

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2024**
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 A Ineson
 J Bradford G Jennings
 P Bullivant M Joyce
 R Buscombe C Parker
 J Cook M Ryan
 L Cooke L Wood
 C Davieson N Yabsley
 A Gibbs

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

Virtually A representative of the Life Chance Trust

Also, present District Councillor J Hook
 One member of the public.

457. WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He reminded members of the importance of the Civility & Respect Pledge and asked members to be considerate of each other during the meeting.

Members were informed that as per Standing Order 14, Conduct During Debate, the Mayor granted Councillor M Joyce a dispensation to remain seated when speaking.

The Mayor referred to his recent attendance at an event to mark the two-year anniversary of the start of war in Ukraine. This had influenced his decision to read three quotations from Henri Barbusse (1916), George Santayana (1922) and Ernest Hemingway (1946) on the atrocities of war.

458. APOLOGIES

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillor T Corney-Walker. Members **agreed** to approve the reason for absence. Apologies were noted from Sally Henley - Town Development Manager.

459. INTERESTS

None declared.

460. MINUTES

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

The minutes of the Council Meetings held on:

a) Wednesday 24th January 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

Cllr J Bradford abstained from voting.

b) Wednesday 28th February 2024 (Extraordinary Meeting) were received and signed as a correct record.

Cllr L Wood abstained from voting.

461. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

462. VIRTUAL PRESENTATION BY LIFE CHANCE TRUST

The Mayor welcomed a representative of Life Chance Trust, who was attending the meeting virtually, to the meeting and invited him to give a presentation to members.

The presentation covered:

- Specialist youth-based charity based in Newton Abbot.
- Vision, Mission, and Values of the Trust.
- Working with young people aged 16 to 25 years old who are dealing with the effect of trauma.
- Links with the School For Inspiring Talent.
- Three programs of support including 1-2-1 Mentoring Support, Life skills Workshops and Every Chance Board.
- Ways to get involved.

The Mayor thanked the representative for his informative presentation and invited members to ask questions.

463. REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

- Advised that the Queen Street debate had taken place at DCC today.
- Car parks in Newton Abbot and development of Brownfield sites.
- Highway amendments outside the Library.
- Attended the Teignbridge Parish and Town Councils Conference.
- Highways works and the relocation of Trees.

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

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- Attended the Teignbridge Parish and Town Councils Conference.
- Overview & Scrutiny review of car parking in Newton Abbot.
- District Council Asset review and continuing to support an asset transfer of the Bandstand to the Town Council.

District Councillor A Hall reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Resident's issues with paying for Blue Badge parking using a parking app.
- Market stalls moving temporarily to Market Walk vacant units during works to the indoor market area.

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

District Councillor C Parker reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Attended the Teignbridge Parish and Town Councils Conference.
- Car parks.
- Seen an increase in tree applications.
- Met with a representative of South West Water regarding flooding.
- Seen an increase in Planning enquiries.

District Councillor M Ryan reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Attended the Teignbridge Parish and Town Councils Conference.
- Residents' issues.
- Buckland Community Centre lease.
- Joined the District Council's Audit Committee.

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

464. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor updated Members on recent engagements which he had attended. In particular, he had enjoyed officiating at the 100th Anniversary celebrations of Austin's department stores.

465. **STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Councillors considered a recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee that the Council establishes a Staffing Committee to supersede the existing Staffing Sub-Committee. It was also requested to adopt the Staffing Committee Terms of Reference, as circulated prior to the meeting, commencing from the Annual Meeting, to be held in May 2024.

RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby appoints a Staffing Committee and adopts the Staffing Committee Terms of Reference, with effect from the Annual Meeting, to be held in May 2024.

Cllr M Ryan declared an interest and abstained from voting.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

466. **50th ANNIVERSARY OF NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL**

Members considered a report circulated prior to the meeting which suggested suitable species of trees and locations to be planted in Courtenay Park to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Town Council. Members agreed a Civic Event should be held in addition to planting two commemorative trees. Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Council holds a Civic Event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Newton Abbot Town Council and plants two commemorative trees in Courtenay Park.

467. **DEVON AND TORBAY DEVOLUTION DEAL – CONSULTATION**

The Mayor introduced the briefing note prepared by the Town Clerk, as circulated prior to the meeting, and expressed concerns about the proposed Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal in relation to governance, finance and the creation of another tier of Local Government that would require additional administration at an ongoing cost. The Mayor invited members to discuss the proposal and to consider whether the Council should submit a representation prior to the closing date on the 24th March 2024. Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that delegated authority is hereby granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, to draft a response on the proposal by Devon County Council and Torbay Council to create a Combined County Authority (CCA).

Cllrs N Yabsley, J Bradford and C Parker abstained from voting.

468. **DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (DALC) LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE**

Members were informed that Councillor L Wood had requested to fill the current vacancy as the Council's representative on DALC Larger Councils Committee. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor L Wood will represent Newton Abbot Town Council on the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) Larger Councils Committee.

Cllr L Wood abstained from voting.

469. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 30th January 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce, were received and approved.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 7th February 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor L Cooke were received and approved.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 14th February 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were received and approved.
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee**, held on 20th February 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were received and approved.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee**, held on 21st February 2024, were presented by the Chairperson, Councillor C Parker were received and approved. Councillor Parker reported that arising from minute number 24/02(432c) due to the publication of the notice of election period for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, no community fund grants will be paid or processed by the District Council until the election period has concluded. Therefore, Councillor P Bullivant's Community Fund payment of £500 to Newton Abbot Community Interest Company could not be processed. Arising from a discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that Newton Abbot Town Council hereby grants £500 to Newton Abbot Community Interest Company.

470. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

471. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th May 2024 (Annual Council Meeting).

472. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

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.

473. **ASSETS**

The Town Clerk reported on two potential asset acquisition opportunities and an opportunity for the Council to purchase one of the Council vans from the lease company as it was at the end of the lease period.

Arising from the discussion it was:

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Town Council uses its capital fund to purchase the Council vehicle at the end of its lease period.
- b) delegated authority is granted to the Town Clerk to carry out due diligence in relation to two potential asset acquisition opportunities.
- c) a request to register an Asset of Community Value be ratified.

Meeting closed at 20:40 hours.

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

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....