

MINUTES OF THE **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th JUNE 2022** AT 6.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, 43 WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

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

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

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

In attendance: Nigel Canham Communications Advisor

56. **STANDING ORDERS**

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor informed Members that since it was a Special Meeting of the Council conducted to consider specific matters of the Council; that under Standing Order item 34 she would suspend that part of the Standing Order 14 where it referred to 'Standing when Speaking' for the duration of the meeting only.

RESOLVED that under Standing Order 34; Standing Order 14 where it referred to 'Standing When Speaking' be hereby suspended for the duration of the meeting only.

57. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Pilkington, A Jones and the Town Clerk – Mr P Rowe.

58. **INTERESTS**

None.

59. **ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

Councillor C Parker, Chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee, reported that the Internal Auditor had completed the annual audit and assessment, thereby ensuring that the Council met its statutory requirements in approving the Annual Return by 30th June 2022.

Councillor P Bullivant requested that due to information which he had received in confidence, that the signing of the Annual Return be deferred until a thorough investigation of the accounts for the year 2021/22 had taken place.

Members considered Councillor Bullivants request and expressed concern at the absence of any information which enabled them to make an informed decision.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Arising from the consideration, it was:

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year 2021/22 be deferred until further discussions have taken place and reported back to the Council. An urgent meeting will be held, to include the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk (RFO), Mayor, Chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee and Councillor P Bullivant.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended.

The Deputy Town Clerk (RFO) reminded Members that the AGAR must be submitted to the External Auditor by the 30th June 2022. Late Submission will result in a significant financial penalty for the Council.

Meeting closed at 6:20pm

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

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....