

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025** AT **7:00 P.M.** AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT.

**PRESENT** Councillors: L Cooke - (Chairperson) Presiding  
M Ryan - (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors: B Bailey                      A Ineson  
J Bradford                                  M Joyce  
C Davieson                                  C Parker (Deputy Mayor)  
A Gibbs                                      P Parker  
A Hall (Mayor)                              L Wood

Officers in attendance: Sam Scott - Deputy Town Clerk & RFO  
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator  
Thomas Collard - Green Spaces Officer  
Nigel Canham - Communications Advisor

By Invitation: Freewoman Mrs Carol Bunday  
Freeman Mr Michael Hocking  
2 x Representatives of the Newton Abbot Community Shed  
2 x Representatives of the Newton Abbot Court Leet  
8 x Members of the public

**287. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

A valid reason for absence was received on behalf of Councillor R Buscombe and Phil Rowe, Town Clerk.

**288. INTERESTS**

Councillor L Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5, as she is a member of the Newton Abbot Community Shed.

Councillors C Davieson, A Hall, A Gibbs and M Joyce declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6, as they are members of Newton Abbot Court Leet.

**289. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

**290. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**291. PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF NEWTON ABBOT COMMUNITY SHED**

The Chairperson, Councillor Louise Cooke welcomed the representatives of Newton Abbot Community Shed to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation to the Committee.

The representatives displayed a visual presentation on the large screen outlining the growth of the organisation and highlighted the following:

- Full time use of a room in the Library and the proposed plans to adapt the room.
- Introduction of quieter sessions using hand tools only.
- Current membership is 51 (70% male and 30% female).
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and a registered charity.
- Increase in the number of sessions provided.
- Projects.
- Repair Café.
- Commissions.
- Partnerships.
- Trustees.
- Additional storage requirements.
- Resilience, succession planning and support.
- Member retention and recruitment.

The representatives expressed their thanks to the organisations who have supported their group in many ways.

The Chairperson thanked the group for their inspiring presentation and invited members to ask questions. Councillors asked about suitability of the current space, funding opportunities and expressed their thanks for the incredible life-sized Christmas sleigh and gingerbread decorations.

## **292. PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF NEWTON ABBOT COURT LEET**

The Chairperson, Councillor Louise Cooke, welcomed the representatives of Newton Abbot Court Leet to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation to the Committee on the work of the group.

The Court Leet representatives gave an insightful talk about their long history and valuable community work. As an ancient institution with deep roots in the town they strive to continue to play an important role in preserving tradition and supporting local initiatives.

The Chairperson thanked the group for their interesting presentation invited members to pose any questions; none were raised.

## **293. BRADLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Chairperson, Councillor Louise Cooke, provided a report on her experience as the Council's representative on the Bradley Community Centre Committee. She expressed concerns regarding the group's lack of transparency and governance, highlighting several key issues for members' attention.

It was noted that the Treasurer had been absent from meetings and that financial accounts had not been shared, raising concerns about the group's compliance with its financial policy. Additionally, reports were delivered verbally by the Chairperson and an Annual General Meeting had not been convened.

Discussion took place about the concerns raised, lease arrangements and building ownership. The Deputy Town Clerk (DTC) reminded members that the Council has requested copies of the audited accounts and governance documents on several occasions without success.

Councillors asked what the Council's legal obligations are and if there are any risks to the Council in the current situation. The DTC advised she would need to check the lease and report back. Arising from the discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk continues the efforts to obtain a full set of audited accounts and governance documents for the Bradley Community Centre.

**294. SPONSOR A ROUNDABOUT SCHEME**

The Principal Administrator reported that, further to Minute 24/10(243), in which the Town Council resolved to register its interest in the Devon County Council Sponsor a Roundabout scheme, the registration was submitted in October 2024. The County Council has since advised that the scheme is currently under review, and upon completion of the process, they will contact the Town Council with further updates.

**295. SUB- COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

a) What's In Store Project Board

The Minutes of the meeting of the What's In Store Project Board held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan, were received and approved.

b) Events Sub Committee

The Minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan, were received and approved.

**296. ACCOUNTS/INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received and noted an overview of income and expenditure for the Community & Heritage Committee, Newton In Bloom and the Museum for the periods 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

The Deputy Town Clerk (DTC) reported that the questions submitted in advance of the meeting had been addressed satisfactorily.

Councillors raised further enquiries regarding the installation of the floral display infrastructure, scheduled for completion in 2024, as well as the progress of the Signal Gantry refurbishment.

Members acknowledged the income generated by the Museum and expressed their appreciation to the Museum team for their efforts

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the periods, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 for the:

- Community and Heritage Committee.
- Newton In Bloom.
- Museum, be hereby approved.

297. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

298. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.

The Meeting closed at: 20:08

Chairperson.....Date.....