPTON ST JOHN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL TO THORNE FARM, OTTERY ST MARY

Cllr Bailey advised in her report that Devon County Council has applied to EDDC for £600,000 from EDDC's s106/CIL to fund feasibility work on sites for a new school within Tipton St John. The timescale for EDDC's decision making is not yet confirmed but it is likely to take place in early January 2025. Cllr Stewart expressed concern about the potential loss of a new Ottery school and the lack of progress in developing Tipton St John should the primary school. It was clarified that the proposed new school is not a new school for Ottery, but a rebuild of Tipton Primary School. It

Chair's initials _____

was suggested that a separate agenda item should be included at the next meeting to discuss the possibility of a new school in Ottery.

C24/12/11 CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

- Cllrs Grainger, Lucas and Green gave delegated authority for the Clerk to respond to the Deed of Grant - Access - Site: Ottery St Mary Primary Sub Station
- Cllrs Grainger, Stewart and Johns gave delegated authority for the Clerk to make a payment of £3247.55 for replacement Christmas trees. A refund of £2863.87 will be processed on receipt of the returned trees.

C24/12/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

To consider and approve the November 2024 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation reports

The November 2024 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation reports were approved.

C24/12/13 TO AGREE COUNCIL PRIORITIES UNTIL THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

Cllr Green sent a written statement. It was AGREED that all Councillors will be sent a copy of the agenda for any Committee meetings that are taking place, regardless of whether they are on the committee. It was AGREED that the Clerk will provide an explanation of what each committee does.

C24/12/14 TO CONSIDER HOW THE COUNCIL COULD IMPROVE THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY (AND MAKE DECISIONS IF APPROPRIATE)

It was AGREED that the Council need to consider a forum to communication with the wider parish. This should include engaging at those under 50 and should consider the lack of facilities for young families. It was agreed that Kings School will be contacted to see what is happening with their youth Council. It was AGREED that an online survey could be created. It was RESOLVED that a Working Group is set up with Cllrs Aherne and Cllr Williamson. All other Councillors are welcome to join. It was AGREED that the Clerk will create a Terms of Reference for approval at the January meeting.

C24/12/15 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor attended the Remembrance Day service. The Mayor attended the funeral of Joyce Lovell. He also attended the presentation of the Bob Johnson Cup to an allotment holder. The Festive Cheer event was a terrific success. The Mayor and EDDC Cllr Johns met with Richard Foord, DCC and the Environment Agency regarding Coleridge Bridge. Following the meeting Richard Foord has written to the Secretary of State for Environment regarding the dangers being caused to students by the delayed repair of the bridge. It was AGREED to contact the environment agency to ask when the floodwall was downgraded to a boundary wall. The Mayor attended a constructive meeting with Cllr Lucas, DCC and The King's School regarding an improved access to the skatepark.

Chair's initials _____

C24/12/16 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Clerk highlighted that the Christmas lights have been purchased by the Council. Several positive comments have been received regarding the new lights. The Clerk registered her thanks to Jane Bushby for her contribution towards organising such a successful Festive Cheer evening. Despite the wet weather the event was well attended and positive feedback has been received.

C24/12/17 TO NOTE ANY SPECIFIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Cllr Stewart attended the open day at Coleridge Medical Centre which was organised by the Ottery Healthcare Forum. It was AGREED that the Council will write to Dr Simon Kerr to invite representatives from the Coleridge Medical Centre to the January Council meeting.

C24/12/18 TO NOTE ANY REPORTS PREVIOUSLY E-MAILED BY COUNCILLORS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED

There were none.

C24/12/19 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS ON COUNCILLORS BUSINESS

Concern was raised regarding a footpath in Tipton St John. This has been cleared by EDDC Streetscene but the quality of the work has been queried by a resident. The Clerk will investigate further to establish who is responsible for the footpath. It was AGREED that the Council support in principle extending the Christmas lights in Mill Street (Computer Shop) and to the Museum for next year. Prices will be obtained to extend the lighting for consideration by the Council.

C24/12/20 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2025

Meeting concluded at 21:30

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