

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2018** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillors K Purchase (Mayor) Presiding
R Jenks (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors

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

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
Inspector Nigel Yelland, Devon & Cornwall Police
Mrs Rebecca Hewitt, Teignbridge District Council

Representative of the Press: Sam Hall, Mid Devon Advertiser

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Samantha Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

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

200. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Full Council Meeting, it being the first meeting of the Council following the August recess and he welcomed Inspector Nigel Yelland, Devon and Cornwall Police and Mrs Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety Manager, Teignbridge District Council.

201. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager.

202. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

203. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th July were received and signed as a correct record.

204. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

205. **UPDATE ON LOCAL POLICING IN NEWTON ABBOT**

The Mayor introduced Inspector Nigel Yelland, and Mrs Rebecca Hewitt and invited them to update members on local policing issues in Newton Abbot.

Inspector Yelland reported on recent statistics in three main areas of crime in the last month and as a comparison over the last year:

- ❖ Vehicle Offences were down by 66.7% for the month and down 49.9% for the year;
- ❖ Shop lifting offences were stable for the month and down by 30.8% for the year and this was due in part to the more confident action by retailers in dealing with shop lifting incidents; and
- ❖ Criminal Damage offences were down by 17.1% for the month and down by 2.3% across the year.

Overall these were positive statistics, but he noted that there had been an increase in crimes relating to violence with injury which included domestic violence or assault and the police resources would be particularly concentrating on this area in the forthcoming month.

Inspector Yelland then reported on the recurring issues relating to youths in the town. Following a 12-18 month programme working in partnership with multi-agency groups to safeguard the young people involved and prevent anti-social behaviour; the police had instigated powers under new legislation. This had resulted in 11 young people receiving civil injunctions to prevent a range of activities. These include; covering their face, not behaving in a certain manner, staying away from specified areas and in some cases not entering the town.

The civil powers were seen as a non-aggressive action that will assist in the ongoing programme and is a relatively new power nationally and a first for the Devon and Cornwall region. There has already been a noticeable positive affect and it is hoped that this will assist as a catalyst for change for these young people and improve the amenity for the town. Inspector Yelland noted that there are still large groups of youths gathering in the town, but he emphasised the importance of recognising the difference in them gathering and not undertaking anti-social behaviour. He reported that the police were communicating with the groups and assured the Council of their continued work to promote positive change within the town.

Mrs Hewitt reported on the continued community work with a variety of partner agencies to support the affected youths and their parents and families. In addition to the work with the youths they had established parenting groups to provide guidance and support for those families involved. Following the success of the initiative the Community Safety Partnership had applied to the Home Office for grant funding to continue the programme and appoint additional staff to support the youths across South Devon and Torbay. She concluded by noting that they had gained a great deal of information from the last year and wanted to bring in more resources to deliver the change for these young people.

The Mayor thanked both Inspector Yelland and Mrs Hewitt for their updates and invited questions from Members, who raised points on the following key areas:

- ❖ The interventions support the youths who are often in complex family situations;
- ❖ Councillors were encouraged to act as community ambassadors to endorse the efforts of the police and partner agencies in their work, (much of which cannot be publicised), on a long-term programme for change;
- ❖ Encourage reporting of crime, via 101 online, as all intelligence gathering is vital to gain information;
- ❖ Councillors appreciated the update as it clarified and countered information circulated on social media which at times was not accurate and misled the public;
- ❖ Vehicle offences having declined primarily due to work of PCSO's and police cadets in encouraging prevention;
- ❖ Drugs and substance misuse across the region and the work among schools with the County Council and students, to minimise risk of harm together with the safeguarding efforts to protect the town from infiltration from other regions;
- ❖ The civil powers assigned to the police included the addition of the 'police power to arrest' if the injunctions are breached;
- ❖ Police presence in town particularly during peak periods of night-time economy during the weekends.

The Mayor thanked both Inspector Yelland and Rebecca Hewitt for their informative updates on local policing issues in the town. He invited them both to attend a future meeting of the Council and extended an invitation to include Chief Superintendent Perkin, recently appointed to the area. Inspector Yelland accepted the invitation, where upon they were invited to leave the meeting.

206. 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:

- Exeter Road widening scheme was likely to commence in the next 12-15 months;
- The A382 road enhancements between Forches Cross and Whitehill was scheduled to start in 12-15 months but most of this would involve night road closures to minimise disruption;
- Installation of pedestrian crossing at Bradley Barton as identified as one of the two key pedestrian accident 'hot spots';
- Re-opening of refuse landfill site at Heathfield;
- Pedestrian safety issues at Pitt Hill Road;
- Stagecoach bus service, improvements in some areas but concern at difficulties in others; particularly Buckland estate;
- DCC Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund purchase of garden tools held and managed by the Town Council;
- Councillor Mrs J Hook Chairs the Speed Limit Policy Group; and
- Invited volunteer helpers for next session of improvements at Penn Inn roundabout on Friday 28th September 2018 at 10.15am.

