

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH 2020** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

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

Councillors: P Bullivant M Hocking
D Corney-Walker D Howe
Mrs K Crout C Jenks
C Davieson C N Parker
B Hayes M E Ryan
R Hayes Mrs L Sheffield

Invited guests: The Reverend Gareth Regan
County and District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook

Honorary Freeman Mr Henry Cole

Representative of the Press: None

In attendance: Philip Rowe Town Clerk
Samantha Scott Deputy Town Clerk
Sally Henley Town Development Manager

The Mayor invited his Chaplain, The Reverend Gareth Regan, to deliver prayers. During which, The Reverend Regan referred to the recent sad passing of former Councillor and Mayor (2001-2002) Mrs Heather Sinfield.

465. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone, including invited guests to the last Full Council Meeting in the Town Hall, 9 Devon Square, and paid his own tribute to former Councillor Mrs Sinfield.

466. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs C Bunday, R Hall, Mrs A Jones and M Pilkington, County & District Councillor Gordon Hook, and Alexandra Robinson, Principal Administrator.

467. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

468. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th January and the Special Meeting on 26th February 2020 were received and signed as a correct record.

469. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

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

A. Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook reported matters in which she had direct involvement:

- Thanked the Council for its support for the 20 mph speed limit pilot for Newton Abbot;
- Covid 19 virus and the measures/plans being considered by both the County and District authorities concerning service delivery;
- Plans for Newton Abbot contained in the Future High Streets fund application by the District Council;
- Plan Teignbridge review consultation which would run from 28th March 2020 for eight weeks;
- Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) consultation planned for the summer of 2020.

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

- Implications of the Teignbridge Council's budget for 2020/21 reintroducing car park charges on Sundays;
- Concerns with the implications of the GESP and pressures on new housing developments in Teignbridge/Newton Abbot.

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

- Implications for the District Council's decision to reintroduce Sunday car parking charges on the night-time economy and an alternative approach offered to TDC which it chose not to employ;
- Plan Teignbridge Review in March would be principles only, not allocated sites;
- GESP consultation;
- Albany Surgery needing additional patients as it was underused and the need to be able to employ more doctors;
- Review on the impact of climate change on rising sea levels;
- Housing issues;
- A382 road improvements 'turf-cutting';
- Plans by Sibelco for development at Berry Knowles Farm.

D. District Councillor C Parker reported on his direct involvement in the decision making concerning the reintroduction of Sunday parking fees.

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

Councillor M Hocking declared an interest in the item referring to Sibelco.

471. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Engagements attended – The Council received the list of engagements (previously circulated) which the Mayor had carried out since 29th January 2020.

- B. Engagements to be held – The Mayor referred to the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 4th April and invited a discussion on how the Council wished to approach the meeting, the subject matter and whether any guest groups should be invited. Arising from a detailed discussion on the matter, the Mayor and Clerk thanked Members for their input and that they had a clear message on how to proceed.

472. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 4th February 2020 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 5th February 2020 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 12th February 2020 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 25th February 2020 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 26th February 2020 as presented by the Chairman Councillor C Parker, were received and approved.

473. **DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL – HIGHWAYS FOOTPATH NO.6**

The Council considered a letter (previously circulated) from Devon County Council requesting the Council's comments by 27th March 2020 on its proposal to open a byway to all traffic at Powderham Road under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Upon consideration of the request, the Council noted the contents of the letter.

474. **COMMON SEAL – PENSION CLAIMS**

Consideration was given to the use of the Council's Common Seal to endorse applications of authenticity from foreign nationals seeking confirmation of eligibility to claim Pensions from abroad.

The Town Clerk explained that the practice of endorsing applications had been carried out for many years and was a reciprocal arrangement with municipal authorities in Europe. In a recent newsletter, the Devon Association of Local Councils had, arising from a question by a Devon parish/town council, advised against the practice.

Accordingly, the Clerk requested the Council to consider passing a resolution under Standing Order No. 22, granting the Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk authority to use the Council's seal to authenticate such documents.

Arising from a detailed discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk be hereby authorised to affix the Council's Common Seal to documents endorsing applications of authenticity from foreign nationals seeking confirmation of eligibility to claim Pensions from abroad, subject to appropriate documentation recording and confirmation that the practice is covered by the Council's insurance.

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

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to provide a verbal update on the Newton's Place Project. Members were informed that at a site visit that day, the building was found to be extremely busy with many trades on-site. Progress was being made towards the Council taking partial possession of the building from Monday 16th March 2020.

476. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

477. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council was to be held on Wednesday 6th May 2020, the Annual Council Meeting.

In closing the meeting, the Mayor referred to it as being his last in his current role. He took the opportunity to thank all the staff and Councillors for their support and hard work towards making his Mayoral year enjoyable, and all their efforts on behalf of the community.

Chairman (Mayor)