



Brixham Town Council

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Brixham Town Council held on Zoom on 18th February 2021 at 2.00pm

Present	Cllrs P Addison, D Blackmore, D Borthwick, D Giles, R Haddock, D Hannaby, E Hoggart, S Laurie, S Leech, A Massey and J Regan (C)
In attendance	Tracy Hallett, Town Clerk, Linda McGuirk, Deputy Town Clerk, Ward Councillors Manning, Morey and Brown, Torbay Census Engagement Officer and one member of the press.
Welcome	Councillor Regan opened the meeting.
Public Time	<p>The Census Engagement Officer for Torbay addressed members and informed them:</p> <p>The Census happens every 10 years. The next Census is scheduled for the 21st March 2021. This will be a digital first, although paper copies will be if required. Members were advised that people can't be identified through their census data but it is a legal obligation to complete the survey. The Census is important to ensures communities get the services the need now and in the future.</p> <p>Residents will receive a post card next week informing them the Census is on its way. Census packs will start to be received from the 1st of March onwards, you will be able to start completing once you have received your pack. Residents will receive an access code to the online questionnaire, support will be available online. Two Census Support Centres are planned in Torbay, details to be confirmed.</p> <p>Cllr Blackmore asked if there is standard articles and press releases that can be shared.</p> <p>Cllr Haddock asked whether you will be able to identify how many homeless people are currently in Torbay.</p>
21011	<p>Apologies for absence through the Clerk. Cllr Giles advised he had spoken with Cllr Carr who has explained his ongoing health issues and requested the Council consider his request for absence to be approved to avoid a casual vacancy occurring.</p> <p>It was resolved to approve Cllr Carr's apologies.</p>
21012	<p>To confirm and sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings held on the 21st January 2021. The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st January 2021 were resolved and signed as a correct record.</p>

	<p>Cllr Giles suggested a change to the wording at the top of page 3 to better reflect what he had said. “unlike in the past when councillors had brought ideas to the Council and just left them for staff and other members to deal with that they actively participate in the ideas that they bring”</p> <p>Cllr Blackmore advised his name was name spelt wrong.</p>
21013	<p>Declarations of Interest None.</p>
21014	<p>Requests for Dispensation None.</p>
21015	<p>2021/22 Budget and Precept To discuss and consider the 2021/22 budget and precept as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee (Report 17-2021).</p> <p>Cllr Addison advised there was an error in the calculation of the reserves statement and asked is it will influence on the figures?</p> <p>Cllr Giles said it was the best budget and precept exercise that he has been involved in, went through the budget in a forensic manner. He hopes it is passed unanimously, showing the Council pulling together at a time of crises.</p> <p>Cllr Hoggart proposed the budget goes forward, it was the outcome of some very hard work in unprecedented times and to achieve a 0.15% increase is astonishing while securing additional funds for the COVID recovery plan, very pleased and very proud of the result. Not out of the woods yet as we come out of COVID situation, going to get worse before it gets better. Suggested that the Finance & General Purposes committee start the budget preparations earlier in next year. Very happy to support this budget.</p> <p>Cllr Giles advised it would be tougher for organisations to apply for funding with the emphasis on wider community support.</p> <p>Cllr Haddock said councillors had worked as a team and thanked the officers for all their hard work.</p> <p>Cllr Giles also thanked the officers.</p> <p>It is resolved that this Council adopts the budget as proposed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) and agrees a precept of £355,218. All agreed.</p>
21016	<p>Community Transport To discuss and consider the following motion:</p> <p>In recognition of the ongoing threats to our local bus services – which are a lifeline to many in our community - Brixham Town Council resolves to support the campaign being led by the Council for the Protection of Rural England for the provision of better bus services to help create a thriving countryside, by signing up to their petition to the Secretary of State for Transport seeking a new rural transport fund to keep rural communities connected.</p>

