

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 2016** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillors M E Ryan (Mayor) Presiding
Ms L Roberts (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors

Mrs C Bunday	R Jenks
Mrs J Cleave	Mrs J A Jones
C Coyle-Moore	Mrs S Kingdom
D Corney-Walker	C N Parker
Mrs J Grainger	M J Pilkington
M Hocking	K L Purchase
D Howe	Mrs L Sheffield
	T Ward

By Invitation: District Councillor Philip Bullivant
Honorary Freeman Mr Henry Cole
Mr Martin Davie, Newton Abbot Portreeve

In attendance: Mr Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Mrs Sally Henley – Town Development Manager

Three members of the Newton Abbot Court Leet attended

In the absence of his Chaplain, The Reverend John Doble, the Mayor invited Mrs Henley to deliver prayers.

393. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor R Grainger, County Councillor Mrs Eve Barisic, District Councillor Mrs Jackie Brodie, County and District Councillor Gordon Hook, Deputy Town Clerk, Samantha Scott and Honorary Freeman, Mrs Di Nicholls.

394. **INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs J Grainger declared an interest in agenda item 10 – The Coastal Communities Team, as she was a member of the Team.

395. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th January 2016 were received and signed as a correct record.

396. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

397. **LORDSHIP, THE COURT LEET AND COURT BARON OF NEWTON ABBOT**

The Mayor introduced Mr Martin Davie, the current Newton Abbot Portreeve, to the meeting who he had invited to explain the role and activities of the Newton Abbot Court Leet and Baron.

Mr Davie addressed the Council on the history of the organisation based on the following:-

- 🏰 Lordship – History since the year 1041 of the of the various ownerships of Newton Abbot by individuals and the Crown. It was noted that since November 1985 the Lord of the Borough was Mr Keith Stokes-Smith;
- 🏰 Manorial Courts – reinstated in 1991 which included the Frankenpledge and appointment of officers such as Bailiff;
- 🏰 The Borough today – Newton Abbot was one of the most active in England with many annual events bringing colour to the town such as:-
 - ✂ Bread Weighing;
 - ✂ Ale Tasting;
 - ✂ Beating the Bounds;
 - ✂ Viewing the Watercourses;
 - ✂ Portreeve Annual Dinner;
 - ✂ Inspecting the Leather.

At the conclusion of his address the Mayor thanked Mr Davie for his interesting and informative presentation.

398. **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

A. District Councillor P Bullivant reported on the following issues in which he had a direct involvement:

- ✓ Approval of the Development Framework for NA2, Whitehill;
- ✓ Revised planning application from Newton Abbot College for an illuminated all weather sports pitch, together with ongoing issues for residents nearby the Coombeshead Academy illuminated all weather sports pitch. Issues with a similar facility at Dyrons were noted;
- ✓ Strategic Plan for the Homeless;
- ✓ Plans to improve the treatment of heritage throughout Teignbridge which would involve a meeting in due course with the Town Council;
- ✓ Attendance at the Stover Canal Society/Trust AGM;
- ✓ Approval of the Teignbridge Budget and the rejection of an amendment regarding a review of charges for Osborne Street Car Park.

B. Town and District Councillor M Pilkington reported on the following issues in which he had a direct involvement:

- Bishop Dunstan School planning application;
- The proposed bridge over the railway to Brunel industrial Estate.

C. Town and District Councillor Mrs J Grainger reported on the following issues in which she had a direct involvement:

- ✓ Newton Abbot Coastal Communities Team, update;
- ✓ Teignbridge Peer Review;
- ✓ Teignbridge applying for seven of the 16 categories of Annual Awards by the Municipal Journal.

399. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. The Council received the list of engagements (previously circulated) which the Mayor had carried out since 27th January 2016.

The Mayor explained that he and the Mayoress had enjoyed all the events attended however, drew particular attention to the opening ceremony for the new South Devon Highway.

B. The Mayor reported that the Shaldon Road Methodist Church would be holding a coffee morning on 19th March 2016 with the proceeds being donated to his charity.

400. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 2nd February 2016 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;

B. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Amenities Committee** held on 17th February 2016 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs C Bunday, were received and approved, subject to the following:-

Minute 363 – Queen Elizabeth’s 90th Birthday Celebrations – It was noted that Councillor Mrs Julie Cleave was Vice-Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee not Chairman.

