

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2019** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor D Corney-Walker (Chairman)

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

In attendance: Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

85. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Mrs Ann Jones and Phil Rowe, Town Clerk.

86. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13th February and the Special Meeting on 15th May 2019 were received and signed as correct records.

87. INTERESTS

None declared.

88. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

89. PRESENTATION – WOMENS WELLBEING CLUB

The Chairman welcomed Mr Adam Fletcher and Ms Sally Simpson, from the newly formed Womens Wellbeing Club in Newton Abbot, following the growing demand for Andy's Man Club, both peer to peer support groups for people in the town.

Mr Fletcher thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to update Members and explained the current issues in relation to the growing demand for their services in the town, raising the following key points:

- ❖ Andy's Man Club was set up in September 2018, working from Liaise Bistro in the town;
- ❖ Andy's Man Club is part of a national network, head office in Halifax;
- ❖ Following repeated requests for a similar group for women the Womens Wellbeing Club was formed three months ago;
- ❖ Since September 2018 the weekly evening sessions have served 480 men in and around Newton Abbot;
- ❖ Since opening the Womens group at least 15 – 30 women have attended;
- ❖ The groups are run by volunteer facilitators who are trained to support the attendees;

- ❖ Whilst not a professional service the groups have been recognised as a valuable resource and receive referrals from local GPs and the Mental Health teams at Torbay and Exeter hospital;
- ❖ Those attending are not required to give their personal details and many do not talk on the first occasion but most feel comfortable and safe to open up;
- ❖ The Womens Wellbeing Club relied upon donations for funding and would welcome support from the Town Council;

The Chairman thanked both Mr Fletcher and Ms Simpson for their report and noted how impressed he was, that they had supported so many local people in a relatively short period of time. The Chairman invited questions from Members, who raised the following key points:

- How were attendees encouraged to come to the sessions and open up, if initially embarrassed about expressing their feelings;
- A 'shepherd' was available outside the venue to invite and welcome new attendees to join in;
- The support of the emergency services and other agencies as needed;
- The need for more volunteers and facilitators;
- Offer of support, publicity and financial assistance through the Councils' Grant Funding or District Councillor Funds;
- Ongoing training and support for facilitators;
- Whilst Andy's Man Club was financially supported through the national network that funding for the Womens Wellbeing Club would be retained in Newton Abbot;
- Offer of contact with other support agencies such as the Samaritans; and
- Commended for their work and support for people in the town.

The Chairman thanked both Mr Fletcher and Ms Simpson for taking questions and reiterated his support for their work and commended the organisation on behalf of Members, where upon they were invited to leave the meeting.

90. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillors considered the Terms of Reference for the Policy and Resources Committee, previously circulated. Following consideration of the Terms of Reference, it was;

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Policy and Resources Committee, were hereby agreed and adopted, subject to minor amendment.

91. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

A. Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday reported on the Community Interest Company (CIC) AGM where the Buckland Centre had been formally handed over to the CIC. She was pleased to report that the Youth Club had been retained and was now attended by nearly 50 young people; offering a two hour session for £1. The Penn Inn was much improved and it was hoped that ongoing maintenance would ensure that it remained in good condition. Members noted the lack of community services among the new developments, in particular, Hele Park and Houghton Barton. Members noted the refurbishment of the Games room and the additional meeting facilities that were being renovated as part of the improvements at the Buckland Centre.

B. Councillor Mike Hocking reported on the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) Meeting held a fortnight before at which there was due to be a presentation on Climate Emergency but the guest speaker did not attend. The matter would be deferred to a future meeting but Councillor Hocking noted the positive way in which Newton Abbot Town Council was working in comparison to fellow town and parishes across the region.

C. Councillor Mike Joyce reported that he had attended a meeting at the Courtenay Centre and the notes would be circulated and he had also attended the Chamber of Trade meeting for which he would provide meeting notes to be circulated.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Mrs C Bunday, M Hocking and M Joyce for their updates to Members.

92. **SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

(i). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 28th FEBRUARY 2019

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 28th February 2019 be hereby approved and adopted.

(ii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 28th MARCH 2019

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 28th March 2019 be hereby approved and adopted.

(iii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 25th APRIL 2019

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 25th April 2019 be hereby approved and adopted.

(iv). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 30th MAY 2019

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 30th May 2019 be hereby approved and adopted.

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

The Chairman invited the Deputy Town Clerk to update Members on the Newton's Place Project. Mrs Scott reported that there had been a meeting of the professional services to discuss the engineering issues relating to the excavation of the lift pit. This may cause a delay to the construction programme and the council awaited a report from the Project Manager on the outcome of the discussion. Mrs Scott noted that it was not unusual for a project of this scale and complexity to encounter some issues but the professional services were working with the construction team to resolve the engineering issues. Members would receive a further report next week.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her update to Members on the progress of the Newton's Place Project.

94. **POLICIES**

The Chairman introduced the policy documents, previously circulated. Following a review of the policy documents among Members it was;

RESOLVED that the **Depreciation Policy** be hereby, approved and adopted.

95. **ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received and noted the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019 and for the period 1st April - 31st May 2019. Following consideration, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019, and for 1st April - 31st May 2019, be hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

96. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

97. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 11th September 2019.

CHAIRMAN