

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 26th**
JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, 43 WOLBOROUGH STREET,
NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors M Joyce (Mayor) Presiding
Mrs C Bunday (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: P Bullivant M Hocking
D Corney-Walker D Howe
C Davieson C Jenks
A Hall R Jenks
R Hall M E Ryan
R Hayes Mrs L Sheffield

Invited Guests: Rev Ben Maynard Chaplain

Officers in attendance: Philip Rowe Town Clerk
Samantha Scott Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Sally Henley Town Development Manager
Nigel Canham Communications Advisor

294. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Rev Ben Maynard to open the meeting with prayers.

Members were advised that the Mayor intended to pause the meeting for a comfort break within the meeting, if appropriate.

295. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Karen Crout, Mrs Ann Jones, Colin Parker and Mike Pilkington, District Councillors Gordon Hook and Mrs Jackie Hook and Principal Administrator, Linda McGuirk.

296. **INTERESTS**

None.

297. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th November 2021 were received and signed as a correct record.

298. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

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

A. District Councillor Chris Jenks reported on the following issue in which he had direct involvement:

- Attempts to hold a meeting with S W Water and Environment Agency following their presentation to TDC.

B. County and District Councillor Phil Bullivant reported on the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- Budget discussions at DCC particularly with regard to Childrens Services;
- Discussions also at TDC regarding its budgets for 2022/23.

The Mayor noted that written reports from District Councillor Gordon had been previously circulated in his absence. The Mayor thanked the County and District Councillors for their reports as they provided a valuable insight into the issues within Newton Abbot.

300. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Engagements attended since 17th November 2021, previously circulated.

The Mayor reported on the recent engagements he had undertaken and made particular reference to:-

2021

- Saturday 20th November Royal British Legion Centenary Pie & Mash Night
- Wednesday 24th November Christmas Lights Switch On
- Wednesday 1st December Victorian Evening
- Monday 6th December ATC Christmas Dinner
- Friday 10th December Southlands Care Home, resident's 102nd birthday
- Saturday 11th December Canine Christmas Carols
 - Sunday 12th December Friends of Rowcroft Celebration of Christmas

2022

- Thursday 13th January Civic Performance of "Aladdin"
- Friday 14th January Ribbon Cutting of new Co-op at Hele Park

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday referred to the events attended on the Mayor's behalf:-

- Wednesday 15th December Carol Service
- Tuesday 21st December Opening of Meddy Grill

301. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 23rd November 2021, as presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mike Ryan, were received and approved; and
- B. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 14th December 2021 as presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mike Ryan, were received and approved; and
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 11th January 2022 as presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mike Ryan, were received and approved; and

- D. The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 12th January 2022 as presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor David Corney-Walker were received and approved, with the exception of Minute (290B).

Cllr C Jenks abstained from voting in relation to D above

302. **PRECEPT 2022/23**

The Mayor invited the Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee to report on the Precept for 2022/23. Councillor David Corney-Walker reminded Councillors that it was the statutory duty of the Council to approve a Precept for 2022/23. The Vice-Chairman referred Members to the recommendation made to Council as set out in Minute 22/01/(290B). In doing so Councillor Corney-Walker reported that the budget and Precept reflected the needs and aspirations of the community, had been generated following a great deal of detailed work on behalf of councillors and officers since early November 2021 and recapped on the changes required to meet the growth in services to be provided to the town.

It was proposed by Councillor Corney-Walker and seconded by Councillor M Hocking that a Precept in the sum of £1,082,000 be adopted for the year 2022/23.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that a Precept of **£1,082,000** for 2022/23 be approved representing an increase of £17.01p p.a. (£1.42 per month / 32.7p per week) or 15.48% for a Band D property in Newton Abbot and that Teignbridge District Council be requested to collect on the Town Council's behalf the sum of **£1,082,000**.

Cllr P Bullivant voted against the resolution

Cllrs A Hall, R Hall, D Howe C Jenks and R Jenks abstained from voting

Following the vote on the above item the Mayor permitted Councillor P Bullivant to address the meeting. Councillor Bullivant expressed his disappointment that the Council had decided to adopt the Precept as minuted. He was of the view that an alternative budget could have achieved the Council's and the community's aspirations.

Councillor Mike Hocking was permitted to respond to Councillor Bullivant's comments whereupon he referred to the detailed budget process undertaken by Councillors and staff in the three months leading up to this meeting. He was of the view all Members of the Council had had the opportunity to be part of the budget process and on that basis, he was satisfied the Council had reached the correct outcome.

303. **GRANTS**

The Council gave consideration to an application for a grant by the 1st Highweek Village Scout Group (previously circulated) in the sum of £250 to contribute to the Group's fundraising efforts to fund an extension to its current scout hut.

Arising from consideration of the application it was

RESOLVED that a grant in the sum of £250 be hereby granted to the 1st Highweek Village Scout Group.

Cllr C Jenks abstained from voting

304. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS, COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2022–2023**

Consideration was given to a draft calendar of events and Council and committee meetings for the year 2022/23 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED that the calendar of events and Council and committee meetings for the year 2022/23 as submitted to the Council be hereby approved and adopted.

305. **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT - UPDATE**

The Town Clerk updated Members on the project as follows:-

- **Museum** – for the period May 2021 to December 6,000 visitors had attended the Museum, this period included three months where Covid restrictions meant only six visitors were permitted to be in the premises at one time. On that basis, the Project's estimate of 12,000 visitors per year was achievable.
- **Building** – no problems had been experienced since the teething issues were resolved. The preparation of the planning application for the Museum store/curating space extension continues with negotiations with the Teignbridge Conservation Officer ongoing.
- **Construction Contract** – the statement of the anticipated final cost of the building works had been received, but not in time to provide the Council with a detailed report for this meeting. The Clerk undertook to submit a detailed overall breakdown to the Finance & Audit Committee meeting to be held on 23rd February. In the meantime, he reported that the anticipated final cost would be £1,489,361. The original contract sum had been £1,378,820 so the final sum equated to some 8% more than the original. The Clerk was of the view that bearing in mind the additional works identified through the construction phase, the delays caused due to Covid, and that Newton's Place is a Victorian building, an 8% overspend was an excellent outcome.

306. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

307. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 9th March 2022

Chairman (Mayor)