

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 24th JULY 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 M Hocking
Mrs C Bunday D Howe
D Corney-Walker C Jenks
Mrs K Crout C N Parker
C Davieson M E Ryan
B Hayes Mrs L Sheffield

Invited guests: Honorary Freeman of Newton Abbot Henry L J Cole
District Councillor Liam Mullone
District Councillor Mrs Janet Bradford
The Reverend Gareth Regan
Ms Lisa Piper – Mid Devon Advertiser

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.

137. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the last Full Council Meeting before the Council's summer recess.

138. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ryan Hall, Rob Hayes, Mrs Ann Jones and Mike Pilkington and County and District Councillors Mrs Jackie Hook and Gordon Hook.

139. **INTERESTS**

None Declared.

140. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th June and the minutes of the special Council Meetings on 26th June and 3rd July 2019 were received and signed as correct records.

141. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

142. **PRESENTATION – LOCAL PRESS MID DEVON ADVERTISER**

The Mayor welcomed Ms Piper, Managing Publisher, Mid Devon Advertiser and invited her to update the Council on the work of the local press in Newton Abbot.

Ms Piper thanked the Mayor for the invitation to speak and provided Members with an update of the work of the Mid Devon Advertiser (MDA) in the town, raising the following key points:

- ❖ The Mid Devon Advertiser part of the Tindle Newspaper Group;
- ❖ MDA one of 286 titles within the group, which represented the fourth largest newspaper group in the UK;
- ❖ Continued to operate as a family-run business;
- ❖ Ethos and focus concentrated on 'Names, Faces and Places';
- ❖ Strong team of professional journalists in the South West and in Newton Abbot;
- ❖ The media business under constant change and competition with digital media;
- ❖ Retaining the balance between bad news and good news stories;
- ❖ Current emphasis on 'Love Where you Live'
- ❖ Welcome and encourage news stories on celebrating positive aspects of the community, people and places; and
- ❖ Put local press coverage at the heart of the community.

Ms Piper reported that the MDA was looking for a suitable charity to support for the forthcoming year and invited suggestions from Members. She added that the MDA would welcome the opportunity to demonstrate their presence in the town through sponsorship. The Mayor thanked Ms Piper for her informative and enlightening update and invited questions from Members. Members raised the following comments:

- Positive relationship with the MDA news group;
- Encourage positive stories about young people's achievements;
- Support and sponsorship for the Carnival; and
- Sponsorship for art sculpture or local community groups.

The Mayor thanked Ms Piper for taking the questions and for her contribution to the discussion. He extended his sincere thanks to Reporter Sam Hall who had been promoted within the Tindle Newspaper Group and would be moving to another newspaper outside of the region. The Council wished him well in his new ventures. The Mayor thanked Ms Piper for her presentation and update whereupon she was invited to leave the meeting.

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

A. District Councillor Liam Mullone reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- Awaiting decision on the development within NA3 from the Secretary of State; and

- Liaison with the Devon & Cornwall Football Association regarding the management of offensive behaviour at local football matches.

B. District Councillor Mrs Janet Bradford introduced herself and expressed her commitment and support for matters relating to Newton Abbot.

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

- Fair Trade to be reinstated for Teignbridge and the towns within the District.

D. District Councillor Mike Hocking reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- 20 mph speed restriction pilot study for residential roads in Newton Abbot & Kingskerswell; and
- Enforcement of 30 mph speed restrictions.

There being no further questions from Councillors, the Mayor thanked the District Councillors for their reports and requested that County and District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook be invited to a future meeting of the Council to discuss the proposed pilot scheme for 20pmh speed restrictions to be discussed in more detail.

144. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Council received the list of engagements (previously circulated) which the Mayor had carried out since 5th June 2019.

The Mayor reported that he had enjoyed the wide range of events during the past few weeks, one of the most notable being the Carnival. The Mayor thanked all those councillors, staff and volunteer helpers who had worked extremely hard to put on a very successful Carnival for 2019. The Chairman of the Carnival Committee extended his sincere thanks to all those who had worked as a tremendous team for the Carnival Week of activities and the procession. Particular thanks were offered to the Council's Handyman, Mr Kieran Dore who had worked very hard throughout the week.