C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 23rd February 2016 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;

D. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Resources Committee** held on 24th February 2016 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Colin Parker, were received and approved subject to the following:-

- i. **Minute 388** – St Leonard’s Clocktower – Bell Installation Condition Report – Further to an update from the Town Clerk on the specification for maintenance of the bells and installation it was

RESOLVED that a sum of up to £2,500 be approved for maintenance works to the St Leonard’s Clocktower bells and installation.

- ii. **Minute 389** – Regeneration – Community Hub – the Chairman of the Finance & Resources Committee gave notice of his

intention to provide an update on the matter which he requested be taken with the press and public excluded due to the commercial sensitivity of the matter.

401. **NEWTON ABBOT NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Council received an update on the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan following its inspection by an Independent Planning Inspector.

The Town Clerk referred to the Inspector's Report (previously circulated) which recommended, subject to a number of minor modifications, that the Plan proceed to Referendum. The date proposed for the Referendum was noted as Thursday 5th May 2016 (the same day as the election for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall). The modifications (also previously circulated) had been considered by the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group on 7th March. The Steering Group had recommended the minor modifications as recommended by the Inspector be approved, and had supported a number of additional changes as suggested by the Inspector.

The Clerk explained that if the recommendations of an Inspector were to be ignored or not adopted, the Plan would need to be the subject of further public consultations. The Clerk set out the changes proposed by the Steering Group in detail.

Councillor Mrs J Grainger requested that her concerns be recorded that, arising from the Town Council's consideration of a potential location for a new 'community hub', no opportunity had been made available to consider amendments to Policies NANDP6 and 8 and Section 6 regarding the provision of a 'community hub'.

Arising from a detailed discussion on the matter it was

RESOLVED that the minor modifications recommended to the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan by the Inspector and the minor amendments to the narrative of the Plan as proposed by the Steering Group be hereby approved and adopted.

402. **COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM**

Consideration was given to an overview, Terms of Reference and Economic Plan (previously circulated) for the Newton Abbot Coastal Communities Team.

The Town Development Manager explained the background to the Team, which was administered by Teignbridge District Council, its activities to date and that a request had been received for the Town Council appoint a representative to the Team

Arising from consideration of the matter it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the details of the Newton Abbot Coastal Communities Team as submitted to the Council be noted;
- (b) that Councillor M Hocking be appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Newton Abbot Coastal Communities Team.

Councillor Mrs J Grainger declared an interest in the item as a member of the Team, but took part in the discussion and voting thereon.

403. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Further to minute 322/01/16 the Council gave consideration to draft Terms of Reference (previously circulated) for:-

-  The Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan Monitoring Group;
-  Strategic Planning Forum; and
-  Community Engagement Group.

Arising from consideration of the draft ToR's it was

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan Monitoring Group, Strategic Planning Forum and Community Engagement Group as submitted to the meeting be hereby approved and adopted.

404. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

405. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council was to be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2015 (Annual Meeting).

406. EXCLUSION OF THE PRES AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

407. REGENERATION – COMMUNITY HUB

Further to minute 389(B)/02/16 the Chairman of the Finance & Resources Committee made Members aware of a building in Newton Abbot which had been on the market for sale, which had recently been the subject of a large reduction in the asking price. Some 11 Members of the Council had taken up an invitation to view the premises.

Members expressed the view that although the premises were large enough to provide a new Town Hall with flexible meeting space which could be used by the public, and a much improved space for a Museum, the building would

not be able to accommodate other community groups. Members discussed what a community hub could provide when it was suggested that the Council should not provide facilities that would be in direct competition with those already operated by existing groups. It was also suggested that as the Passmore Edwards Centre (PEC) was clearly in the best position to deliver a community hub, it might be possible for the building as identified, due to its location, to operate as part of a 'distributed community hub' in conjunction with the PEC and St Leonard's Clocktower.

Arising from detailed consideration of the proposal it was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to carry out due diligence in relation to the potential purchase of the building as identified and report back to the Council at its Special Meeting to be held on 23rd March 2016.

Chairman