

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL 2019** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillors Mrs J Cleave (Chairman) Presiding
Mrs L Sheffield (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Bunday Mrs A Jones
D Corney-Walker Mrs S Kingdom
C Coyle-Moore C N Parker
R Hayes K L Purchase (Mayor)
M Hocking Ms L Roberts
D Howe M E Ryan
R D Jenks (Dep Mayor) T Ward

In attendance: Mr Rob Scarrott – South West Water

Officers in attendance: Samantha Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

430. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mike Joyce and Mike Pilkington and Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager.

431. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 6th February 2019 were received and signed as a correct record.

432. **ITEM DEFERRED**

The Chairman referred to Item 6. on the Agenda – Art Sculpture at Balls Corner Roundabout and advised that the matter was not ready to report but would be considered at the Community and Heritage Committee on 19th June 2019. Accordingly, it was;

RESOLVED that the matter relating to the installation of Art Sculpture at Balls Corner Roundabout be hereby deferred for consideration at the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee on 19th June 2019.

433. **INTERESTS**

Councillor Colin Parker gave notice of his intention to declare an interest in Minute 435 below.

434. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

435. **PRESENTATION UPDATE – SOUTH WEST WATER**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Rob Scarrott, Head of Water Resources and Water Efficiency, at South West Water (SWW) to the meeting and invited him to update Members on the work of South West Water in the town.

Mr Scarrot provided a background of where water was sourced from. Water was captured across a wide area from Wimbleball on Exmoor to Roborough in the south of the region. South West Water was in the unique position that it captured from reservoirs and from some parts of the River Dart which gave greater flexibility and allowed sufficient supply to meet demands even during extended periods of drought.

There is a statutory requirement under the Water Resources Act that demand is forecast for the next 25 years. In light of this, SWW analysed census data, climate change and potential development outlined in the Local Plan to project future demand within Newton Abbot. Mr Scarrot reported that SWW predicted that there would be approximately 6,000 additional dwellings over the next 25 years a rise of 20% which was not uncommon across the region but they were confident that the water supply to the area was more than sufficient to meet demand without any intervention until 2030.

Despite this positive position SWW continued to mitigate for additional impact on demand within the system and had pledged to reduce leaks by 15% by 2025 and over 25% by 2045. Whilst the region had the highest number of metered customers nationally SWW aimed to increase this by allowing all customers the option of a metered supply. The Water Efficiency Programme aimed to reduce demand by 9% by 2025 and guidance and assistance would be offered to low income families to achieve lower bills.

Whilst the supply of water to the town was greater than demand and was projected to remain as such until 2045, work would continue to build in resilience for the future.

Waste Water was managed differently and Mr Scarrot acknowledged the difficulties in managing peak capacity and potential flooding where developments restricted natural catchment. Detailed analysis of planned dwellings was essential to ensure sufficient waste water planning. Since the neighbouring coastline was a designated shell fish water area, there were restrictions on the amount and frequency of discharge into the sea following storm events.

He welcomed the recent introduction of the Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan sharing responsibilities between County Highways with SWW and this would encourage an integrated plan for future development.

Mr Scarrot reported on the leak from Newfoundland Way Toilets and stated that SWW wanted to resolve the matter and would advise the Town Clerk of when the repairs would be carried out.

The Chairman thanked Mr Scarrot for his update and invited questions from Members who raised the following key points:

- It would be helpful if the meter for the Newfoundland Way Toilets was closer to the premises (currently situated on the opposite side of the road);
- Concern that repairs to leaks take months to resolve;
- Security of the Water Treatment sites and Water Management systems;
- Ability to dredge reservoirs and ongoing management and maintenance;
- Desalination plants not needed in the region;
- Poor drainage management restricts volume of storm water catchment;
- Raise public awareness of water saving measures and water efficiency;
- Increased social media and targeted awareness for different groups of the community; and

- 2.2 million customers in the region.

The Chairman thanked Mr Scarrot on behalf of the Committee for his informative update to Members. Whereupon Mr Scarrot was invited to leave the meeting.

Councillor Colin Parker having declared an interest took part in the discussion thereon.

436. **SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

A(i). EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 6th MARCH 2019

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on 6th March 2019 be hereby approved and adopted; and

A(ii). COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 20th MARCH 2019

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 20th March 2019 be hereby approved and adopted;

437. **NEWTON'S PLACE - UPDATE**

The Chairman invited Councillor M Ryan, Chairman of Newton's Place Project Board to update Members on the project. Councillor Ryan noted that Members were regularly informed of progress on the project but that earlier in the day, the contractors had commenced the excavation of the pit for the lift in the former entrance lobby. In doing so they had uncovered a 'significant' archaeological 'find' and therefore County Archaeologists had been invited to view and record the find before construction work continued. Councillor Ryan added that the large steels, needed for the construction of the first floor would be delivered in the early hours of Friday morning to minimise any disruption to traffic. Arrangements were in place to ensure consideration of the neighbours in close proximity to the site.

Councillor Ryan added that there had been some minor delays but the Construction Manager would review the programme and advise if this time could be regained to complete within the schedule. He noted that there would be some remedial work to the parapet behind the front gable as previous poor repairs had allowed water ingress.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ryan for his update and added that she had found the recent site visit to be very enlightening and noted the care and attention of the stonemasons in their work to restore the exterior of the building. Following a discussion among Members accordingly, it was;

RESOLVED that the verbal update from Councillor Mike Ryan, Chairman of the Newton's Place Project Board be noted.

438. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

The Chairman noted that there had been no questions in advance of the meeting but invited comments from Members. The Committee received and noted the Income and

Expenditure statement for the Community and Heritage Committee, (for the period 1st April 2018 – 25th March 2019) previously circulated.

Following consideration, accordingly it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1st April 2018 – 25th March 2019 for the Community and Heritage Committee be hereby approved and adopted.

439. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Art Bequest of Paintings and Sculptures – The Committee Administrator advised that the Council had received an offer of an Art Bequest from a local resident. Members considered the kind offer and recorded their thanks for the generous gift. Following discussion, accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that the Community and Heritage Committee recommend that the Art Bequest be formally accepted by the Council.

B. Ilsington Beating of the Bounds - The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that the Council had been invited to join in with Ilsington's Beating of the Bounds event at the parish boundary with Newton Abbot on Saturday 18th May. Members who were interested in participating should contact Mrs Scott for more details. Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday, Portreeve requested her apologies be noted.

440. **APPRECIATION FOR CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Ms Liz Roberts offered her sincere thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Community and Heritage Committee, Councillor Mrs Julie Cleave, it being the last meeting of the current Council. Members endorsed their appreciation and wished Councillor Cleave well.

Councillor Mrs Cleave thanked fellow Members and by the same token offered her best wishes to all Members of the Council for their hard work and efforts and acknowledged that some would be standing in the forthcoming local elections.

441. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee would be held on Wednesday 19th June 2019.



Chairman