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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUMMARY of a **MEETING** of the **CAR PARKING WORKING GROUP** held on 7 July 2015 at 2.00 pm

Present

Councillors

R Wright (Chairman)
Mrs R Berry, Mrs C P Daw and J D Squire

Apologies

Councillors

N V Davey

Also Present

Councillors

D R Coren, R Dolley, C J Eginton and R F Radford

Also Present

Officers:

Phillip Collins (District Officer), Steve Densham (Development Services Manager), Claire Gillard (Accountant), Andrew Jarrett (Head of Finance), Jan Norman (Environment and Enforcement Manager), Stuart Noyce (Waste and Transport Manager), Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer) and Mark Symns

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr R Wright was elected as Chairman of the Group.

2 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr N V Davey.

3 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting of the Group were approved as a true record.

4 **CAR PARKING FOR MARKET TRADERS CULLOMPTON**

AJ explained that a request had been made by the Clerk to Cullompton Town Council that market traders at Cullompton be given free parking on market days. The Town Council had previously provided free parking in their own car park but had recently handed the enforcement of this car park to a private company. They had heard that market traders in Tiverton received free parking and requested the same concession.

AJ further explained that market traders in Tiverton did not get free parking but paid for it within the fee for the stall.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The fact that there were always spare places in the car park;
- The need to support rural businesses;
- The need to be fair, traders in the town centre did not get free parking;

- The parking fee in place was reasonable;
- The fact that the Town Council could issue a permit to the traders themselves for their own car park;
- The possibility of selling permits to the Town Council for them to issue to the market traders.

It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to the Town Council suggesting that they look at the policy for their own car park with a view to changing it to accommodate the traders, that they consider releasing a number of places themselves for this purpose or that they purchase permits from Mid Devon at a discounted rate for the purpose.

5 **CAR PARK CHARGES**

At the last meeting of the Group a recommendation had been agreed with regard to increases to parking charges.

However, as the membership of the group had changed since then it was agreed to discuss the matter again.

AJ explained to the group the financial implications of increasing the rate by £0.10.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Price comparisons with other local Councils
- The possibility of increasing usage;
- The need to make savings/increase income;
- Prices had been frozen for two financial years;
- Monitoring of usage to be carried out to check if increasing charges decreased use;
- Cars being parked on the side streets of the town to avoid overnight parking charges;
- The income generated by the overnight charges.

The Group **AGREED** to recommend to the PDG that parking prices be put up by 10 pence every other year. This would set the pricing policy for 4 years.

The Group **AGREED** to recommend to the PDG that the pricing schedule for parking permits be increased in line with Officer recommendation.

6 **AMENITY CAR PARKS**

AJ explained to the Group that amenity car parks had been discussed at the last meeting of the Group when each car park had been looked at individually. He

explained that the previous membership had requested that officers carry out usage and condition surveys and that they had been minded to investigate alternative uses for the amenity car parks. Options may include continued use as an amenity car park, the use of pay and display meters, the issue/sale of permits and the sale of the land.

AJ had sent an email to the Ward Members and Clerks to the Parish Councils for the areas concerned. It was felt that the local members and Parish Councillors would have knowledge regarding usage. AJ would hold meetings and report back to the Group.

It was **AGREED** that the Head of Finance report back to the Group following consultation.

7 **NEXT STEPS**

A report to be prepared for the PDG outlining the recommendation for the price increase on tickets of £0.10 every other year and the schedule of increases for permits.

Consultation to be undertaken with Parish Councils and Ward Members regarding amenity car parks.

A permit to cover 24 hours to be added to the Order with a price of £450.00. This would allow for a car to be parked in the identified long stay car park during the day and overnight with one permit, rather than having to display a day permit and a night permit.

The Group discussed various concessions that had been granted over a number of years. It was AGREED that in order to be fair, these concessions be listed for the PDG to review.

8 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be arranged following consultation.

(The meeting ended at Time Not Specified)

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