

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 19th JUNE 2019** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillors Mrs L Sheffield (Chairman) Presiding

Councillors	P Bullivant	M Hocking
	Mrs C Bunday	D Howe
	D Corney-Walker	C Jenks
	Mrs K Crout	R Jenks (Mayor)
	C Davieson	M Joyce (Dep Mayor)
	R Hall	C Parker

By Invitation: Mr Malcolm Barrett – Art Sculptor
County & District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook

Officers in attendance: Samantha Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Felicity Cole – Museum Curator
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

68. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brian Hayes, Rob Hayes, Mrs Ann Jones and Mike Pilkington.

69. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 3rd April and the Special Meeting of 15th May 2019 were received and signed as correct records.

70. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

71. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

72. **ART SCULPTURE – BALLS CORNER ROUNDABOUT**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Malcom Barrett, local Art Sculptor and proprietor of Fine Art Gallery in Queen Street and Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager to the meeting and invited them to update Members on the proposed project to install an art sculpture on the roundabout at Balls Corner, Newton Abbot.

Mrs Henley introduced Mr Barrett and explained his background as a local sculptor and proprietor of Fine Art Gallery in the town. She welcomed his enthusiasm and support for the installation of art into the town, specifically on the roundabout at Balls Corner.

Mr Barrett described the use of sculpture by numerous local authorities nationwide, most notably in town centres and on gateway roads and he encouraged Newton Abbot to participate in a similar scheme. Mr Barrett reported that he had brought an example of his

work to exhibit the quality and definition of his sculpture. He proposed to design a much larger version and he had ideas that would be more suitable for the size and location of the roundabout at Balls Corner. Mr Barrett reported that he had contacted Devon County Council independently but had waited a considerable amount of time for a response and therefore he requested the support of the Town Council in working with the County Authority to progress the project.

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook and thanked her for attending the meeting and invited comments from Members on the progression of the Art Project. Members raised the following points:

- Welcomed art, including sculpture, into the town;
- Art installations in the town centre, either as a trail or to denote the key areas of the developing Cultural Quarter;
- Concern at the poor standard of maintenance of roundabouts and road verges by the County Authority and therefore the potential deterioration of the town;
- Comparative towns, both in the UK and in Europe, where art sculpture had been installed very successfully on roundabouts and at gateway venues to towns;
- Where art would enhance the aesthetic appearance and improve the street scene within the town;
- Concern at the cost implications and ongoing maintenance for the town council;
- Potential sponsorship for the project;
- Collaboration and communication between the three tiers of local government to ensure the town is maintained and enhanced for residents and visitors of Newton Abbot;
- Support from the new Council Administration at Teignbridge District Council to develop the project;
- Possible Arts Council grant funding, as previously sourced by the Newton's Place Funding group;
- Highways permission and Planning Consent to be achieved;
- Noted that all the major development sites are required to include art installations as part of the Planning Consent which may extend the reach of the project;
- Potential for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to contribute to associated costs;
- Include the support of the Newton Abbot Community Trust in applications for grant funding;
- Finally, a cohesive approach that involved the town, district and county authorities in supporting the project through a small working group.

The Chairman thanked Members for their contribution to the lengthy discussion and invited Councillor Mrs Hook to comment. Councillor Mrs Hook extended her support for the proposed installation of art sculpture at Balls Corner and thanked Councillors for their positive support and insightful suggestions.

The Chairman thanked Mr Barrett for his informative and inspiring proposals for an art installation in the town, where upon he was invited to leave the meeting. Following a discussion, accordingly it was:

AGREED that the Chairman, Mrs Lesley Sheffield meet with Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager to discuss the necessary arrangements to progress the project and to report back to a future meeting of the Community & Heritage Committee.

73. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillors considered the Terms of Reference for the Community & Heritage Committee, previously circulated, and clarified the document in relation to the Vision and Priorities for the Council. The Chairman noted that the Council's Priorities and associated budget implications, would be considered in more detail at the next meeting of the Strategic Planning forum to be held on 17th July 2019. Following consideration of the Terms of Reference, it was;

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Community & Heritage Committee, were hereby agreed and adopted, subject to minor amendment.

