

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2021** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, 43 WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors M Joyce (Mayor) Presiding
Mrs C Bunday (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: P Bullivant D Howe
D Corney-Walker C Jenks
Mrs K Crout R Jenks
C Davieson Mrs A Jones
A Hall C Parker
R Hayes M E Ryan
M Hocking Mrs L Sheffield

Invited Guests: Inspector David Hammond Devon & Cornwall Police
Rev Ben Maynard Chaplain
County and District Councillor Janet Bradford
District Councillor Liam Mullone

Officers in attendance: Philip Rowe Town Clerk
Samantha Scott Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Sally Henley Town Development Manager
Nigel Canham Communications Advisor
Alexandra Robinson Principal Administrator

228. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting including his new Chaplain Rev Ben Maynard and Inspector David Hammond of Devon and Cornwall Police constabulary.

The Mayor invited Rev Ben Maynard to open the meeting with prayers.

The Mayor advised Members that he intended to pause the meeting for a comfort break within the meeting.

229. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ryan Hall and Mike Pilkington and District Councillors Gordon Hook and Mrs Jackie Hook.

230. **INTERESTS**

Councillor Mike Hocking gave notice of his intention to declare an interest in Minute (234) below.

231. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd September 2021 were received and signed as a correct record.

232. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

233. PRESENTATION – LOCAL POLICING

The Mayor welcomed Inspector David Hammond and invited him to update the Council on local policing in the town.

Inspector Hammond reminded Members that he used to be the Sector Inspector for Newton Abbot prior to his move to Police Headquarters in Exeter and had returned to the town just over a year ago. He provided a verbal report covering the following key points:

- Acknowledged that the Pandemic had been an unusual period for everyone, but it had had an interesting affect on policing;
- Crimes such as shop lifting and dwelling burglary fell dramatically during the periods of lockdown when shops were closed and people were at home;
- Summer 2020 saw an increase in public order offences with breaches in Covid rules;
- Crime was typically measured on a 12 month rolling period but the Pandemic had impacted the trends so the sector has reviewed figures over a longer period to monitor crime rates;
- Overall crime was still slightly lower than at the comparative period two years ago which was reassuring;
- Robbery (defined as theft with associated violence) had increased slightly but still comparatively low number of incidents and was being managed through Operation Sceptre;
- There had been an increase in Violence without Injury, an assault which didn't result in injury. The increase was attributed to recording all incidents including those to members of the emergency services;
- Some crimes are now being recorded separately such as Stalking and Harassment and the increased efforts in dealing with crimes against women and girls; and
- The importance of dealing with issues such as Criminal Damage which is both costly and undermines peoples' confidence in an area, the Police are addressing these issues and dealing with them.

Inspector Hammond advised Members that the Police had a genuine desire to preserve public confidence in serving officers and to protect women's safety particularly in the night-time economy. He reported that whilst there had been a significant rise in the number of incidents relating to 'spiking' that following testing that this was reassuringly very low indeed across the sector and none in Newton Abbot. The Police would continue to monitor and support the night-time economy and welcomed the positive partnership with licenced premises in working together to make people feel safe.

In answering Members questions about drug related issues, Inspector Hammond advised that there was a proactive team of officers dedicated to this matter who had successfully gathered useful intelligence to target County Lines operations.

Members asked further questions and raised comments on the following:

- Requested Police presence in areas such as Market Walk between 3-4pm when school children congregated in the town at the end of the school day;
- Visible Police presence from Beat Officers made a difference to public perception in the town;
- Despite the increases in serving Police Officers, changes in crime and the demands on the service meant that Police are not as visible on the street;

- The Ambulance Service had experienced a huge increase in demand and how locally the Police had assisted in providing specialist emergency driver training to expand the number of skilled ambulance drivers;
- The Street Pastors were back in the town and would be working New Year's Eve and were pleased to support the local Policing team in Newton Abbot; and
- Members thanked Inspector Hammond for his team's response to personal incidents and their assistance to the community.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Hammond for his verbal report which was both informative and encouraging. He also thanked the local Policing team for their considerable efforts. Inspector Hammond thanked the Council for the opportunity to update Members where upon he left the meeting.

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

A. County and District Councillor Phil Bullivant reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- Children Services;
- 20 mph speed restriction for Newton Abbot; and
- Grants and Financial Assistance to community based organisations.

B. County and District Councillor Janet Bradford reported on the following issues in which she had direct involvement:

- Street Cleansing and drain clearance;
- Uneven footpaths particularly in Buckland;
- A380 Roadworks and impact of emergency utility works;
- Compensation for householders adjacent to new A380;
- Shaldon Road speed limit; and
- Resident Parking in George Street.

