

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2023** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors D Corney-Walker (Mayor) Presiding
A Hall (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: B Bailey G Jennings
 J Bradford M Joyce
 P Bullivant C Parker
 R Buscombe M Ryan
 C Davieson L Wood
 A Gibbs N Yabsley

Officers in attendance: Phil Rowe Town Clerk
 Sam Scott Deputy Town Clerk
 Sally Henley Town Development Manager
 Linda McGuirk Principal Administrator
 Nigel Canham Communications Advisor

By invitation Mr & Mrs Eric Collar

Also, present District Councillor J Hook
 County & District Councillor M Wrigley
 District Councillor R Dawes
 District Councillor L Mullone
 7 x Members of the Public
 A representative of the Press, on behalf of the Mid Devon Advertiser

290. WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a poem by G.K Chesterton entitled The Rolling English Road.

291. PRESENTATION

The Mayor, Councillor David Corney-Walker welcomed Mr & Mrs Eric Collar to the meeting and invited the Communications Advisor, Nigel Canham to make a 'This is your Life' presentation to Mr Collar in recognition of his long service to the Council as volunteer Tree Advisor.

The Mayor advised that Mr Collar had served the Council as volunteer Tree Advisor for over 20 years and provided invaluable advice, which would be greatly missed. Mr Collar was presented with a certificate of long service and a pen crafted from the wood of a tree in Courtenay Park.

292. APOLOGIES

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors L Cooke and T Corney-Walker. Members **agreed** to approve the reasons for absence. Apologies were noted from District Councillor R Hayes.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Councillor J Cook did not attend.

293. INTERESTS

None declared.

294. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th September 2023 were received and signed as a correct record.

295. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

296. POLICE PRESENTATION

Members were informed that the representative of the Police Professional Standards Department had submitted late apologies due to an urgent operational matter.

297. REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Mayor invited County and District Councillors to provide a report on their recent activity.

District and County Councillor J Bradford explained that she did not have a report as such to present but wished to speak about Queen Street. The Mayor reminded Cllr Bradford that she may only report on activities carried out in the course of her role as a District or County Councillor, and that her statement was not within the scope of the agenda or Standing Order No.38.

District and County Councillor P Bullivant reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Parking problems around the Library. Cllr Bullivant expressed his thanks to the Town Council for supporting the project which will help to accelerate progress.
- Mobile Library service is being discontinued; alternative options are being considered.
- Attended the Newton Abbot Remembrance Service and extended his compliments to the Town Council for a well organised event.
- Local Plan consultation - encouraged everyone to respond.
- TDC financial issues.

District Councillor J Hook referred to the report she had submitted prior to the meeting:

- Local Plan - encouraged everyone to attend the consultation event on the 29th November 2023.
- Highlighted the results of her recent traffic survey of Queen Street.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Councillors addressed District Councillor Hook on the findings of her recent Queen Street survey. The Mayor reminded members they are permitted to ask questions but not use the opportunity to promote a debate.

District Councillor L Mullone attempted to raise issues about the Queen Street scheme. The Mayor ruled that this was contrary to Standing Order No.38.

Arising from differences of opinion relating to procedures at the Council’s meeting, which resulted in members of the public and Cllr Mullone leaving the meeting, it was proposed and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

298. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

At 19:35 it was **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for a 10-minute comfort break.
Councillor J Bradford left the meeting.

299. RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING

At 19:45 the meeting resumed.

Members discussed the unacceptable and threatening behaviour of District Councillor L Mullone. Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that Newton Abbot Town Council submits a standards complaint to the District Council’s Monitoring Officer about the unacceptable and threatening behaviour of Councillor L Mullone.

Cllr M Joyce abstained from voting.

The Mayor, Councillor David Corney-Walker conveyed his apologies to Cllr Bradford, in her absence, if she had interpreted that he had denied her the right to speak.

300. REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUED

District Councillor R Buscombe reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Lobbying for the transfer of the Bandstand in Courtenay Park to the Town Council.
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at how the District Councils’ financial issues will impact on town and parish councils.

District Councillor M Ryan:

- Development at Sherborne House Car park
- Residents’ complaints regarding delayed planning decisions by the District Council.
- Attended the Newton Abbot Remembrance Service and extended his compliments to the Town Council for a well organised event.

