

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 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: Nigel Canham Communications Adviser  
Ethan Heppell Press – Mid Devon Advertiser

By invitation Reverend Ben Maynard  
Jackie Hook District Councillor

332. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

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

A presentation of the Christmas events held through November and December was displayed on the screen during the meeting for Members to view.

333. **APOLOGIES**

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

334. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

335. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were received and signed as a correct record.

The Town Clerk provided Members with an update on Minute number 22/12(277c) Traffic Regulation Order 6020. A revised layout is being proposed on Queen Street. Members are unable to reconsider the changes to their previously submitted recommendation at this meeting due to the six months rule, the Town Clerk will endeavour to provide a detailed update at the forthcoming Community & Heritage Committee meeting.

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336. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

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

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

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

- Carbon Action Plan.
- Waste Fleet.
- Future High Street Fund.
- Queen Street.
- Local Plan.
- Forde House.
- National Association of Local Councils (NALC).
- Electric vehicle charging points.

In addition to the report, District Councillor Hook provided an update on the recent Ombudsman report on the handling of Standards complaints by Teignbridge District Council (TDC)

Councillor Mike Hocking asked District Councillor Jackie Hook to confirm whether the Town Council would be consulted, as statutory consultees, on the revised design for the proposed new Cinema in Newton Abbot? District Councillor Jackie Hook advised that she would discuss the matter with TDC Planning Committee and that she supported the request.

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

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

338. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) The Mayor updated Members on her recent engagements (as previously circulated) and highlighted several events of significance, which included:

- Civic performance of Sleeping Beauty.
- The opening of Parker's Funeral Parlour.

The Mayor expressed her thanks to the Councillors and Officers who had ensured the Christmas events were a great success.

The Mayor invited Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lesley Sheffield, to provide an update on an event that she had recently attended. The Deputy Mayor advised that she had the pleasure of attending Newton Abbot Flower Club.

The Mayor advised she will be attending the following future events:

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- o Joining the Street Pastors on Saturday night.

339. **PRECEPT 2023/24**

The Council discussed the recommendation made by the meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Minute number 23/01(327).

The Mayor invited the Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee, Councillor Colin Parker, to report on the Precept for 2023/24. Councillor Parker reminded Members 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 and recapped on the increase required to meet the growth in services to be provided to the town. Councillors were also reminded that it was the statutory duty of the Council to approve a Precept for 2023/24. The Chairperson referred Members to the recommendation made to Council as set out in Minute 23/01(327).

It was proposed by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Corney Walker that a Precept in the sum of £1,284,500 be adopted for the year 2023/24.

Discussion took place regarding the current rate of inflation, the cost-of-living crises and the impact that raising the precept would have on residents.

Arising from the above discussion, accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED** that a precept of **£1,284,500** for the year 2023/24 be approved representing an *increase* of £23.37p p.a. or 0.45p per week (representing an annual payment of £150.26 / £12.52 per month / £2.89p per week) or 18.42% 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 **£1,284,500**.

340. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

The Mayor informed Members that Councillor Richard Jenks had resigned on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022, with immediate effect. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, section 87(2) a notice of casual vacancy for the Parish of Newton Abbot, Bradley Ward was advertised. An election to fill the vacancy was not received. Given the proximity of the local elections, scheduled to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the Council is not bound to fill the vacancy.

Members noted that as at Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Ryan Hall and Chris Jenks had not attended any meeting of the Council within a six-month period, therefore, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government 1972 Act they ceased to be Members of Newton Abbot Town Council on that date.

Consequently, the Council gave consideration to advertising the three Councillor vacancies for co-option.

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED**

- (a) that it be noted that on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Ryan Hall and Chris Jenks ceased to be

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Members of Newton Abbot Town Council though non-attendance and that Richard Jenks had resigned on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022;

(b) that in accordance with the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006, SI2006/3305, r5(5) the Town Council will not co-opt Members to fill the current three vacancies.

341. **WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN**

The Principal Administrator introduced the White Ribbon Campaign report, circulated prior to the meeting, and highlighted all the options available to the Council as contained within the report.

Members spoke compassionately about the work of all organisations that strive to prevent, support or protect people from aggressive and violent behaviour across all genders. Councillor Mike Hocking proposed the council proceeds with option 2: That Newton Abbot Town Council recognises that violence can occur across all genders and resolves to support all organisations that are working towards preventing violence or supporting those affected.

Councillor Rob Hayes requested an amendment to the proposal, to include the word aggression. Councillor David Corney Walker seconded the amended motion.

Following discussions, it was:

**RESOLVED** that Newton Abbot Town Council recognises that aggression and violence can occur across all genders and resolves to support all organisations that are working towards preventing violence or supporting those affected.

342. **NEWTON ABBOT & KINGSTEIGNTON GARDEN COMMUNITY BOARD**

a) Terms of Reference of the Board

Prior to the meeting, Members had received the minutes of the Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton Garden Community meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Members **noted** the minutes of the meeting.

b) Minutes of the first meeting of the Board held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Prior to the meeting, Members had received the terms of reference of the Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton Garden Community Board. Members **noted** the terms of reference.

c) Town Council's representative(s) on the Board.

The Town Clerk advised that arising from the formation of the Board, Members were requested to nominate a Member to be the Town Council's representative on the Board.

Following a discussion, it was:

**Agreed** to defer nominating a representative until after the local elections in May 2023. In the interim period it was agreed that as Councillor Bullivant had been elected Chairperson of the board in his capacity as a County Councillor that he would represent the Town Council also.

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343. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 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 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Ann Jones, were received and approved, and
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Ann Jones, were received and approved, and
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor Colin Parker were received and approved.

344. **CALENDAR OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2023 – 2024**

Consideration was given to a draft calendar of Events, Council and Committee meetings for the year 2023/24 (previously circulated).

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the calendar of Events, Council and Committee meetings for the year 2023/24 as submitted to the Council, be hereby approved and adopted.

345. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

346. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Meeting closed at 19:50

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

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....