	<p>(Report 13-2021) <i>Proposed by Cllr Hoggart. Seconded by Cllr Giles.</i></p> <p>Cllr Giles asked Cllr Morey to provide some facts about the number 15 and 16 bus services.</p> <p>Cllr Morey was aware that some members might have seen information circulating on social media and in the Totnes MPs newsletter about the future of the bus services in Brixham, he advised this information is not factual and that no decision has been taken yet, the deadline is end of March. Discussions are still ongoing and there are also issues in Torquay which need to be considered at the same time. It is likely there will be a decision next week.</p> <p>Cllr Hoggart said this proposal is a national problem and Devon is suffering more than others. Residents mental and social health is impacted and it was important the Council responded to the petition.</p> <p>It was resolved to respond to the campaign by the Council for the Protection of Rural England to support the provision of better bus services.</p>																		
21017	<p>Policies</p> <p>To consider and adopt the following as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee:</p> <p>a) Grants Policy</p> <p>Members discussed the Grants Policy and subject to minor amendments, it was resolved to adopt the Grants Policy:</p> <p>b) 2021/22 Reserves Strategy</p> <p>Members discussed the 2021/22 Reserves Strategy and it was resolved to adopt the 2021/22 Reserves Strategy.</p>																		
21018	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>It was noted the date of next meeting is scheduled for 25th March 2021 at 2pm.</p>																		
21019	<p>Items for future agenda</p> <p>Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to raise items for future agendas, giving details of why the Council should consider the item.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Reason</th> <th>Councillor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tide & Time Bell update.</td> <td>Update</td> <td>All</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vehicles in Fore Street.</td> <td>Ignoring prohibited times.</td> <td>Cllr Blackmore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regular projects updates.</td> <td></td> <td>Cllr Leech</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invite Police</td> <td></td> <td>Cllr Haddock</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward councillor reports</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Reason	Councillor	Tide & Time Bell update.	Update	All	Vehicles in Fore Street.	Ignoring prohibited times.	Cllr Blackmore	Regular projects updates.		Cllr Leech	Invite Police		Cllr Haddock	Ward councillor reports		
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21020	<p>Exclusion of Press and Public</p> <p>That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as</p>																		

	<p>publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted</p> <p>Members agreed the agenda item about to be discussed and agreed it should be discussed in the public session. Members were reminded not to discuss any part of the lease or the session would be ended.</p> <p>It was resolved not to go into private session.</p>
<p>21021</p>	<p>Time and Tide To discuss and consider the draft lease.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed members on receipt of the lease, some Councillors raised concern that the lease provided by Torbay Council did not have any relevance to the installation of a Bell below the high water mark on a beach.</p> <p>Torbay Council have advised that this is an industry standard accepted Lease and whilst not totally bespoke, all the required individual circumstance points individual to this arrangement are, in their opinion, adequately covered.</p> <p>On speaking with a representative from the national Time and Tide Bell organisation to ascertain what other Councils in other areas have done, they advised that this is the first time they have experienced the requirement for such a large lease. In their words “a sledgehammer to crack a nut”. It should be noted that it has taken Torbay Council over 12 months come up this lease for something that in reality covers 4 to 5 square meters of beach.</p> <p>If this is delayed any further, there is a high probability that the Time and Tide Bell organisation will be forced to withdraw their offer of the gift of the bell. The Brixham Time and Tide Bell group have put a lot of work into raising funds for the installation of the bell and this includes a grant of £3,700 from Brixham Town Council in February 2020.</p> <p>There are 7 bells that have been installed, with a further 6 planned, one of which is Brixham’s. The first one was installed at Appledore over 11 years ago and to date, has not needed any maintenance.</p> <p>Subject to COVID restrictions, the plan is to have a launch in May which will bring a lot of publicity to Brixham. In addition, subject to sufficient funding, the national Time and Tide Bell Organisation would like to create a 24 hour film of all the bells, which would include Brixham.</p> <p>Cllr Massey asked if the land belonged to Torbay Council or the Crown?</p> <p>Cllr Hoggart advised she has carried out research and confirmed the beach and foreshore is not owned by the Crown. Stating this is pointless bureaucracy and doesn’t want to see the project stopped, adding it is a very unsatisfactory lease that should never have been issued. Cllr Leech supported the project.</p> <p>Cllr Haddock proposed the Council reluctantly accepted the lease and continues discussions with Torbay Council to resolve the issues.</p>

	It was reluctantly resolved to accept the lease
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The meeting closed at 15:40 pm

Chairperson Date.....