District Councillor A Hall:

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- Attended a Task & Finish group meeting to consider rent subsidies for a local organisation.

District Councillor C Parker:

- Lobbying for the transfer of the Bandstand in Courtenay Park to the Town Council.
- Development at Sherborne House Car park.
- Reporting an alarm continually sounding in the vacant Wilkinson store.
- Concerns regarding the volume of tree applications and the lack of consideration for how they are affecting the environment.

The Mayor thanked the District and County Councillors for their reports as they provided a valuable insight into the issues within Newton Abbot.

301. **REPORT BY COUNCILLOR L WOOD**

The Mayor invited Councillor L Wood to provide a report on her recent visit to Newton Abbot Community Shed.

Councillor L Wood reported she had been made to feel very welcome during her first visit to Newton Abbot Community Shed, based in the Library, where she had witnessed a small number of people working on projects with the support of the volunteers. During October Councillor Wood had returned and reported the room was full of people making items for the Victorian Evening. Councillor Wood read a report on behalf of the group expressing their gratitude to the Town Council for the financial support enabling them to purchase additional equipment and infrastructure. Thanks were extended to the County and District Councillors who had provided financial support via their District/County Community Funds. Councillor Wood has volunteered to support the group on Saturdays.

Members thanked Councillor Wood for her engaging report.

302. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor updated Members on recent engagements which he and his consort, Councillor T Corney-Walker had attended. In particular, the Mayor highlighted his pleasure at attending the Remembrance events – in particular the Poppy Train to Paddington Station.

The Armistice Day Service and Remembrance Service was the best he had attended.

He had enjoyed attending the Newton Abbot Charity Ball and reported the event had raised over £1,540 for local charity.

A list of Mayoral engagements for the period from the 20th September 2023 was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Mayor invited the Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Hall to update members on recent events that he had attended. Councillor Hall thanked the Mayor for attending the Court Leat Law Day.

303. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 10th October 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce, were received and approved; and
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 18th October 2023, as presented by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan, were received and approved, and
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 25th October 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were received and approved.
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 31st October 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were received and approved.
- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee**, held on 1st November 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor C Parker were received and approved.

304. **POLICIES**

The Mayor introduced the Role of Representatives on Outside Bodies Policy, previously circulated. He informed members a recommendation had been received from the Policy & Resources Committee, minute number 23/06(83c), that the Council adopts the Role of Representatives on Outside Bodies Policy. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Role of Representatives on Outside Bodies Policy be hereby approved and adopted.

305. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

Members considered the following recommendations received from its Committees:

- a) Pesticide Free Council - minute No: 23/10(236)
RESOLVED that the Community & Heritage Committee RECOMMENDS to the Full Council that Newton Abbot Town Council prohibits the use of pesticides across its assets and services.
- b) Floral Displays - minute No: 23/10(243)
RESOLVED that the Community & Heritage Committee RECOMMENDS to the Full Council that the Council hereby allocates funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund to purchase infrastructure for the Newton In Bloom project, subject to obtaining the relevant permissions and approval from Devon County Council Highways.
- c) Legal Support - minute No: 23/10(255)
RESOLVED that in principle, the Council supports engaging legal support on a retainer basis, pending a report to include the outcome of research to consider suitable options.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED to adopt the recommendations as set out, that the Town Council hereby:

- a) Prohibits the use of pesticides across its assets and services.
- b) Allocates funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund to purchase infrastructure for the Newton In Bloom project, subject to obtaining the relevant permissions and approval from Devon County Council Highways.

Cllr C Parker abstained from voting.

- c) Engages legal support for the Council on a retainer basis, pending a report to include the outcome of research to consider suitable options.

306. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk advised that the Mayor had received a letter of resignation from Councillor S Walker. The Town Clerk has notified the District Council of the vacancy. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, section 87(2) the Council has to wait 14 days from the date of the Notice of Casual Vacancy (issued 15th November 2023) to see if an election is called by 10 electors from the Bushell Ward to fill the vacancy.

If an election is called it will be held within 60 days from the date of notice of Casual Vacancy. If an election is not called the Town Council can decide if it wants to fill the vacancy by co-option.

307. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th January 2024 (Precept Meeting).

Meeting closed at hours.20:32 hours.

Chairperson (Mayor).....Date.....

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....