

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Corney-Walker (Chairman)  
M Hocking (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Bunday Mrs A Jones  
C Davieson M Joyce (Dep Mayor)  
R Hall C N Parker  
D Howe M Ryan  
R Jenks (Mayor)

Councillor in attendance: C Jenks

In attendance: Phil Rowe – Town Clerk  
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager  
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

181. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Philip Bullivant, and Mrs Karen Crout and Mrs Sam Scott, Deputy Town Clerk.

182. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were received and signed as a correct record.

183. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

184. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

185. **PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON LOCAL POLICING**

The Chairman advised Members that Sergeant John Dingle having confirmed his proposed attendance had been called to attend an incident requiring immediate response and therefore the item was deferred to a future meeting.

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

The Chairman invited Members to report on meetings with outside bodies. There being no reports the matter would be deferred to a future meeting.

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

**(i). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 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 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be hereby approved and adopted.

**(ii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 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 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be hereby approved and adopted.

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

The Chairman invited the Chairman of the Project Board, Councillor Mike Ryan to update Members on the Newton's Place Project

Councillor Ryan noted that although there had not been a meeting of the Project Board in August that he had met with the Project Co-ordinator and Deputy Town Clerk to receive an update during the Council's summer recess.

In addition, Councillor Ryan reported that the Project Manager had informed that there had been a delay on the project and there would be a meeting of the Project Board on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019, following which there would be a report to the meeting of the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The Town Clerk added that the three 'Air Handling Units' had been installed into the roof void which would now enable the flooring to be laid to the first floor and the partition walls to be installed. The next major installation would be the glass wall at the end of the community rooms on the first floor, overlooking the exhibition space.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of the Project Board for his update to Members on the progress of the Newton's Place Project.

**189. POLICIES**

The Chairman introduced the policy documents, previously circulated and reminded Members that these were reviewed annually.

Following a review of the policy documents among Members it was;

**RESOLVED** that the Policies in relation to;

- (a) Internet and Email Policy,
- (b) Fire Wall,
- (c) Remote Access & Mobile Working Policy and
- (d) Password Policy, be hereby, approved and adopted.

**190. ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received and noted the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. Following consideration, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019, be

hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

#### 191. NOTICE OF MOTION

The Chairman introduced the Notice of Motion as submitted by Councillor Ryan Hall in accordance with Standing Order number 8. Councillor Hall presented the original motion in full, to provide Members with context and background in response to the consultation invited by the Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, as follows:

‘This council having considered the current consultation being run by Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service DSFRS feels that:-

The Options proposed do not provide sufficient detail for the improvements claimed, particularly information on how the on-call system would be improved, how extra prevention and protection will be achieved, or how much would actually be re-invested into the service.

It fails to recognise the excellent work Firefighters already do to prevent injuries, building damage and environmental damage, and to respond to all types of incidents. This council feels that the data given in the consultation is flawed and has an unachievable expectation, in that there is an assumption made that after the cuts, all assets will be available at all times, giving the false impression that the risk of fire deaths will reduce if the proposals are agreed, whereas statistically it is likely that risk would increase.

The revised attendance times make no reference to properties that may be disadvantaged by the proposed changes.

It should also be noted that if the proposals were to be adopted, around one-third of the residents of Devon and Somerset, over 600,000 people, will see a slower response from the Fire and Rescue service.

As such this Council calls upon DSFRS authority members to reject in full the options proposed.’

Members expressed their grave concern at the proposed restructuring of the fire service and detrimental implications both directly affecting residents of neighbouring parishes and the associated indirect affect on Newton Abbot.

The Clerk advised that officers had invited a representative of the DSFRS to attend a meeting of the Council, but it was acknowledged that the DSFRS had declined the invitation as they had allocated resources to those towns and parishes seen to be directly affected by the proposed changes but had instead provided a list of public meetings to be held at various venues across the region.

Members recorded their disappointment and queried the value of the statistics contained within the consultation summary and their true affect on local residents if the proposed changes were to be introduced. Members discussed an amendment to the Motion, to offer a more succinct response to the consultation The Motion was therefore amended to:

Following a lengthy discussion, Members gave their unanimous support for the proposals, set out as part of the DSFRS restructuring to be wholly rejected and for the Town Clerk to prepare a written response on behalf of the Council, accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED** that ‘this Council having considered the current consultation being run by Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service; calls upon the DSFRS authority members to reject in full the options proposed.’

192. **CLIMATE EMERGENCY – CHECKLIST**

The Chairman reminded Members that the Climate Emergency Declaration would be raised at the next meeting of the Full Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and in the meantime the Checklist had been circulated for additional information. It was noted that the originator had not specifically intended it for use in Newton Abbot and therefore the reference to Totnes could be removed.

193. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

194. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

195. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

196. **NATC WEBSITE**

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the progress towards the new website to serve, Newton's Place, the Town Council and Museum. The move was necessary both to comply with the new accessibility regulations for public bodies and to move to a new operating system since the existing platform would no longer be supported. The Clerk noted that further to Minute 19/07(SP16) he had been authorised to make a short list of tender applicants in consultation with Alchemy Systems Ltd, The Council's IT support partner, and to report back in due course.

The Clerk reported in detail the tender process undertaken. Following which, one applicant had been selected for interview with the Town Clerk and two representatives of Alchemy Systems Ltd.

Following discussion among Members, accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to accept the contract for redesign of the NATC and Museum Website to a) comply with the Government's new Accessibility Regulations 2018 and b) enable the move to the new operating platform, WordPress from Empyrean Digital of Swansea in the sum of £9,850.

CHAIRMAN