C. District Councillor Liam Mullone reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- TDC Presentation from S W Water and Environment Agency and concern for foul water spillages into the River Teign.

D. District Councillor Colin Parker reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- TDC Presentation from S W Water and Environment Agency;
- Shaldon Road speed reduction; and
- TDC Budget for Grant Funding and Financial Assistance.

E. District Councillor Chris Jenks reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- TDC Presentation from S W Water and Environment Agency.

F. District Councillor Mike Hocking reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- TDC Presentation from S W Water and Environment Agency; and
- TDC Budget for Grant Funding and Financial Assistance.

The Mayor noted that written reports from District Councillors Gordon and Mrs Jackie Hook had been previously circulated, in their absence. The Mayor thanked the County and District Councillors for their reports as they provided a valuable insight into the issues within Newton Abbot.

Councillor Hocking had previously declared an interest as a Trustee in Newton Abbot Community Transport.

235. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

At 8.00 p.m. the meeting adjourned for ten minutes to allow the Council to take a comfort break.

236. **RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING**

At 8.10 p.m. the meeting resumed.

237. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the recent engagements he had undertaken; in particular he had thoroughly enjoyed the Opening of 'The Gym' and noted they had extended an invitation for all Members to visit. The Mayor recorded his appreciation for all those involved in the preparation of the Civic Service. Councillor Joyce remarked on the number of positive comments he had received and was pleased that it was well attended. He further noted that he had a lovely evening at the ATC Annual General Meeting and President Inauguration. The Mayor finished his report in recording his appreciation for all those involved in the preparation and those who attended the Armistice Day service on 11th November and the Service of Remembrance and Parade on Sunday 14th November. The War Memorial looked superb particularly with the array of handmade poppies affixed to the railings.

The Mayor invited the Deputy Mayor Mrs Carol Bunday to report on her attendance at the NADSA Concert. The Deputy Mayor had been pleased to attend and noted it was a lovely concert and very enjoyable evening. Councillor Mrs Bunday was delighted to note that NADSA had resumed full membership. The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for her report.

238. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Chairman of the Planning Committee expressed concern at the discrepancies with the Principal Authority in consulting the Town Council on Planning Applications and noted that the Committee would discuss the matter further at the Meeting scheduled for 23rd November 2021. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 12th October 2021 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Ann Jones, were received and approved;
- B. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 13th October 2021 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lesley Sheffield were received and approved;
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 27th October 2021 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor David Corney-Walker were received and approved;

- D. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 2nd November 2021 as presented by the Vice Chairman, Councillor Mike Ryan, were received and approved; and
- E. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 3rd November 2021 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Colin Parker were received and approved, with the exception of Minute (224).

239. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Mayor noted that Councillor Alex Hall had been nominated as the Town Council representative on Teignbridge Scout Council until May 2023. Following a brief discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Alex Hall be nominated as the Town Council representative on the Teignbridge Scout Council until May 2023.

240. INTERNAL AUDIT – INTERIM REPORT 2021/22

Arising from Minute 21/11(224) the Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee reported that he had contacted the Head of Finance at Teignbridge District Council in relation to repeated requests made by the RFO to be supplied with the necessary payroll data as advised by the Internal Auditor and he awaited a response. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed that the Internal Audit Interim Report 2021/22 be approved and adopted by the Council, accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that a) the **Internal Audit – Interim Report 2021/22** be hereby, approved and adopted and b) the Deputy Clerk (RFO) be authorised to write to Teignbridge District Council to request the ‘real time’ salary information for the staff establishment in keeping with the Internal Auditor’s guidance.

241. TEIGNBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN 2020-2040 CONSULTATION (Part 3)

The Town Council had been invited to consider the Teignbridge Local Plan (Part 3) 2020-2040: Renewable Energy, Gypsy and Traveller and Small Residential Site Options, in preparation for a formal response to be made by the deadline of 24th January 2022.

RESOLVED that delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk and Principal Administrator in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee to prepare a formal response to the Consultation on the Teignbridge Local Plan (Part 3) 2020-2040: Renewable Energy, Gypsy and Traveller and Small Residential Site Options to be submitted within the deadline of 24th January 2022.

242. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

243. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 26th January 2022 (Precept).

244. PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Mayor, in reminding Members that this was the last Council Meeting to be attended by the Principal Administrator, thanked Alexandra Robinson on behalf of the whole Council for her excellent work over the past five years. The Mayor also wished Alexandra well for her future employment with Cranbrook Town Council.

Chairman (Mayor)