

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2018** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

**PRESENT:** Councillor M E Ryan (Chairman)  
Mrs A Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Bunday R Jenks (Dep Mayor)  
Mrs J Cleave M Joyce  
C Coyle-Moore C N Parker  
R Hayes K Purchase (Mayor)  
M Hocking T Ward  
D Howe

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk  
Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk  
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

**247. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Ms Liz Roberts and Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager.

The Chairman invited Councillor Colin Parker to update Members on fellow Councillor Mike Pilkington's recent ill health. Councillor Parker thanked Members on behalf of Mrs Pilkington and family, for their good wishes and advised that whilst he was recovering that it may take some time. The Chairman thanked Councillor Parker for his update and expressed his sincere good wishes for a full recovery on behalf of Members and staff of the Town Council.

**248. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were received and signed as a correct record.

**249. INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday gave notice of her intention to declare an interest in Minute (252) below.

**250. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**251. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

None reported.

**252. RESTORATION OF WAR MEMORIAL**

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the restoration of the War Memorial. The Town Clerk reminded Members that further to Minute 18/09(180)

they had received a comprehensive report on the specialist survey and tender process to ascertain the necessary works and associated costs to restore the town's War Memorial. The Clerk thanked the Chairman for allowing him to bring back the item to the Committee for further consideration. The Committee were aware that the reduced amount of grant funding awarded by the War Memorial Trust had left a shortfall of £55,000 but since the last Committee meeting the Clerk had received confirmation from the District Authority of the income from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) due to the Council and that given the restoration of the War Memorial was a capital expenditure that a portion of this sum could be ear-marked for the works. In addition, the Clerk had sourced potential grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and advised that this would require an extensive application to be made to the HLF within the next couple of months. If successful, the grant funding would contribute towards the shortfall.

Members had a lengthy discussion about the extensive requirements of the grant funding application, the associated community engagement and the additional work on the Town Clerk and other staff and noted the additional income from CIL that could be ear-marked for the restoration works. Members also considered deferring the works until the completion of the Newton's Place Project.

The Clerk suggested that he meet with the specialist consultant and prospective contractor to obtain more information about a draft schedule of works and would then report back to Members.

Following a lengthy discussion, accordingly, it was;

**RESOLVED** that a) it be agreed in principle for the Clerk to meet with the prospective contractor to gain a draft programme of works for the restoration of the War Memorial and b) to pursue assistance to make the grant application for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund so as not to impact upon the Council's staff resources; and c) to report back to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

*Mrs Carol Bunday having previously declared an interest took part in the discussion but not the voting thereon.*

#### 253. **COUNCIL SNOW PLAN**

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the Snow Plan, previously circulated. The Clerk advised that the arrangements within the Snow Plan covered work devolved from the County Council and it had been operating well since its introduction in 2012 and revision in 2016.

Accordingly, it was;

**RESOLVED** that the Snow Plan be hereby, accepted and readopted for 2018/19.

#### 254. **SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

##### **(i). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be hereby approved and adopted.

255. **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT – UPDATE**

The Chairman as the Chairman of the Project Board updated Members on the Newton's Place Project. Councillor Mike Ryan advised Members that Henry W Pollard & Sons Ltd had been appointed as the Council's contractor for the restoration and refurbishment of Newton's Place and were in the process of mobilising their operation. The contractor was due to start on site towards the end of November 2018. He added that the pre-construction preparatory work had now been completed which included the protection of the font and pulpit and he emphasised that since the contractor had now taken receipt of the keys that there would be no access to the premises without prior authorisation to comply with statutory Health and Safety regulations.

Councillor Ryan thanked Councillors Mrs Carol Bunday and Mike Hocking for their time and effort in delivering letters to the neighbours in close proximity of the building; advising them of the impending commencement of the construction works.

The Chairman referred to the meeting of the Project Board, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in which the Board members considered the name of the building. Whilst Newton's Place is well known within the community it had been intended for use as the project name and Members were asked to consider whether it should be retained, or a new name be sought for the building for its opening.

Members discussed the matter and endorsed the recommendation of the Project Board in retaining the name Newton's Place, which was well known and established within the community, and there being no viable alternative name, therefore accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to adopt the name 'Newton's Place' as the name of the new premises at 43 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.

256. **POLICIES**

The Chairman introduced the policy documents, previously circulated and reminded Members that these were first introduced in 2017 and were due to be reviewed.

Following a review of the policy documents among Members it was;

**RESOLVED** that the Policies in relation to;

- (a) Social Media Policy and
- (b) Ethical Fundraising Policy, be hereby, approved and adopted.

257. **ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

**A. Income & Expenditure Statement - 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The Committee received and noted the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Following consideration, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018, be hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

## **B. Budget Requirements for 2019/20 Budget**

The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement for the Policy & Resources Committee, (for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018) and considered the proposed budget for 2019/20. The Town Clerk reported that no additional projects had been identified for the forthcoming year as the Council's main priority remained as the Newton's Place Project and suggested that the Committee retain a stand-still budget, subject to inflation, for the budget for 2019/20.

Following consideration, it was;

**RESOLVED** that the budget for the Policy and Resources Committee remain as a stand-still budget, subject to inflation, be hereby, approved for 2019/20.

## **C. Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG)**

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that following the advice from the District Authority last year that the CTSG was due to be reduced year on year from 2018/19 and cease grant payments by 2020/21; that in fact the Council had received recent notification that the Council Tax Support Grant would cease entirely in the next financial year and no further payments would be received.

Members expressed their disappointment that District Councillors had not been made aware of this decision as it had been expected to reduce by approximately one-third year on year until its cessation in 2020/21. The Council had acted upon the original advice from the District Authority and taken the prudent steps in the preparation of the budget last year by raising the Precept by one third of the value of the grant funding to lessen the direct impact to residents of Newton Abbot.

The Committee expressed their concern on the impact that this would have on the Council's budget requirements, which would now necessitate a rise in the Council's precept requirement for 2019/20 and future years to account for the early cessation of the Council Tax Support Grant. It was noted that the CTSG had a greater benefit to the larger town and parish councils and would directly affect residents across the Teignbridge area. The matter would be considered further at the Meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee and subsequent budget meetings in the preparation of the 2019/20 budget. Members were reminded that the Council's precept was entirely revenue funding and the income from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), was a capital receipt and could not therefore be used to offset the deficit from the cessation of the Council Tax Support Grant.

The Deputy Town Clerk also advised the Committee that CiL income in the sum of £97,000 had recently been received from the District Council as its 25% entitlement.

Following a considered discussion among Members, accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to write to the District Authority to clarify the decision made to cease the Council Tax Support Grant for town and parish councils and make particular note of the direct

impact on the residents of Newton Abbot and to report back to Members in due course.

258. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

259. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

CHAIRMAN