

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2023** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor M Joyce (Chairperson) Presiding
P Bullivant (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors	B Bailey	A Hall
	L Cooke	C Parker
	D Corney-Walker	M Ryan
	C Davieson	L Wood

Councillor A Gibbs also attended.

In attendance: Phil Rowe – Town Clerk
Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Linda McGuirk – Principal Administrator

Invited guest: Inspector D Hammond, Devon & Cornwall Police

172. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received and approved on behalf of Councillor S Walker, along with an apology from Nigel Canham, Communications Advisor.

173. INTERESTS

Councillor A Gibbs declared an interest in agenda item 13 Allotments as he is an allotment tenant.

174. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 21st June 2023 were received and signed as a correct record.

175. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

176. POLICING - NEWTON ABBOT

The Mayor welcomed Inspector David Hammond to the meeting and invited him to report on Policing in Newton Abbot, including the current youth anti-social behaviour in the town.

Inspector Hammond reported incidents and crimes were recorded in two zones, Newton Abbot Town and Newton Abbot East. Increase in general incidents had been recorded over the past 12 months in the Town of 11%, whereas Newton

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Abbot East has seen a reduction in incidents by 12%. Queen Street and Market Street were the busiest incident areas. To put the situation being policed into context, the latest census shows that there are 14,737 residents in the Town area, with 12,926 in the East. The population of the city centre of Exeter for example is some 4,000.

The Inspector explained that the Police were currently experiencing particular problems in Sherborne Road, multi storey car park with youth anti-social behaviour by small group of young people, with a core group of three ring leaders, who have been arrested and are being taken through the criminal justice system. There had been much damage to public property including the Police Station and the assault of Police officers. The Inspector suggested that it would take time to see changes dependent on the court process, but the situation would improve.

The Chairperson thanked Inspector Hammond for the update and invited Members to ask questions, which included the following:-

- Cllr Parker advised he had felt intimidated by recent behaviours he had witnessed in the town centre, in particular Queen Street and questioned where the behaviours have come from?
- Cllr Bullivant asked how the Police can address the issues of driving and parking on pavements, in particular the Library area. Also, vehicles parking on double yellow lines outside schools.
- Cllr L Cooke enquired how much of Police time is taken up by matters that should be dealt with other organisations?
- Cllr M Ryan referred to reports that Police staffing numbers had returned to previous levels but was of the view that demand had increased with the result that even greater numbers of officers are required. Consequently, until Police numbers increase nothing will change.
- Cllr B Bailey referred to the increase in anti-social behaviour in the Market Street area and enquired what was being done to tackle this, particularly, when all the late-night establishments close at around the same time causing the only takeaways in that area being overwhelmed.

Members thanked Inspector Hammond for his time and detailed report, whereupon he left the meeting.

177. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

- a) Cllr A Hall attended a meeting of the Newton Abbot CIC. The main issue discussed was the Buckland Centre and the District Council's intention to increase the rent. There was going to be a review of the subsidies and a working group formed to investigate.
- b) Cllr C Parker attended the CAB meeting in August. There had been an increased need for CAB in Newton Abbot, one of the main issues being private home rental. He had also attended a recent meeting of NAST (Newton Abbot Security Trust) at which Inspector Hammond had also been present.

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- c) Cllr M Ryan referred to his intention to attend the forthcoming Twinning Association event.
- d) Cllr Bullivant referred to his representation on a number of bodies but that due to the time of year, no meetings had been held.

178. COURTENAY PARK BANDSTAND

Further to minute 23/06(82) the Town Clerk provided an update on the negotiations with Teignbridge District Council (TDC) for the lease of the Bandstand. An email received from TDC was displayed explaining the reasons why the District Council could no longer offer a lease to the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to liaise with all the District Councillors on the Town Council who would request the District Council's Executive to review the position and to express the Town Council's grave concerns with the nature, tone, and timing of the communication.

Cllr M Ryan abstained from voting.

179. POLICIES

The Chairperson introduced the Home Working Policy, previously circulated. Following a review of the policy document among Members it was:

RESOLVED that the policy in relation to Home Working be hereby, approved and adopted.

180. ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The Committee received and noted the overview of Income and Expenditure statements for the Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April – 31st July 2023. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April – 31st July 2023 be hereby approved.

181. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

182. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25th October 2023.

183. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was hereby:

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RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

184. **ALLOTMENTS**

Further to minute 23/06(89) the Town Clerk gave a verbal update to Members on the following:-

- Legal issues –
 - the Council represented through insurance;
 - Claim for costs deferred until 6th October.
 - Appeal against original injunction deferred.
- Ongoing situation with the Newton Abbot and District Cooperative Allotment Association (NADCAA).

RESOLVED

- a) that the reports on the legal proceedings be noted;
- b) that Town Clerk to present a report to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the future role of NADCAA and its relationship with the Council.

Councillor A Gibbs declared an interest in the item but took part in the discussion.

185. **BRADLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Further to minute 23/06(88) the Town Clerk, with the aid of slides, made an interim report and a reminder of the previous decision made regarding the Bradley Community Association lease, covenants, and premises issues.

Cllr Bullivant confirmed that the Association had delivered upon the majority of the requirements of the Lease from the Town Council, and that a final report had been requested by the Town Clerk for the Committee's meeting to be held on 25th October 2023. He reported on the appointment of a representative of the Church of England. It was reported that the Newton Abbot CIC would not be providing the booking services for the Centre and that the Association would be the responsible body.

Arising from the discussions, it was:

RESOLVED

- a) that Councillor L Cooke hereby be appointed the Council's representative on the Bradley Community Association;

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b) that the Bradley Community Association furnish the Town Council with copies of all the premises certificates evidencing that the building is fit for purpose;

c) that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on the Bradley Community Association's compliance with the requirements of minute 23/06(88).

Meeting closed at 20:45

Chairperson.....Date.....

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