

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 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 R Jenks
K Crout A Jones
C Davieson M Joyce
A Hall C Parker
R Hayes M Ryan

Officers in attendance: Phil Rowe Town Clerk
Sam Scott Deputy Town Clerk
Sally Henley Town Development Manager
Linda McGuirk Principal Administrator

In attendance: Ethan Heppell Press, Mid Devon Advertiser
Nigel Canham Communications Officer
Martin Wrigley District Councillor

By Invitation: Emily Allen Teignbridge Together Co-ordinator

187. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Reverend Ben Maynard to open the meeting with prayers followed by a minute's silent reflection to mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Members were invited to sign a copy of the Proclamation of the accession of King Charles III to the throne of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as read by the Mayor at St Leonard's Clock Tower on 12th September 2022.

188. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors David Howe, Mike Pilkington, Chris Jenks, Ryan Hall and District Councillors Jackie Hook and Janet Bradford

The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillor Mike Pilkington is currently unable to attend Council meetings due to a medical condition. Members were asked to consider approving the reasons for absence. Accordingly, arising from discussions it was:

RESOLVED that a leave of absence be hereby approved in relation to Councillor Mike Pilkington's ongoing reason for absence, due to ill health.

Members sent their best wishes to Councillor Pilkington.

189. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

190. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th July 2022 were received and signed as a correct record.

191. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

192. **NEWTON ABBOT TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

The Mayor advised members that representatives of the Twinning Association were unable to attend due to a family emergency. The presentation will be deferred to a future meeting.

193. **DEVON CONNECT**

Emily Allen, a representative of Devon Connect and the Teignbridge Together Co-ordinator introduced the project to Members and gave a short presentation.

The Council was informed that Teignbridge Together is a new online community hub from Devon Connect. It is a place to share local community listings, events and volunteering opportunities. It enables people to make connections from home or reach across Teignbridge and Devon and offers a range of free promotional support.

Members were supportive of the project and suggested including a link to the hub from the Town Council's website as well as sharing information on Town Council events with the hub.

The Mayor thanked Emily for attending the meeting.

194. **CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE**

Members received a report by the Principal Administrator, circulated prior to the meeting, providing detailed information on the Civility and Respect Project. Councils are being invited to take a pledge agreeing that the Council will treat Councillors, Clerks, employees, members of the public and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect and demonstrate that they are committed to standing up to poor behaviour across the sector.

Members expressed disappointment that it had become necessary within the sector to address the situation of bullying and recognised it has occurred within this Council.

Following discussions, it was:

RESOLVED that Newton Abbot Town Council:

- Takes the Civility and Respect Pledge.
- Implements a training programme for Councillors and staff.
- Adopts a Dignity at Work Policy.
- Displays the Bullying and Harassment statement on the Council's website and at Newton's Place.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

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

- a) County and District Councillor Martin Wrigley spoke about the response across the district to the cost-of-living crisis and ensuring that a co-ordinated response is available including a list of places where residents can find financial and warm space advice.
- b) District Councillor Colin Parker had attended the Local Plan working group, all sites within Teignbridge have been looked at in great detail and remained under discussion and review.
- c) County and District Councillor Phil Bullivant reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:
 - Local Plan working group.
 - Ongoing financial discussions at Teignbridge District Council.
 - Ongoing financial discussions at Devon County Council.
 - Informed Members that developments at Stover Country Park had been approved.

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

196. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) The Mayor updated Members on her recent engagements, as previously circulated, and highlighted several events of significance, which included:
 - Opening of Teignbridge Propellers and meeting the Princess Royal.
 - Inauguration of the new Rector.
 - Commemoration Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Mayor expressed her thanks to Officers and staff who had ensured proceedings during the national mourning period were adhered to.

Members were reminded the Mayor's Civic Service will be held on the 16th October 2022.

- b) Deputy Mayor Councillor Lesley Sheffield reported on her attendance at the Dawlish celebrates carnival and referred to their Events Co-Ordinator who organised the Carnival in her own time.

197. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 19th July 2022, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Ann Jones, were received and approved; and
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 9th August 2022, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Ann Jones, were received and approved subject to a minor formatting amendment, and

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 30th August 2022, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Ann Jones were received and approved subject to a minor formatting amendment; and
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 7th September 2022, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor David Corney-Walker, were received and approved, subject to a minor formatting amendment.

198. **POLICIES**

- a) Standing Orders – Council and National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Model

The Town Clerk introduced the documents, previously circulated, and reminded Members they had previously reviewed the Council’s Standing Orders in March 2022. Due to concerns raised by the Internal Auditor that the Council’s Standing Orders were not in accordance with the NALC Model version - Members were invited to consider adopting the Model in place of the currently adopted document.

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

RESOLVED

- a) that the Council’s current Standing Orders, as adopted in March 2022 be hereby, approved and adopted.
- b) That the Internal Auditor be advised the Model document has been reviewed alongside the Council’s version and it was decided that the Council’s would be retained.

- b) Dignity at Work

Further to Minute 194 (above) the Town Clerk reminded Members that a requirement of taking the Civility and Respect Pledge is to adopt a Dignity at Work Policy.

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

RESOLVED that the Dignity at Work Policy be hereby, approved and adopted.

- c) Vexatious Complainants

Members considered the Vexatious Complainants Policy, as circulated prior to the meeting. Following a review of the policy among Members it was:

RESOLVED that the Vexatious Complainants Policy be hereby, approved and adopted.

199. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None

200. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 16th November 2022

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Meeting closed at 19:05

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

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....