

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 25th JULY 2018** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillors K L Purchase (Mayor) Presiding

Councillors

Mrs C Bunday	Mrs S Kingdom
Mrs J Cleave	C N Parker
D Corney-Walker	M J Pilkington
R Hayes	M E Ryan
M Hocking	Mrs L Sheffield
D Howe	T Ward
M Joyce	

By Invitation: Mr Henry Cole – Honorary Freeman of the Town
County & District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook
County & District Councillor Gordon Hook
District Councillor Phillip Bullivant
The Reverend Patrick Parkes

Representative of the Press: Sam Hall, Mid Devon Advertiser

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Samantha Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

The Mayor invited his Chaplain, The Reverend Patrick Parkes, to deliver prayers.

137. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Full Council Meeting the last meeting of the Council prior to the August recess.

138. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Deputy Mayor Richard Jenks and Councillors Chris Coyle-Moore, Mrs Ann Jones and Ms Liz Roberts.

139. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

140. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th June were received and signed as a correct record.

141. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

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

A. County and District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook reported on the following issues in which she had direct involvement:

- Highweek Experimental Traffic Order – amendments to the order following review,
- Delay to Jetty Marsh Link Road and intervening road widening scheme, Exeter Road and
- East-West Cycle route extension – short term road closures.

Members raised questions and clarified the following points:

- Limited consultation by Devon County Council on new stagecoach bus routes, particularly in relation to Laurie Avenue,
- New bus stops not installed in preparation for new route.

B. County and District Councillor Gordon Hook reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- Appointment to Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue authority
- Change of regulations to enable enforcement action to be taken on breaches of parking regulations outside Haytor View School, Buckland – programme anticipated to be extended across the region subject to statutory signs being installed,
- Average speed cameras to be installed along South Devon Highway at four locations, and
- Trading Standards initiative to address scamming, raise awareness and enlist ‘Scambassadors’ in collaboration with partner agencies, the police and banks.

Members raised questions and clarified the following points:

- ❖ Encouraged support for the Scambassadors Initiative through Trading Standards to give those vulnerable to scams a point of contact and support.

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

- Highweek Experimental Traffic Order – concerned at removal of order in relation to Pitt Hill and childrens’ safety walking to school,
- Closure of Larkspur Drive entrance off Mile End Road,
- Teignbridge large screen available for public events,
- Redevelopment of Newton Abbot Town Centre – further negotiations regarding possible hotel in the town, further public consultation due towards the end of the summer,
- Market Square refurbishment – continues on schedule and slightly under budget, and
- Devon Youth Games – held in Dawlish sponsored event supported over 2,000 young people across the region.

There being no further questions the Mayor thanked the County and District Councillors for their reports.

143. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Council received the list of engagements (previously circulated) which the Mayor had carried out since 6th June 2018.

The Mayor reported that he had attended a variety of engagements during a busy period, which he found to be thoroughly enjoyable. He made particular note of the visit to the Town Hall by the School Council, where the children eloquently conveyed their views on a variety of topics. The Mayor complimented the Town Development Manager, Mrs Sally Henley on the success of the Summer Nights events in the town which were well attended and he enjoyed a superb atmosphere. He finished by offering his sincere thanks to everyone involved in this year's successful Carnival noting that it was very good week with lots of activities and was well supported by the town.

144. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 20th June 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor M Ryan, were received and approved subject to Minute 84 being noted that reusable plastic cups had been purchased for Council use;
- B. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 26th June 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 27th June 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Cleave, were received and approved;
- D. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 4th July 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor C Parker, were received and approved;
- E. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 17th July 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved.

145. **POLICY AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Mayor introduced the Policy documents, previously circulated drawing Members' attention to the key principles contained within them.

Following the review of the documents it was;

RESOLVED that the:

- a) Financial Regulations,
- b) Procurement Strategy
- c) Business Continuity Plan, subject to amendment, be hereby, approved and adopted.

146. **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT UPDATE**

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the Newton's Place project. In noting that Members received regular updates at each meeting on the project the Clerk recapped on the status of the final elements of the Development Phase and the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the formal "Permission to Start" the Delivery Phase. He further outlined the applications in the pipeline for additional grant funding. The Clerk reported that given the delay in the sale of the existing Town Hall premises that he had sought borrowing approval from the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government to source additional funding to bridge the gap and a requirement of this second application was the evidence of a public poll. Therefore, a public poll had been put on the website for a period of just over a month inviting public responses to the additional funding.

The Clerk further updated Members on the arrangements for the selection and approval of the Construction Tender during the Council's August recess. He outlined the timetable for the Tender process as follows:

- Following receipt of Expressions of Interest, the consultant Quantity Surveyor had produced a Tender shortlist and five candidates had been invited to apply (17th July)
- Applications to Tender would be returned by 24th August and received by the Chairman of Finance & Audit and the Chairman of the Newton's Place Project Board
- The Tenders would be subject to a further due diligence exercise by the Project Manager and Quantity Surveyor and a summary report would be prepared by 11th September
- Subject to there being tenders within budget and approval of the Council the appointment could be made by 11th September to keep the project to time schedule
- The appointed contractor would be on site from 15th October 2018 for a 42 week programme due for completion by mid August 2019.

The Clerk added that there continued to be considerable community engagement activity including publicity at the recent Summer Nights Events and new partnerships with additional organisations, such as the University of the Third Age (U3A) where members of the group had offered to help volunteer in Newton's Place. He further added that following a successful meeting with the Broad-gauge Society that they had offered to make a model 'Antelope' train (a replica of the first train into Newton Abbot Station) so he was pleased to finish on the note of the overwhelming support for the project from a wide range of groups and organisations.

Councillor Hocking added that Members welcomed the regular reports and updates on the project that he thanked the Clerk and the project team for their openness in conveying information at every stage of the programme and that Members were well informed and were pleased that the wishes of the wider community as first voiced in 2008 for a central community hub were now well underway and could be delivered. The Mayor thanked Councillor Hocking for his support and endorsed his comments. Following a discussion among Members, accordingly it was unanimously;

RESOLVED that the Clerk be delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman of Finance and Audit Committee and the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to accept an appropriate tender for the construction contract for the refurbishment of the former Church of St Leonards into a Museum and Community Space for the benefit of the community.

147. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

148. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council was to be held on Wednesday 26th September 2018

149. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

150. **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT**

Further to Minute 18/07(120) the Mayor invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the additional funding for the Newton's Place project and the acquisition of a new asset.

The Town Clerk reported that following a delay in the sale of the existing Town Hall and Museum building, 9 Devon Square that the Council needed to meet a shortfall in funding of up to £300,000 for the project, albeit that this would be a short-term form of borrowing. The Clerk reminded Council that their decision to earmark future CIL income to the fund the borrowing would remove any impact on future Precept. Councillor Mrs J Cleave thanked the Clerk for his update and requested that Members receive a copy of the latest press release for reference.

Following further discussion among Members, accordingly, it was;

RESOLVED that

a) approval be sought of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a loan of £300,000 up to 20 years from Lloyds Bank Plc for the refurbishment of 19th Century Listed Former Church of St Leonards for Community Benefit (It is not intended to increase the precept for the purpose of the loan repayments);

b) the Town Clerk be delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman of the Project Board and the Chairman of the Finance & Audit Committee to apply for a mortgage or other appropriate borrowing method for a sum of up to £300,000 and

c) approval be hereby given for the action taken by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Project Board and Chairman of

Finance & Audit in negotiating the purchase of an additional capital asset.

Chairman (Mayor)