

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE 2022**
AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, 43 WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors C Bunday (Mayor) Presiding
L Sheffield (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: P Bullivant D Howe
D Corney-Walker C Jenks
C Davieson R Jenks
A Hall M Joyce
R Hayes A Jones
M Hocking C Parker
M Ryan

Invited Guests: Rev Ben Maynard, Chaplain
Inspector David Hammond

In attendance: District Councillor Martin Wrigley

Officers in attendance: Philip Rowe Town Clerk
Samantha Scott Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Sally Henley Town Development Manager
Linda McGuirk Principal Administrator

41. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

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

42. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Crout, R Hall, M Pilkington and District Councillor's Jackie Hook and Gordon Hook.

43. **INTERESTS**

None.

44. **MINUTES**

a) The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th March 2022 were received and signed as a correct record subject to a minor amendment to include Cllr C Parker as being present at the meeting.

b) The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on the 4th May 2022 were received and signed as a correct record.

45. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

46. **POLICE**

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Hammond to the meeting and invited him to update Members on local Policing matters.

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Inspector Hammond explained the Police structure across South Devon which comprises of four Command Units. South Devon is a Command Unit and Newton Abbot is a Sector within which includes Kingsteignton and Kingskerswell. He confirmed that the data provided during the meeting related to Newton Abbot only.

Performance data recorded during the pandemic was obscured therefore current data is compared with data from three years ago. Data is measured via reported incidents/logs. The Inspector confirmed incidents in Newton Abbot (West) were slightly down with 2,276 recorded incidents compared to Newton Abbot (East) which showed a slight increase with 3,593 recorded incidents.

Inspector Hammond detailed the streets within Newton Abbot with the highest recorded incidents over the past 12 months which reflected no major changes in data. It was noted that 2,082 crimes had been recorded over the past 12 months, the Inspector stated which areas had been most affected by crime across the town.

The Inspector detailed the various Police units which are based in Newton Abbot including: Patrol Units, Neighbourhood Team, specialist Force Support Group, Proactive Unit, CID, Major Crime Incident Team, Detective Sergeant, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse Team, Incident Resolution Team, Integrated Offender Management Team, Dangerous Offenders Team, Public Protection Unit plus the Police support staff. These are all critical in keeping Newton Abbot a safe place to live.

Inspector Hammond concluded by reassuring Members that Newton Abbot remained a safe place to live and work and provided statistics as a comparison with other towns of a similar size and demographic including St Austell, Bodmin, Paignton and Torquay.

The Mayor expressed her thanks to the Inspector on behalf of the Council for his informative update. Members were invited to ask the Inspector questions. Members asked several questions including matters referring to young offenders, Street Pastors, the reopening of the Police enquiry office and how the cost-of-living increase might impact upon crime in the future.

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

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

- 20mph speed limit will focus on areas outside of schools.
- Queen Street enhancement public consultation.
- Cycle enhancements linking Newton Abbot to Torbay close to the delivery phase.
- Safeguarding children. There is a tremendous amount of work being carried out by the County Council to identify solutions and improvements with demand rising at an alarming rate. Cllr Bullivant had visited a local Secondary School to speak to with the safeguarding officer.
- Attended 4 Jubilee street parties.
- Visited the Foodbank to try and resolve them having to pay commercial rates for waste collection. The District Council has declined to assist.
- That Devon is now home to over 1000 families from Ukraine.

Chairman (Mayor) initials.....

District Councillor C Parker spoke about the following issues in which he had direct involvement:

- Cycle path, it is hoped the Newton Abbot to Teignmouth link will be implemented after the Torbay route has been completed.
- Received many complaints about the number of potholes in his ward and across the town.

District Councillor Hayes spoke about his delight at attending the opening of a new residential development East Street Newton Abbot as part of the Teignbridge 100 project

A Councillor expressed concern with the condition of the cycle path through Sandringham Park which is in an unusable state in places. Raising concerns about the future of any additional cycle paths if they are not being maintained.

