



# Wadebridge Town Council

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## Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 21 March 2022 at 7pm in the Main Hall, Wadebridge Town Hall

**Present :** Cllrs; A Batchelor, T Leach (from 7.31pm), L Mitchell, P Mitchell, A Pennington (Mayor), C Viqueira & I Welch. **Apologies :** Cllrs H Jarvis & Kelly Rowe.

**Public Present :** PC Alex Allen (Wadebridge Police) and 11 members of the public.

**In Attendance :** Anne Minnis (Town Clerk) & Beverley Collins (Minutes Clerk).

**Housekeeping –** The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised of evacuation routes in case of an emergency (there were no hazards to note) and reminded all those present of the following:

- That the meeting may be filmed or recorded.
- That the meeting is being recorded by Wadebridge Town Council.
- Members and members of the public to turn mobile phones to silent.
- Should a Member or member of the public wish to film or photograph the meeting please sit in the 'Film/Photograph Area'.
- Members of the public, children or vulnerable persons who do not wish to be filmed or photographed please sit in the 'No Film/Photograph Area'.
- The meeting is being held in accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders and only items on the agenda will be discussed.

**1604/22 Apologies –** Apologies were received from Cllrs; H Jarvis and K Rowe.

- It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Henry Jarvis due to a family commitment.
- It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Kelly Rowe due to a family commitment.

**1605/22 Declarations of Interest –**

- a) **Pecuniary Interests (To declare those interests which have been declared on your Register of Interests relevant to the Agenda of the meeting. Whenever the item is being discussed, including public participation, Councillors must leave the room and not take part in the discussion and decision) –** None.
- b) **Non Registerable Interests (To declare non registerable interests at the start of the meeting or whenever the interest becomes apparent. When the item is being discussed, including public participation, Councillors must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or decision) –** None.
- c) **Dispensations –** None.

**1606/22 Minutes of last Full Council Meeting –** The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 16 March 2022 were **RESOLVED** to be a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Mayor.

**1607/22 Public Participation**

- Members of the public.
  - A member of the public asked that the town council discusses the order in which items appear on the agenda, specifically, the item relating to the confirmation of Minutes of last meeting. The Mayor advised this is not an agenda item for discussion and asked that the member of the public contact the Clerk regarding this.

**7.03pm member of the public arrived.**

In respect of the situation in Ukraine, several members of the public and representatives of groups and organisations addressed the meeting providing their thoughts and suggestions on how best to support both refugee families and host families.

Support from the Police, Concern Wadebridge and The Goods Shed was confirmed. A representative connected to Shelterbox provided useful information as to the form of support that might be required including employment. It was noted that consideration must be given with regards to the personal distress that refugee families will be experiencing.

There was discussion around this and the use of town council space to hold meetings and activity sessions.

It was confirmed that, in the St. Austell area, refugee children of school age would supersede all others on the admissions list even where the school was full.

PC Adam Allen suggested having a meeting point with a drop-in surgery which the Police would help with along with partner agencies.

- Reports from Cornwall Councillors – None.

#### 1608/22 War on Ukraine –

- a. **Town Council's support for potential refugees and host families** – Members each voiced their support for both refugees and host families taking into consideration all of the point raised by the public present.

- *It was **RESOLVED** to work closely with the Library and Betjeman Centre so as not to cross over with activities and to arrange drop-in days for refugee and host families and to make a room available on a daily basis in each location.*

The Clerk suggested to nominate a councillor to act as a point of contact to facilitate bookings and activities.

**7.31pm, Cllr Thomas Leach arrived.**

The logistics of the town council facilitating a fund to help to pay for activities was raised. The Clerk advised that the town council is not able to facilitate fund raising however, it can support this via the grant process.

There was discussion around potential work-load and points of contacts from the town council. It was emphasised that, initially, there should be a simple support network for both refugee and host families with the intention of then building on this as and when needed.

Cllr Phil Mitchell said he would be happy to assist Cllr Batchelor if she were made a town council point of contact.

*It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Alison Batchelor is a town council point of contact.*

Cllr Viqueira offered her assistant but noted this may be limited at times.

- *It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Charlie Viqueira is a town council point of contact.*

There was discussion around the need for a social media group for information sharing purposes.

- *It was **RESOLVED** to create a social media group as a hub for sharing information.*

The Clerk will confirm the future decision-making and spending processes for the town council.

Members of the public present who felt they would like to become involved in this matter were asked to provide their names and contact details.

- b. Confirmation from Cornwall Council as to their position and how they intent to support the community and town and parish councils – It was *RESOLVED* to write to Cornwall Council to ask how they intend to support the refugee and host families, community, volunteers and town and parish councils on this matter.**

In addition to this it was **AGREED** to write to local Cornwall Councillors to ask what they can do to assist in the community and whether Cornwall Council buildings/space would be available for use.

The Mayor confirmed that Cornwall Council will receive £10,500 per refugee as part of the Government funding to upper tier councils.

**1609/22 Dates of Next Wadebridge Town Council meetings**

- **Full Council** - Wednesday 13 April 2022, 7pm, Town Hall
- **Annual Town Meeting** – Thursday 21 April 2022

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

**Signed as a True and Accurate Account :**

..... **Chair :**

..... **Date :**