Members raised questions and clarified the following points:

- Stagecoach obligation to maintain buses services to meet the scheduled timetable;

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

- Executive Committee were due to reconsider the parameters under which town and parish councils could be involved in Planning Application site visits;
- Allotment provision at Hele Park;
- Bradley Barton proposed development of 102 dwellings; and
- Whitehill development had commenced work and developers would be subject to three monthly reviews of programme.

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

- Improvements to the bus service and noted that stationary buses were switching off engines in pedestrian areas;
- Sinkhole in Sandringham Park cordoned off and under investigation;
- Removal of Railway footbridge over Torquay Road in consultation with DCC Highways and Network Rail;
- Newton Abbot to Teignmouth cycle route;
- Introduction of 'Good Neighbour' scheme for the town, a helping network within the community.

Members raised questions and clarified the following points:

- ❖ Neighbours to be informed of night time work on Torquay Road;
- ❖ Welcomed the 'Good Neighbour' initiative;
- ❖ Stagecoach trials of new buses on routes in Buckland.

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

207. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Council received the list of engagements (previously circulated) which the Mayor had carried out since 25th July 2018.

The Mayor reported that he had attended a variety of engagements during the summer period, which he found to be thoroughly enjoyable. He reported that the Band Concerts had been a great success and he thanked those Members who had assisted at all the events throughout the summer. He thoroughly enjoyed the presentation evening at Young Devon to award the successful candidates having completed the Princes Trust course. The Mayor summed-up by complimenting the Town Development Manager, Mrs Sally Henley on the success of the Summer Nights events in the town which were well attended, and he had enjoyed a superb atmosphere.

The Mayor invited the Deputy Mayor to report on events that he had attended. The Deputy Mayor made particular note of the Town Criers' Competition in which the 'Second Cry' was about Hedgehogs.

Councillor Mike Joyce requested permission to inform the Council that despite an excellent application on behalf of the Town Council and the Town Clerk that Newton Abbot had not been listed in the NALC short list for Star Council. The Councillors commended the Clerk and the work of the Town Council for their excellent efforts, with special thanks to the Deputy Town Clerk in her assistance with the application to NALC.

208. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 7th August 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;
- B. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 28th August 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 12th September 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs A Jones, were received and approved subject to the policies as set out under minute 184 (a) be noted and approved;
- D. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 18th September 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved.

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

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the Newton's Place project. The Clerk reported that further to the regular updates to the Council that he and the Project Co-ordinator had met with the Heritage Lottery Fund Grants Officer to discuss the progress of the project. The Grants Officer fully supported the project and complimented the Council on retaining the 'client led' approach and the involvement of the Project Board and Town Council in the decisions made.

The Clerk added that the professional design team had worked extensively to ensure that the construction phase will deliver to meet the Council's aspirations for the community facility. Mr Rowe reported that the detailed themes of the Museum Design were moving forward, and the project group were engaging with South Devon College and the University Technical College to facilitate engineering students to engage with the construction contractors during the next phase. Following a discussion among Members, the update from the Town Clerk was noted.

210. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

211. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council was to be held on Wednesday 21st November 2018

212. **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.

213. **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, value engineering work on the tenders received for the construction contract and the acquisition of a new asset.

The Town Clerk reported that the acquisition of the new asset had been delayed.

He reminded Members that due to the delay in the sale of the existing premises the Council had sought and been granted the necessary borrowing approval to meet the shortfall in funding for the project.

To this effect, the Council had sought a short-term loan from the County Council but had been advised that they were not able to offer a loan to the Town Council at this time. Therefore, the Council would need to apply for a mortgage to meet the shortfall for the interim period.

The Clerk reported that since the Tenders for construction had been received over budget, the professional design team had carried out an extensive investigation in order to prepare a summary of potential savings to ensure that the project would deliver best value for the community.

Following discussion among Members they were keen to emphasise the importance of delivering best value but also the assurance that this would in no way compromise the integrity or quality of the project for the long-term community use of the facility. Therefore, following clarification from the Town Clerk, it was;

RESOLVED that

- a) the Town Clerk would inform Members once the acquisition of the new asset had been completed;
- b) the Town Clerk be delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee and the Chairman of the Finance & Audit Committee to apply for a mortgage for a sum of up to £300,000; and
- c) approval be hereby given for the action taken previously by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee and Chairman of Finance & Audit; and delegated authority be granted in accepting a Tender of up to £75,000 above budget, with a further report to be made to the Council at the meeting on 21st November 2018.

Chairman (Mayor)