The Mayor then referred to his attendance on the HMS Triumph Affiliates Day, to which he had extended an invitation for Commander Waller to attend a Meeting of the Council on 25th September 2019. The Mayor proposed the opportunity to offer the ships company of HMS Triumph freedom of the Town of Newton Abbot. Following an initial discussion among Members accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that a discussion on the possibility of granting the Freedom of the Town for the ships company of HMS Triumph be further considered at a Special Meeting of the Council to be arranged for 11th September 2019.

The Mayor invited the Deputy Mayor to report on the engagements that he had undertaken. The Deputy Mayor reported that he had thoroughly enjoyed the Borough Court Baron event which celebrated the town's heritage and history. Councillor Joyce added his appreciation of the excellent musical arrangement performed at the Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts AGM.

145. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 11th June 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 19th June 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs L Sheffield, were received and approved;
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 26th June 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Corney-Walker, were received and approved;
- D. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 2nd July 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved;
- E. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 3rd July 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor C Parker, were received and approved; and
- F. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 23rd July 2019 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor D Howe, were received and approved subject to an amendment.

146. **POLICY DOCUMENTS**

The Mayor introduced the Financial Regulations, previously circulated drawing Members' attention to the key principles contained within them. The Town Clerk confirmed that no questions had been received prior to the meeting.

Following the review of the documents it was;

RESOLVED that the **Financial Regulations** be hereby approved and adopted subject to minor amendment.

147. **VISION, PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES 2019/20**

Further to Minute 19/05(SP8) the Mayor referred Members to the Vision, Priorities and Objectives document for 2019/20, previously circulated. Members considered an amendment as tabled at the meeting. Following discussion, accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that the Vision, Priorities and Objectives for 2019/20 be hereby, approved and adopted, subject to the amendment proposed.

148. **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 showed the Council a selection of photographs taken of the interior of Newton's Place and was able to identify the recently installed steelworks and structural elements to demonstrate how the project had progressed in recent weeks.

The Clerk further reported that following the meeting with Pollards Managing Director, Operations Director and Contracts Manager on 5th July that Pollards had tabled a delay to the construction programme. This was largely attributed to the issues concerning the excavation of the lift pit and the complexities of refurbishing a historic building, but the ongoing programme was being closely monitored and managed by both Pollards site management team and the Council's Project Manager and Architect. Pollards were due to submit a formal application to extend the project completion date, but it was estimated that the delay would move the completion to the end of October 2019. Whilst Members expressed their disappointment at the delay in the construction programme, it was positive to note that the overall project schedule remained unchanged at that time with the projected opening date due for early 2020 as planned.

The Clerk reported on the successful site visit to The Creative Core, Museum Designers and the two sub-contractors appointed to carry out the Audio-Visual displays and the manufacture and production of the exhibition cases. Mr Rowe was impressed at the quality of the visual designs being produced and innovative designs to engage with visitors. The aesthetic appearance of the display units in a variety of appealing colours would enhance the overall visitor experience. In summary the site visit was extremely valuable to provide assurance of the quality and durability of the Museum Design under production.

Mr Rowe reported on the additional works that had been undertaken to ensure the project would be completed to a high standard. These works included those not specified at the outset as unforeseen works. An example was the repairs and restoration to the parapet and front gable on the exterior of the building where water ingress and previous poor repairs had deteriorated the stonework. These elements were not unusual in a project of this nature. Following discussion among Members, accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that the verbal update as reported by the Town Clerk on the Newton's Place Project, be hereby noted and accepted.

- B.** The Mayor referred to the Certificate of Incorporation on change of name, for The Creative CORE Group Ltd, formally Leach Studio Ltd, previously circulated.

RESOLVED that the name for the Council's approved contractor for the Museum Design be noted and accepted as changed from Leach Studio to **The Creative Core Group Ltd.**

149. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

The Mayor informed Members that Councillor Brian Hayes had invited all members to assist in a cycle path clearing event at 10am on Saturday 27th July from Templars Road to the Lemon. Members were invited to contact Councillor B Hayes for further details.

150. **FAREWELL TO REPORTER**

Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday congratulated Mr Sam Hall, MDA reporter on his new appointment and wished him well on behalf of the Council.

151. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council was to be held on Wednesday 25th September 2019.

Chairman (Mayor)