

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 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 P Bullivant D Howe  
Mrs C Bunday R Jenks (Mayor)  
K Crout M Joyce (Dep Mayor)  
C Davieson C N Parker  
R Hall M Ryan

Councillor in attendance B Hayes

Invited guest: Councillor Mrs J Hook

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

252. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Mrs Ann Jones.

253. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were received and signed as a correct record.

254. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

255. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

256. **PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL 20 M.P.H. SPEED LIMIT**

The Chairman welcomed County and District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook and invited her to update Councillors on proposals to introduce a 20 m.p.h. speed restriction on the residential roads in Newton Abbot.

Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook updated Members on the proposal for the trial scheme in Newton Abbot and raised the following key points:

- Devon County Council (DCC) had decided upon a pilot scheme to introduce a 20 m.p.h. speed restriction on residential roads in a town of reasonable size and a village to assess its long term viability;
- Devon County Council had selected Newton Abbot and Kingskerswell for the pilot scheme;

- Following an eight month investigation the DCC Task Group had researched other towns and cities where such speed restrictions had been established following similar trial periods;
- Examples included Edinburgh, Oxford, Liverpool, Manchester, Bath and Bristol;
- DCC planned to rewrite their policy and strategy for road infrastructure, recognising that the existing policy is based upon assessment of accidents whereas the new documents would consider the wider public health benefits;
- Popular public support for the speed reduction both nationally and locally following survey and opinion polls;
- The programme would take two years to implement and would require detailed involvement of a working party to establish which roads would be justifiably be excluded from the scheme;
- All towns and cities having conducted pilot schemes have implemented the speed restrictions in full permanently;
- Notable improvements in congestion, increased walking and cycling habits and overall reduction in speeds on the roads; and
- Importance of marketing the message of lower speeds through social media, the press and local enforcement – community speed watch and police.

Councillor Mrs Hook identified the next key steps in the programme:

- An internal review by DCC Officers and to set up a working group;
- Undertake a scoping exercise and feasibility study to establish the area to be covered; and
- Investigate additional sources of funding to support DCC financial commitment.

Members raised questions in connection with the proposals to which Councillor Mrs Hook responded, raising the further key points:

- Expressed concern at viability of effective speed control on roads already congested with on street parking;
- Enforcement by police and delays in being able to set up local Community Speed Watch Scheme;
- Meeting public and residents expectations;
- Clarity on surveys and opinion polls taken in Newton Abbot;
- Cost implications;
- Conflicting advice and government published reports on results of existing schemes nationwide;
- Importance of consultation at local level within Newton Abbot;
- Determination of the overall benefits to environment and well-being of residents;
- Affect on pollution levels following introduction of speed restrictions;
- Required to install additional traffic calming measure in conjunction with speed signs;
- Aim to develop safer residential roads in which children can play, walk safely to local schools and increased pedestrian activity over car usage;
- Specific roads would benefit but blanket coverage may dilute positive effects;
- Affects on climate emergency policy with a rise in CO2 emissions and pollution;
- Review published results to ensure previous studies in other towns delivered to expectations;

- More detailed analysis of roads within Newton Abbot that would directly benefit from pilot scheme;
- Time for Town Council to consider proposals in more detail before pilot scheme introduced;
- Allow time for more detailed public engagement; and
- DCC financial investment in the scheme and cost to Town and District authorities.

The Chairman summarised the update and noted that Members would appreciate the opportunity to consider the matter in more detail. Councillor Corney-Walker suggested that Councillors actively seek information on the benefits and considerations within their Wards prior to the next meeting. Accordingly, it was;

**RESOLVED** that a Special Meeting of the Council be arranged to allow Members to give detailed consideration to the proposals for a trial 20 m.p.h. speed restriction in the residential areas of Newton Abbot.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook for her informative update and valuable insight into the proposals for the scheme. Where upon Councillor Mrs Hook was invited to leave the meeting.

## 257. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairman invited Members to report on meetings with outside bodies.

- A.** Councillor Mike Hocking reported on the Devon County Council, Highways Forum Meeting that he and Councillor Mrs Bunday had attended. He reported that they were able to speak directly with Officers from the Highways Department on different aspects concerning the roads within the vicinity of the town. Councillor Hocking made particular note of the Speed Watch initiative and sponsored planting of town centre roundabouts.
- B.** Councillor Mike Hocking also reported on his attendance (accompanied by four other Councillors and two officers) at the AGM of the Devon Association of Local Councils on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019. Councillor Hocking reported that DALC Members had voted in favour of increasing the annual subscription fees by 2.5% in line with inflation and that this rise would be reviewed as part of the Council's budget forecast for 2020/21 in November 2019.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hocking for his update to Members.

## 258. **SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

### **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be hereby approved and adopted.

## 259. **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT – UPDATE**

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to provide an update on the Newton's Place Project. The Clerk reported that progress on the construction programme was good.

There remained two major installations to be scheduled; those being the glass wall to the community rooms on the first floor and the 'lift car'. The Clerk also reported that the Arts Fund had awarded a grant of £13,500 in respect of the conservation of the Chancel ceiling. This was the first award they had made in respect of a building as they typically awarded in respect of art. That being the case they had requested photographs to include in an article for the Arts Fund Magazine. The Chairman of the Project Board added that there would be a meeting of the Project Board on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at which the Project Manager would provide a more detailed report. Councillors were pleased to note the report by the Town Clerk and thanked all those involved for the work undertaken to date. Accordingly, it was;

**RESOLVED** that the report provided by the Town Clerk on the Newton's Place Project be hereby, noted.

260. **WEBSITE PROJECT – UPDATE**

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 Clerk noted that further to Minute 19/06(196) he had been authorised to accept the contract with Empyrean Digital of Swansea. They had provided the Council with initial designs and layouts for the three sites, Newton's Place, Town Council and Museum, previously circulated. The Clerk further reported that the sites would be available before Christmas and he reminded Members that 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 Chairman thanked the Clerk for his update on the Council's websites.

261. **POLICIES**

The Chairman introduced the policy documents, previously circulated and reminded Members that these were reviewed annually and those policies in relation to Health and Safety would be revised following the move to Newton's Place.

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

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

**Health & Safety (H&S):**

- (a) Health & Safety Main document
- (b) Display Screen Equipment Regulations 1992
- (b) Electrical Safety
- (c) Guidance on Manual Lifting and Handling
- (d) Potentially Abusive or Violent Persons
- (e) Working Alone
- (f) Safety in Offices and Museum

**Snow Plan**

Be hereby, accepted subject to minor amendment and be **Recommended** to Full Council on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 for adoption.

**262. 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 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and considered the budget for 2020/21. Councillors noted that following an extremely busy period due to the redevelopment and refurbishment of Newton's Place that it would be valuable for the Council to refrain from embarking on any major new projects for the short term to allow a period of consolidation.

Therefore, Members considered applying inflation to the current budget of £571,836. Following discussion among Members, accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED** that a) the Income and Expenditure Statements for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, be hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and b) that the proposed budget for the Policy and Resources Committee hereby approved and adopted as a budget of **£585,560 for 2020/21.**

**263. LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**264. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

CHAIRMAN