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

48. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a) The Mayor invited Cllr Joyce to provide an update on his engagements as Mayor during the period 9th March to 4th May 2022. A list of engagements had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Joyce accepted the opportunity to highlight some of the engagements that he had attended, in particular, the past Mayors Dinner, the Annual Town Meeting, Tuckers Maltings, Platforms 9 & 10, Newts Dress rehearsal.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Joyce for his persistence in lobbying the Police and Crime Commissioner to re-open the Police Enquiry Office in Newton Abbot. This was a great achievement which will benefit the people of Newton Abbot.

b) The Mayor updated members on her recent engagements, as previously circulated prior to the meeting, and expressed her thanks to the Councillors and staff who had supported the Jubilee events, a highlight had been the lighting of the Beacons and the Party in the Park which had been a fantastic free family event.

c) The Mayor advised of forthcoming engagements, including a service to commemorate the anniversary of the Falkland War and Declaration Day.

49. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 15th March 2022, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Ann Jones, were received and approved; and

b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 30th March 2022 as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Colin Parker, were received and approved; and

Cllr C Jenks abstained from voting.

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- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 30th March 2022 as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Lesley Sheffield, were received and approved; and

Cllr C Jenks abstained from voting.

- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 5th April 2022 as presented by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Mike Ryan were received and approved; and

Cllr A Jones abstained from voting.

The Town Clerk reminded Members they were receiving reports from Committees and not approving the Minutes of those Committees as correct records; therefore, it was unnecessary to abstain from voting if absent from the meeting.

- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 26th April 2022 as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Ann Jones were received and approved, and

- f) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 17th May 2022 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor Ann Jones were received and approved.

50. **POLICIES**

Members considered the following policies:

- a) Council Risk Management

Members discussed the Council Risk Management policy.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Council Risk Management Policy be hereby adopted subject to a minor amendment to a spelling error.

Cllr C Jenks abstained from voting.

- b) Business Continuity

Members discussed the Business Continuity policy.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Business Continuity Policy be hereby adopted subject to a minor amendment to a spelling error in the Minimise Impact column.

Cllr C Jenks abstained from voting.

- c) Anti-Fraud & Corruption

Members discussed the Anti-Fraud & Corruption policy and noted the proposed changes to the Ten Principles of Public Life. Members were advised the changes reflect the Local Government revision of the Principles which have been updated to the Seven Principles of Public Life, as adopted in the Code of

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Conduct. Members recognised the importance of the paragraphs relating to Personal Judgement, Respect for Others, Duty to uphold the Law and Stewardship.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy be hereby adopted with the inclusion of the following information being retained:

Personal judgement - may take account of the views of others but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

Respect for others - should promote equality by not discriminating against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers and its other employees.

Duty to uphold the law - should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

Stewardship - should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently, and in accordance with the law.

Cllr C Jenks abstained from voting.

d) Statement of Internal Control

Members discussed the Statement of Internal Control.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Statement of Internal Control be hereby adopted.

Cllrs C and R Jenks abstained from voting.

51. **ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATION**

The Town Clerk reported on action taken under delegation in consultation with the Mayor and Chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee to replace the condemned flagpole located on the top of St Leonard's Clock Tower. A Specialist contractor is required to remove the existing wooden flagpole and replace with a GRP pole.

A Contractor has been found and will install a glass fibre flagpole; the cost will be £5,280.

Members asked whether the replacement flagpole meets the criteria for the historic Grade II listed structure? The Town Clerk confirmed he will contact the Conservation Officer for guidance prior to installation. It was noted the cost for the replacement infrastructure might be eligible to be funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy payments.

Accordingly, it was:

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RESOLVED that the Council unanimously endorse the decision made by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee to replace the flagpole on St Leonards Clock Tower.

52. COUNCIL ASSETS

Further to minutes 359 and 364/02/2022 the Town Clerk reported on action taken under delegation in consultation with the Mayor and Chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee on the acquisition of a storage and operations facility for the Council.

As elements of the report would disclose commercially sensitive information, accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of minute 55 below, on the grounds that the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

53. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

54. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 20th July 2022.

55. COUNCIL ASSETS

The Town Clerk provided detailed financial information in regard to the annual cost of the storage unit at Wharf Road, Newton Abbot. It was noted that these costs have been significantly offset by the Council's ability to take responsibility for emptying the litter bins in Victoria Gardens and at the Town Quay due to the ability to increase bin capacity at the storage unit.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Council unanimously endorses the decision taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee to secure a storage and operations facility for the Council.

Meeting closed at 20:30pm

Chairman (Mayor).....Date.....

Chairman (Mayor) initials.....