

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2023** 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 A Jones
C Davieson M Joyce
A Hall C Parker
R Hayes M Ryan
M Hocking

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
Martin Wrigley District & County Councillor
Richard Underhill Royal British Legion

By invitation Reverend Ben Maynard
Jackie Hook District Councillor
Janet Bradford County Councillor
Zena Fisher Representative of Safebreaks
Neil Leonard Representative of Safebreaks

411. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

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

A representative of the Royal British Legion made a presentation to the following Councillors in recognition of their services to the Poppy Appeal:

A Jones – 5 years
C Parker – 15 years
C Bunday – 15 years
M Hocking- 20 years
M Ryan - 20 years

412. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Crout and M Pilkington and District/County Councillor Gordon Hook.

413. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

414. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th January 2023 were received and signed as a correct record.

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415. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

416. **POLICE**

The Mayor welcomed Assistant Chief Constable Glen Mayhew and Inspector David Hammond to the meeting and invited them to report on local policing matters and sector priorities. A presentation was displayed to support the verbal report.

Inspector Hammond confirmed the current sector priorities in Newton Abbot:

- Drug use and supply
- Pubs against drugs
- Youth ASB – Newton Abbot Town Centre

In addition, Members were shown data regarding the number of incidents in the local area for the period March 2022 to February 2023, this data included a breakdown by street.

Highlights:

- An increase in neighbourhood Police Officers.
- Working in partnership with community groups, including Police Advocates Community Speed Watch, Community Safety Partnership, Teignbridge District Council.
- Social media engagement – improved positive engagement with community.
- Re-opening of the Police Enquiry office.
- UK prosperity fund, successful application for funding to support projects to improve safety for young people and the violence against women and girls.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Mayhew thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and talked about the recent appointment of the new Chief Constable, Mr Will Kerr, who brings a wealth of national and international experience to Devon and Cornwall Police. The Chief Constable's current areas of focus include:

- Improving services: the timeliness and accessibility of contact centres.
- Anti-Social behaviour
- Harm on the roads – reducing the number of road traffic accidents by investing in a 'No Excuses Team' responsible for targeting the root causes of accidents.
- Increase in the number of Neighbourhood Police Officers.

The team are also looking ahead to the following:

- Coronation of King Charles III - supporting national events while retaining sufficient numbers to support community events.
- Summer season where demand is increased.
- Cost of living – supporting the vulnerable.

The Mayor thanked both Inspector Hammond and Assistant Chief Constable Mayhew for attending the meeting and providing a valuable insight into the police's current priorities and invited Members to raise any questions.

Councillors raised the following matters: responding to reports of known drug dealing, school liaison, lack of respect towards the police, lack of visible policing, speeding traffic.

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

The Mayor invited County and District Councillors to provide a report on their recent activity.

District and County Councillor J Bradford reported on matters that she had been involved in:

- Funded a new grit bin in Buckland from her locality budget.
- Reported overgrowth alongside highways.
- Investigated the removal of trees and hedgerows near Langford Bridge Farm
- Reported on the Childrens Services OFSTED report.
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Task Group.
- Attended the Highways And Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) meeting regarding the Queen Street proposals.

District Councillor Jackie Hook referred Members to the report, previously circulated prior to the meeting, regarding issues that she has been directly involved in:

- Multi-screen cinema - planning application.
- Future High Street Fund Project.
- Bradley Lane - planning application.

Councillors were concerned about planning deadlines being delayed.

District Councillor Gordon Hook, in his absence, had submitted a report prior to the meeting which had been previously circulated. Members noted the report.

District and County Councillor P Bullivant reported on matters that he had been involved in:

- Negotiated with Linden Homes for the installation of 3 new grit bins at Hele Park and Mile End.
- Future High Street Fund
- Visited the Garden Community Project in Exeter
- Parking issues in the Town Centre, Passmore Edwards building and outside Bradley Barton School.
- A382 development

District Councillor C Parker reported on matters that he had been involved in:

- Funded a new grit bin in Buckland from his locality budget.
- Highways issues

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

418. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor updated Members on her recent engagement (as previously circulated) at the Newton Abbot and District Society of Arts Concert and highlighted several forthcoming events that she is looking forward to attending:

- Courtenay Centre Concert
- Coronation of King Charles III
- Official Opening of Newton's Place

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- HMS Triumph Freedom of the Town Parade
- Opening of the King Charles Beehives

419. **ALLOTMENTS**

- (a) The Council gave consideration to granting delegated authority to the Town Clerk in Consultation with the Mayor to accept and sign for the transfer of land off Howton Road, Newton Abbot for use as allotments.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the area of land designated for allotments off Howton Road was ready to be transferred to the Town Council. Members discussed the plan of the proposed allotments, as displayed at the meeting and raised concerns about accessibility of the site due to the number of steps. The Town Clerk confirmed that it was anticipated a new access point will be created when the next phase of the development is undertaken. Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that delegated authority is hereby granted to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor to accept and sign for the transfer of land off Howton Road, Newton Abbot for use as allotments.

- (b) Consideration was given to the need to move that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to any document or documents necessary to give effect to the resolutions passed by the Council at this Meeting.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that execution of the Common Seal of the Council must not take place without the authority of a resolution. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to any document or documents necessary to give effect to the resolutions passed by the Council at this Meeting.

- (c) The Council considered a request from the Newton Abbot Allotment Association for a rent-free period during the establishment of the new allotment site off Howton Road.

The Town Clerk advised Members that any new allotment site requires a period of time to become established and be ready to cultivate. Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that Newton Abbot and District Community Allotment Association are hereby granted a 12-month rent free period from the start of tenancy and during the establishment of the new allotment site off Howton Road. The period will be reviewed just prior to the end of the 12-month period.

420. **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday 15th April, which is within the pre-election period known as purdah. There is some concern amongst some Councils and Monitoring Officers about holding the Annual Town Meeting during the pre-election period with some Councils opting not to hold the meeting in the election year. The Town Clerk advised Members can choose whether to go ahead with the original date, choose another date or cancel the meeting.

Members were reminded that the Annual Town Meeting must be held between the 1st March and 1st June annually. Arising from the discussion, it was:

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RESOLVED that the Annual Town Meeting will take place on Saturday 20th May 2023.

421. **POLICY**

Members considered a recommendation from the Finance & Audit Committee under Minute number 22/02(406) that the Council adopts the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Community Groups Policy, as circulated prior to the meeting. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Council hereby adopts the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Community Groups Policy.

422. **GRANT APPLICATION**

The Mayor welcomed the representatives of Safebreaks and invited them to address Members regarding their grant application.

The representatives informed Members about the work of Safebreaks who support young adults with additional needs in their own homes and provide respite and social clubs. The funding if approved, will be used to create an all-weather outdoor space.

Members recognised the valuable work of the group and supported the grant application. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby grants £1000 to Safebreaks for the creation of a sensory garden and raised beds for wheelchair access.

The Mayor thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and wished them luck with the project.

423. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 31st January 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Ann Jones, were received and approved; and
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 8th February 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Lesley Sheffield, were received and approved, and
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 15th February 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor David Corey-Walker, were received and approved, and
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 21st February 2023, as presented by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Mike Ryan, were received and approved.
- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 22nd February 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Colin Parker were received and approved.

424. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

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The Town Clerk reported that the highways notification of works signage located on East Street is incorrect. Highways have been asked to amend the signage to state that road closures are during the night only.

The Mayor confirmed this is the last meeting of the current Council and expressed her thanks to the Officers of the Council for their hard work and support.

425. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 17th May 2023 - Annual Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:55

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

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....