

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2019** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors R D Jenks (Mayor)
M Joyce (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: P Bullivant R Hayes
D Corney-Walker D Howe
Mrs K Crout Mrs A Jones
C Davieson C N Parker
R Hall M Pilkington
B Hayes Mrs L Sheffield

Invited guests: Honorary Freeman of Newton Abbot Henry L J Cole
County and District Councillor Gordon Hook
The Reverend Gareth Regan

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

The Mayor invited his Chaplain, The Reverend Gareth Regan, to deliver prayers.

40. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the First Full Council Meeting of the new council.

41. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Carol Bunday, Mike Hocking, Chris Jenks and County and District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook.

42. **INTERESTS**

None Declared.

43. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th March and the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting on 15th May 2019 were received and signed as correct records.

44. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

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

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

- Declaration of Climate Emergency, public launch September 2019;
- Teignmouth Air Show;
- Revised planning application for Bakers Park;
- Greater Exeter Strategic Plan;
- Grass-cutting contract and recent issues;
- Application for pedestrian bridge over Newton Abbot railway; and
- New District Council Administration.

Members raised questions and clarified the following points:

- District Council support for the Teignmouth Air Show;
- Revised application for Bakers Park, cost neutral;
- Co-operative working among town and district council administration;
- Local evidence of climate change, Dawlish sea wall; and
- Climate Change Seminar for Town Councillors.

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

- Pedestrian bridge over Newton Abbot railway affect on residents;
- Aldi Site; and
- Grass-cutting contract, new contract team.

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

- New Council Administration and Leadership;
- Grass-Cutting Bradley Ward, matters to be resolved; and
- Teignmouth Air Show.

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

46. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Council received the list of engagements (previously circulated) which the Mayor and previous Mayor had carried out since 13th March 2019.

The Mayor noted the engagements carried out by Ken Purchase, former Mayor, prior to his hand over in May 2019. He acknowledged Mr Purchase's commitment during the last year and commended him for his grace and professionalism. The Mayor wished Mr Purchase well in his retirement after 26 years of public service to the town.

The Mayor reported that he had already attended a variety of engagements which he found to be very interesting. He made particular note of his attendance at the Decoration Day on 2nd June 2019. The Mayor extended an invitation to all Councillors to attend the Commemorative Service for the D-Day Veterans to be

held at Highweek Church Thursday 6th June 2019 at 11am. He concluded by reminding all councillors of the forthcoming Town events throughout the summer and welcoming their support. He added that he was proud to have represented Newton Abbot Town Council and he was looking forward to the forthcoming engagements.

47. **BRUNEL WARD – VACANCY**

The Mayor reported that he had spoken to all Councillors regarding the Brunel Ward vacancy and that he had raised the matter for consideration at the recent meeting of the Strategic Planning Forum. Councillor Jenks noted that whilst a variety of options had been discussed that a consensus of views had been reached.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to advertise the vacant seat for Brunel Ward and invite suitably qualified local residents to apply for co-option onto the Town Council.

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

A. The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to provide a verbal update on the Newton's Place Project. The Town Clerk noted that the Project Manager, Myles Clough had reported to the Project Board that he was very satisfied with progress on the project in the two weeks preceding the last site meeting. Where the project had been falling behind on its scheduled completion the construction team were working to a two-week rolling programme to minimise the delay. The Clerk reported that the excavation of the lift pit and preparation of the lift housing continued to challenge the project team and the Project Manager awaited a report from Pollards on their proposals to resolve the technical issues, largely attributed to the conditions underground.

The Clerk reported that the Project Board comprised of four town councillors and a variety of members from local community groups such as the library, CVS and CIC alongside the professional services such as Project co-ordinator, Project Manager and Architect. However, following the recent local elections, there were now two vacant positions for Town Councillors on the Project Board.

In addition, the Clerk noted that former Councillor Mike Ryan had been Chairman of the Project Board since its inception and the project had benefitted from his leadership and professional expertise. The Clerk noted that it was important for the project to maintain continuity of management and leadership in the key roles for the duration of the project programme. The Mayor suggested that Mr Mike Ryan be contacted to invite him to continue as Chairman of the Project Board, for the remainder of the duration of the project, should he wish to do so.

The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of two Councillors to serve on the Newton's Place Project Board.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that a) Councillors Mrs Ann Jones and Philip Bullivant be appointed to serve on the Newton's Place Project Board and

b) that Mike Ryan be invited to continue as Chairman of the Newton's Place Project Board for the duration of the remainder of the project.

B. The Town Clerk updated Members on the discussion held at the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Forum on 29th May 2019, whereupon it had been recommended that the Clerk be authorised to resume his discussions with the District Authority on the development of the town's 'Cultural Quarter' and to include the additional sites; the Alexandra Cinema and Market Hall. Following a brief discussion;

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that a) the Council undertake the development of Phase II of the Newton's Place Project subject to the Town Clerk resuming his discussions with the District Authority and receiving confirmation from the District Council of its long-term viability and
b) the Clerk to further discuss with the District Authority the inclusion of the additional sites for development within the town's 'Cultural Quarter', namely the Alexandra Cinema and the Market Hall.

49. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 19th March 2019 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 3rd April 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs L Sheffield, were received and approved;
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 9th April 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;
- D. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 30th April 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved; and
- E. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 21st May 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved.

50. **POLICY DOCUMENTS**

The Mayor introduced the Policy documents, previously circulated drawing Members' attention to the key principles contained within them. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that no questions had been received prior to the meeting but she highlighted the key roles of each of the principle documents. Mrs Scott noted that where possible the policy documents had been updated with the exception of the Business Continuity Plan which would require further update once the various responsibilities had been assigned.

Following the review of the documents it was;

RESOLVED that the:

- a) Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy,
- b) Risk Management Policy,
- c) Statement of Internal Control, and
- d) Business Continuity Plan, be hereby, approved and adopted subject to any final amendment or update.

51. **ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

The Mayor referred to the Annual Report of the Council for 2018/19. Following the review of the document it was, hereby, approved and adopted.

52. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Mayor invited the Committee Administrator to update Members on the appointment of Council representatives serving on outside bodies. Mrs Robinson informed the Members that since the Annual Council meeting, two additional outside bodies had invited the Council to appoint representatives; these being the Stover Park Advisory Board and the Highweek Charities.

A. The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of two Council representatives to serve on the Highweek Charities for 2019-2023.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillors Phillip Bullivant and Richard Jenks be appointed to serve as Council representatives on the Highweek Charities for 2019-2023.

B. The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of one Council representative to serve on the Stover Park Advisory Board for 2019-2023.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor David Howe be appointed to serve as Council representative on the Stover Park Advisory Board for 2019-2023.

53. **DALC – ELECTION OF COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR 2019-2023**

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to provide an update of the membership of the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC).

The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of one Council representative to serve on the Devon Association of Local Councils Committee for 2019-2023.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Hocking be appointed to serve on the Devon Association of Local Councils Committee for 2019-2023.

54. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

55. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council was to be held on Wednesday 24th July 2019.

Chairman (Mayor)