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

(i). EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 12th JUNE 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 12th June 2019 be hereby approved and adopted.

75. **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT - UPDATE**

A. The Chairman invited Councillor David Howe, Vice Chairman of the Newton's Place Project Board to update Members on the project. Councillor Howe noted that Members were regularly informed of progress on the project but that since the previous update he raised the following points:

External Works

- The stonework was now nearing completion and the stonemasons had repaired to an excellent standard.
- The work required to the windows was complete on the St Leonard's side but there was still some work on the side facing Carpet Right.
- As the scaffolding comes down, they will be working on the rainwater goods and fascia.
- The remedial work required to the parapet was underway but on further investigation it would need a different approach due to wear of the stone.

Internal Works

- With the structural steels in place including to the first floor in; the rooms were starting to take shape; the overall impression was still a feeling of space rather than feeling smaller.
- Underfloor heating on the first floor was complete.
- The original columns for the gallery were now back in situ and being protected while the work continued.
- The internal scaffolding was up which will enable a full inspection of the Chancel ceiling (due 17th June). The Council will receive a report outlining what is required, in due course.
- The lift pit was an on-going challenge and the team were now implementing the solution.
- The first floor of the museum store was in place (where the organ was situated).

The Chairman thanked Councillor Howe for his update, following a discussion among Members accordingly, it was;

RESOLVED that the verbal update from Councillor David Howe, Vice Chairman of the Newton's Place Project Board be noted.

B. The Chairman invited Mrs Felicity Cole, Museum Curator to advise Members on the opportunity to consider the name for the Museum upon re-opening within Newton's Place.

The Curator reminded Members that prior to the closure of the Museum pending the move to Newton's Place that it was known as the 'Newton Abbot Town and GWR Museum'. Mrs Cole added that the identity of the new Museum within the town would be important to residents and visitors alike and therefore this was an opportunity to consider whether it should be renamed upon opening at Newton's Place. Mrs Cole invited comments from Members.

Members discussed a variety of options, including retaining the original name as it had provided a clear identity to the town's museum or alternatively, simplifying the name in keeping with the move to a more open community space for the town. Following initial consideration, Members;

AGREED to defer the matter of the naming of the Museum to the next meeting of the Community & Heritage Committee to be held on 16th October 2019 to allow Members time to give consideration to the matter.

76. **WAR MEMORIAL - UPDATE**

The Chairman invited the Deputy Town Clerk to update Members on the refurbishment of the War Memorial. Mrs Scott, reported on the work undertaken to date and raised the following key points:

- The works commenced in May and should be completed by July 2019;
- The 100th Anniversary of the War Memorial would be in 2022;
- The programme had been funded by a grant of £15,000 from the War Memorials Trust and the remainder from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL);
- A gentle heat method was used initially to remove the surface dust in preparation for the repairs;
- The paving slabs had been levelled and the stonework repaired using specialist methods of poultice dressings and hydraulic lime mortar to repair and repoint;
- The bronze lady at the top of the monument had been cleaned and would be given a protective wax as part of the programme and this would be repeated every two-three years;
- The restoration team noted the extraordinary depth of the railing mountings, being deeply set into the concrete for a secure fixing;
- The historic photographic records were reproduced in 'black and white' and therefore did not reveal the original colour of the railings but paint analysis had revealed that it was likely to be 'British Racing Green' and so the railings would be restored to this colour;
- The structural works were set to last the next 100 years!

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the pointed tips to the top of the railings would be 'rounded off' to improve the overall safety and she informed Members that West Access, the refurbishment contractors had offered to attend a future meeting of the Council to update Members on the work to the War Memorial.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her informative update to the refurbishment of the War Memorial.

77. **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 statements for the Community and Heritage Committee, for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and for the period 1st April to 31st May 2019, previously circulated.

Following consideration, accordingly it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and for the period 1st April to 31st May 2019 for the Community and Heritage Committee be hereby approved and adopted.

78. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

79. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee would be held on Wednesday 16th October 2019.

Chairman