

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30th JANUARY 2019 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 A Jones
Mrs J Cleave	M Joyce
D Corney-Walker	C N Parker
C Coyle-Moore	Ms L Roberts
R Hayes	M E Ryan
M Hocking	Mrs L Sheffield
D Howe	T Ward

By Invitation: The Reverend Patrick Parkes

Representatives from: Newton Abbot Twinning Association
3rd Newton Abbot Scout Group – Explorer Unit
Buckland Surgery Support Group

Representative of the Press: Sam Hall, Mid Devon Advertiser

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

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Mayor welcomed David Thompson and Katell Hopkins, from Newton Abbot Twinning Association and presented them with a Grant from the Town Council, towards the celebration event for the 40th anniversary of the Twinning with Besigheim Germany. The Mayor similarly welcomed Naomi Harnett, Explorer Leader, from 3rd Newton Abbot Scout Group – Explorer Unit and also Rosemary Whitbread from the Buckland Surgery Support Group where upon he presented Grants in support of the work that they carry out. Each organisation thanked the Town Council for their 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.

336. WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Full Council Meeting, it being the first meeting of the Council of the new year.

337. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Honorary Freeman Henry Cole, County and District Councillors Mrs Jackie Hook and Gordon Hook; Town

Councillors Mrs Sheila Kingdom and Mike Pilkington and Mrs Sally Henley
Town Development Manager.

338. **INTERESTS**

The Chairman confirmed that Members of the Council present had, where necessary, signed the required Dispensation Notice permitting involvement in the discussion and decision making regarding the Council's Precept.

339. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st November 2018 were received and signed as a correct record.

340. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

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

No reports received from County or District Representatives.

342. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Council received the list of engagements (previously circulated) which the Mayor had carried out since 21st November 2018.

The Mayor thanked all Members of the Council for their hard work and effort involved in the extensive programme of events in the weeks leading up to Christmas and over the Christmas period. He was pleased to report that he had attended the Society of Arts Concert on Sunday 20th January and had presented them with the Grant as awarded by the Council in November 2019. The Mayor invited the Deputy Mayor to comment upon engagements which he had carried out and it was noted that Councillor Jenks had attended the Bovey Tracey Carol Service just prior to Christmas.

343. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 11th December 2018 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved subject to it being noted that under Minute 304(1) the district authority decision on the previous application in relation to Foxley House, 18 Lonsdale Road, had been appealed;
- B. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 15th January 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 16th January 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor C Parker, were received and approved; with the exception of Minutes 19/01(328.B) and 19/01(335) and further to it being noted that under Minute 328(B) the date would be corrected to read 2019/20, be received and approved.

344. **TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE**

Arising from Minute 19/01(335) the Mayor invited the Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee to remind Members of the recommendation made to Council. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Council approve and accept the financial offer received and proceed to dispose of the Town Hall, subject to contract.

345. **PRECEPT 2019/20**

Arising from Minute 19/01(328.B) the Mayor reminded the Council that it was the statutory duty of the Council to approve a Precept for 2019/20. The Mayor invited the Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee to remind Members of the recommendation made to Council. In doing so Councillor Parker thanked staff for the work involved in producing the reports necessary for the Precept submission. He reminded Members of the necessity to recover the shortfall of approximately £40,000 due to the cessation of the Council Tax Support Grant, earlier than originally advised by the district authority. He reported that the proposed budget would meet this shortfall and also meet the continued delivery of devolved services from the principal authorities. Councillor Parker emphasised that Newton Abbot Town Council offered exceptional service in meeting these requirements and continued to deliver an extensive programme of wide ranging events throughout the civic calendar; had also enhanced and improved local amenities such as Golden Lion Square, Victoria Gardens and would deliver a £2.2m project for the community that would not impact on the Council's Precept, due to the significant support from grant funding, which was a notable achievement for the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Hocking that a Precept in the sum of £828,539 be adopted for the year 2019/20.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that the Council hereby adopts a Precept of **£828,539 for 2019/20** representing an increase of £6.28p p.a. (0.12p per week) or 6.76% for a Band D property in Newton Abbot and that Teignbridge District Council be therefore requested to collect on the Town Council's behalf the **sum of £828,539**.

346. **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)**

The Mayor invited the Deputy Town Clerk to update Members on the work in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Council had employed an experienced data consultant to review the type of data collected; how it would be stored and the retention of data within the Council. The consultant had also reviewed the Council's current systems and advised on best practice following the move to Newton's Place. The report provided summarised 27 key areas of which 6 were identified high risk. The Deputy Clerk reported that 5 of these had been actioned and the remaining item related to the location of the Council's server and this would be addressed following the move to Newton's Place. The remaining items were recorded as medium to low risk and the consultant's view was that the Council was in a good position at present and was working well towards

compliance. Mrs Scott further advised that the Council would need to review a number of its policies and these would be brought to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration. The Mayor thanked the Deputy Clerk for her informative update and following a discussion among Members accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the verbal update from the Deputy Town Clerk on the Council's progression towards full compliance of the General Data Protection Regulations (May 2018) be noted.

347. **POLICIES**

The Mayor introduced the Equality and Diversity Policy, previously circulated, and invited the Committee Administrator to provide Members with the background to the new policy. Mrs Robinson raised two key points that as the employer, the Council was assured that it offered all staff employment on an equal and fair basis and had the opportunity to use local resources by employing from the local community which was in line with the Council's Procurement Strategy. Following the review of the documents it was;

RESOLVED that the Equality and Diversity Policy, be hereby, approved and adopted.

348. **COMMON SEAL**

Following a proposition by the Mayor it was:

RESOLVED that the Common Seal of the Council be hereby affixed to the Contract in Minute 344 above as necessary to give effect to the resolution passed by the Council at the meeting.

349. **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 Project Board had met on 24th January 2019 where they had been updated by the project groups.

The Council's contractors were working to programme, and he drew Members attention to the press-release tabled at the meeting advising the public of the work to the main roof and the re-use of existing roof slates due to their good condition. The Clerk noted that there were always elements within a project that could not be fully anticipated but that these unexpected items were being carefully managed and monitored and had not impacted on the overall programme. The Clerk reminded Council of the recent endorsement of the project designs by the Church Commissioners and he thanked Members for their continued commitment to the project.

The Deputy Mayor lead the Council in expressing support for the Town Clerk, Council staff and all those involved in the project for their continued efforts; excellent management and the progress made on the project to date. Councillor Mike Hocking acknowledged the commitment of the Council in making the decision in 2016 to commission the project to provide the facility for the community and the positive comments were echoed by Members

throughout the Council; including the recent televised news coverage on the project.

The Mayor thanked the Clerk and fellow Members for their comments and endorsed their views on behalf of the Council. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the verbal update from the Town Clerk on the Newton's Place project be noted.

350. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

351. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council was to be held on Wednesday 13th March 2019.

Chairman (Mayor)

