

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 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 | Mrs S Kingdom |
| Mrs J Cleave | C N Parker |
| D Corney-Walker | Ms L Roberts |
| 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

Representatives from: Newton Abbot Community Transport
Citizens Advice Teignbridge
Eloise Rokirilov

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

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Mayor welcomed Eloise Rokirilov presenting her with a Grant from the Town Council, for her project. The Mayor similarly welcomed Citizens Advice Teignbridge and Newton Abbot Community Trust where upon he presented Financial Assistance Grants in support of the work that they carry out. Each organisation thanked the Town Council for their ongoing support.

The organisations having received their cheques, were applauded by the Members of the Council, where upon they left the meeting.

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

283. WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Full Council Meeting, it being the last meeting of the Council before Christmas.

284. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chris Coyle-Moore, Mrs Ann Jones and Mike Pilkington.

285. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

286. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th September 2018 were received and signed as a correct record.

287. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

288. **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 proposed widening scheme under consultation with local residents and engineers have undertaken detailed surveys prior to decision spring 2019;
- Invited views from Members and public to be fed to DCC Speed Task Group;
- Liaising with Highweek residents gaining ideas for the village area;

Members raised questions and clarified the following points:

- Councillor Colin Parker had been requested to respond on behalf of the Town Council to the Speed Task Group.

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

- Reduction of speed limit and improved signage on South Devon Highway between Ware Barton and Penn Inn Junction;
- Road marking improvements (noted that existing markings need to be 70% removed before repair);
- Pressure on parking, looking for potential additional areas;
- Multi-agency meeting Tuesday 27th November at Buckland & Milber Community Centre welcoming volunteers for the Good Neighbour and Neighbourhood Watch Scheme;

Members raised questions and clarified the following points:

- Cleaning of road signs
- Road repairs at junction of St Marychurch Road and Shaldon Road require Box Junction to be reinstated;

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.

289. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

At 7.20 p.m. the meeting adjourned for five minutes to allow the Town Clerk to leave the meeting temporarily.

290. RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING

At 7.25 p.m. the meeting resumed.

291. REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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

- Persimmon Homes had provided details of allotment sites and scheduled light repairs;
- Planning site visit had been arranged to consider Ogwel Mill Road development.

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

- Teignbridge renovation plans for the town centre to include multi-plex cinema and additional restaurants;
- Council tax for Teignbridge residents and those specifically in Newton Abbot;
- Impact of Government decision to cease Council Tax Support Grant for local town and parish councils on the revenue budget as distinct from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL income) for infrastructure (capital) projects such as Newton's Place.

The Town Clerk further clarified the distinction between revenue and capital receipts within town and parish councils and the overall impact of the cessation of the Council Tax Support Grant for Newton Abbot Town Council. Members thanked Councillor Hocking for his report and for representing Newton Abbot Town Council's position at the District Meeting.

292. COACH VISITORS TO NEWTON ABBOT

The Mayor invited Honorary Freeman of the Town, Mr Henry Cole to update Members on the Coach visitors to the town. Mr Cole reported that he continued to greet coaches every Wednesday and on that day there had been 13 coaches visiting the town. He added that many visitors had been to the town before and enjoyed the facilities and shops that Newton Abbot offered. He

welcomed the increase in coaches visiting on Sundays and hoped that local businesses would extend their hours to accommodate the visitors.

The Mayor expressed his appreciation of Mr Cole on behalf of the Town Council and thanked him for all the work he undertook for the town. Members endorsed their appreciation of both Mr Cole and Mrs Henley, Town Development Manager in maintaining low vacancy rates within the shops and how positively Newton Abbot performed when compared across the region.

293. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Council received the list of engagements (previously circulated) which the Mayor had carried out since 26th September 2018.

The Mayor reported that he had attended a variety of engagements during the autumn period, which he found to be thoroughly enjoyable. He reported that the two Classic Car shows had been highly successful and a tremendous boost for the town. He added that he had thoroughly enjoyed attending a 100th birthday party and he thanked fellow Members for their support at the Mayoral Civic Service held at St. Paul's Church. He particularly thanked Mrs Winsborrow, the Mayor's Secretary and the Council's Housekeeper and Handyman for their considerable effort and hard work for the event.

The Mayor acknowledged the extended Remembrance Service marking the centenary of the end of WWI at which it was estimated that in excess of 2,500 people attended. Councillor Purchase thanked the staff and Members for the excellent service to mark the occasion.

The Mayor invited the Deputy Mayor to report on events that he had attended. The Deputy Mayor made particular note of the excellent Stover School Assembly.

294. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 9th October 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;
- B. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 17th October 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Cleave, were received and approved;
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 30th October 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;
- D. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 31st October 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor M Ryan, were received and approved subject to the policies as set out under minute 256 be noted and approved;
- E. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 7th November 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor C Parker, were received and approved; subject to it being noted that the

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 as set out under Minute 266 be approved and adopted.

- F. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 20th November 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved.

295. **INTERIM AUDIT REPORT 2018/19**

The Mayor referred Members to Minute 18/11(267) that the Internal Audit Report had been unavailable for the Meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee on 7th November and had therefore been deferred for consideration at the meeting. The Mayor invited Members to consider the **Interim Audit Report for 2018-19** previously circulated and invited additional comments.

Members commended the efforts of officers in particular the Deputy Town Clerk in fulfilling the financial standards as required of the Audit process. Councillor Parker requested that officers review Recommendation (9) as contained within the report; regarding potential investment opportunities for local councils. Following discussion among Members about the resolution of the recommendations, accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Council hereby approve and adopt the **Interim Audit Report 2018/19**.

296. **POLICIES**

The Mayor introduced the Policy documents, previously circulated drawing Members' attention to the key principles contained within them. Members referred to the Standing Orders and queried whether Councillors gave satisfactory reasons for absence. The Committee Administrator confirmed that she was satisfied that appropriate reasons for absence had been noted in accordance with Standing Orders. Members also expressed their wish to maintain a high standard of dress when in attendance at meetings of the Council and Committee Meetings. The matters raised were noted and following the review of the documents it was;

RESOLVED that the:

- a) Council's Standing Orders, and
- b) Health and Safety Policy, be hereby, approved and adopted.

297. **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 was pleased to report that the construction contractors had commenced work on site from Monday 19th November 2018 and had cleared the land adjacent to use as the site compound. The Clerk added that a press-call had been organised for Monday 26th November 2018 at 11am to formally mark the start of the next phase. Following a discussion among Members, the update from the Town Clerk was noted.

298. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

299. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council was to be held on Wednesday 30th January 2019 (Precept).

Chairman (Mayor)