

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the HERITAGE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on 3rd September 2015 at 7.00pm in the Guildhall, Barnstaple.

Present: Councillor: Mrs E Davies (Chairman)

Councillors: I Roome, Mrs V Elkins (Mayor ex-officio), Mrs J Hunt (Deputy Mayor ex-officio), M Chamings, B Vernon, Ms N Haywood, F Jefferies, L Dawson, C Haywood, I Williams.

Also Present: W Austin (Town Clerk), Mrs M Sanders (Administration and Planning Support Officer).

HCC15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Councillors Miss M Lovering, G Langford and Mrs A Dawson.

HCC16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED

Cllrs Mrs J Hunt and Cllr I Roome as a member of North Devon Council declared dispensations under S.O 66 to discuss and vote on all items on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial, legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

HCC17 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(8.3abs)

HCC18 CORPORATE PLAN – AGREE THE APPROACH TO DEVELOPING A DETAILED ACTION PLAN FOR DELIVERY OF THE COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

The Town Clerk informed members that the committee needed to consider an action plan to achieve and implement their priorities outlined in the corporate plan. He suggested perhaps a working party should be considered to help the committee to achieve their five objectives.

Members discussed this at length and it was agreed that a working party would be the best way to proceed. Cllrs Davies, Roome, N. Haywood, Williams, Jefferies and L Dawson all volunteered to be members of the working party.

RESOLVED: That a working party be assembled to help the committee achieve the five objectives for the corporate plan.

(NC)

HCC19 BUDGET PREPARATION – TO CONSIDER ANY ISSUES FOR INCLUSION IN THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2016/17

Members discussed many issues which they felt would need to be considered and budgeted for. Cllr Vernon highlighted the need for funding for improvements and designs for buildings especially the Heritage Centre. As the renewal for the lease to the Heritage Centre is so uncertain some councillors voiced concerns towards spending money on a building that the town council may potentially lose. After much discussion it was suggested that an alternative venue for the Heritage Centre display should be investigated and the museum should be approached.

Cllr Williams suggested improvements to St Anne's should be considered when budgeting. The Town Clerk informed members that St Anne's is working towards being self-sufficient, members discussed possible ways for St Anne's to achieve this. After much discussion it was decided that a 'Friends of St Anne's' membership programme should be investigated.

Cllr Roome moved to note the budget suggestions, it was

RESOLVED:

1. The budget suggestions be noted.
2. That a Friends of St Anne's membership programme be investigated.

(NC)

3. That the Town Clerk investigate and approach the museum as a possible alternative to the Queen Anne's Building for the Heritage Centre display should the need arise.

(10,1abs)

HCC20 CLERKS REPORT – TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON HERITAGE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY MATTERS, AND TO AGREE ANY ACTIONS ARISING

The Town Clerk summarised a report circulated at the meeting, as shown at Appendix 1.

Councillors considered the role of volunteers in delivering the committee's services, and

RESOLVED: That all volunteers involved in the Heritage Centre, guided tours and Dodderidge Room viewings be thanked for their considerable and valued efforts.

Councillors further considered ways of attracting more volunteers, including more advertising and an approach to a proposed Devonwide volunteering scheme by Cllr Williams.

The meeting ended at 7.56pm.

Chairman

Signed.....

Dated.....

Report for Heritage, Culture & Community Committee 3rd September 2015

Heritage Centre Shop and Exhibition

The shop has been extremely busy this summer and in order to keep it looking full I have taken in stock from 3 local crafters, this has been very well accepted and adds to the ambience.

During July and August we had a “summer holiday offer” in place. Our family ticket which is normally £10.00 was slashed to half price £5.00, in an attempt to attract more families into the centre. This has certainly proven to be worthwhile as you will see. Last July/August we only took £140 on our family ticket category compared to this July/August of £480, this means we have had 93 families through the exhibition in the last 2 months equalling 372 people, which is fantastic news.

We have had so many lovely comments in our visitors’ book this summer, we are grateful for the support.

Group visits

Our group tours of the town are still proving to be popular, this year so far we have had 16 large group bookings and we have been working with Tom Evans to allow his groups into the Guildhall.

The Thursday Tours have been well supported and we have had some very positive feedback on the delivery of the tours.

Shearings tours are ongoing until the end of September, we have had some very positive feedback from them and they have already booked with us again for 2016 which is excellent news.

I would like to thank all of the Tour Guides for their amazing efforts in delivering our Town Tours, they have certainly been very busy this summer.

Brend Hotel

The Heritage Centre has been asked to feature in The Imperial Hotels Autumn Deals Brochure, this brochure goes out to 7,000 of Brends customers, and hopefully a busy autumn lies ahead for us. This offer starts on the 1st September.

Weddings

There has been 2 more weddings at The Guildhall since the last Heritage Committee meeting, both couples were very happy with the level of service they received.

BBC 4

On 18th June I, along with the film crew from BBC4 were in The Dodderidge Room filming the Thomas Benson bowl. This is to feature in a documentary series going on air in mid-October. Hopefully we will get some interest back from this and thus promoting the Guildhall.

Pilton Festival

The Medieval Fruit Machine was a huge success, we took £160.00 on the day and great fun was had by all who tried their luck. The lucky winner will be joining us at the Fair Opening in September. We also gave out Free entry family tickets to the runners up and have received 10 back so far. My thanks to the councillors and volunteers and also my colleagues Design Manager Julie Parker for all her efforts in the construction of the Medieval Fruit Machine and for her help on the day and Property Manager Ian Parker for all his help and encouragement .

Heritage Open Days

I am currently working on Heritage Open Days which are on the 11th and 12th of September. I am leading a working partnership with Arlington Court and The Museum, both are open for free on Heritage Open Days. And there will be a full programme of events. The Guildhall will be open this year, as will The Heritage Centre and St Annes for free, with a theme of school days. Tom Evans will be conducting Victorian lessons in St Annes and our town tours will have a school days theme, The Albert Clock will also be open this year thanks to Property Manager Ian Parker. If you would like more information or can offer to volunteer on either of the days please do get in touch.

Sue Howson – Heritage Centre Manager

Guildhall Craft Markets

Two successful craft markets have taken place since last committee, with over 300 people attending each, and a similar number taking advantage of the opening of the Dodderidge Room for public view as part of the same event. The next market is on Sunday 13 September.

Thanks to those councillors who have volunteered to supervise the Dodderidge Room. This has enabled hundreds of people to see important aspects of our civic and heritage offering, many of whom would not otherwise have had the opportunity.

Events at St Anne's Since Last Committee (7 July 2015)

AUG 25		Jack Harris and Kirsty Merryn Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 19:30
AUG 15		Waveform – songs of love and landscape Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 19:30
AUG 14		Mad Hatter's Family Party - it's FREE! Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 11:00
JUL 30 – AUG 27		Creative Crafts this Summer Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 10:30
JUL 29 – AUG 26		Free Crafty Wednesdays this summer Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 11:00
JUL 10		Mojo Rex Live Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 19:45

Forthcoming Events at St Anne's

SEPT 29		Gilmore & Roberts Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 19:30
OCT 24		Red Dirt Skinners Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 19:30
NOV 10		Sarah McQuaid Paternoster Row, EX31 1BH Barnstaple, Devon 19:30
DEC 04		Martin Harley (Solo) Barnstaple Guildhall, Butcher Row, Barnstaple 19:30