

## BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 at 7.30pm in the MAIN HALL, GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW, BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Cllr Mrs J Hunt (Mayor) in the Chair.

Councillors: Mrs V Monk, Mrs V Elkins, F Vernon, A Windsor, I Roome (Deputy Mayor), C Haywood, Mrs E Davies, Mrs J Wilsher, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, I Williams, Ms T Haywood, M Kennaugh, M Chamings, G Langford, and A Rennles.

Also present: County Councillors J Mathews and B Greenslade.

### TC61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Upcott, Mrs S Haywood, J Phillips, C Perkins-Beard, Mrs A Dawson and L Dawson.

### TC62 DISPENSATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

### TC63 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(NC)

### TC64 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on her attendance at 17 official engagements. She also thanked all those involved and who attended the Mayor's Charity Concert, which had raised £526, and the Really Big Quiz, which had raised £3,350.

She further reminded councillors that the Christmas Fayre would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, and that councillors were invited for mince pies and mulled wine prior to the event. Cllrs Rennles and Ms N Haywood volunteered to assist with preparations.

### TC65 BARNSTAPLE FAIR HERITAGE SOCIETY

Cllr Miss M Lovering and Mr G Lovering presented to councillors on the events held by the Society to celebrate 50 years since Barnstaple Fair

funfair moved to its current venue at Seven Brethren Bank, and to remind the community of the history of the Fair.

The events included an exhibition at the Museum, an educational tour of schools, summer workshops, a steam engine road run, a concert, a Carnival Queen reunion, and the publication of a book. The Society had received financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Barnstaple Town Council, and support in kind from the Town Council, the Museum, the Showmen's Guild, Dingles Fairground Museum and others.

Councillors considered the importance of retaining this part of the town's heritage, and offered thanks and congratulations for the Society's hard work.

TC66      MOTION SUBMITTED BY CLLR I ROOME

Cllr Roome proposed and read the motion as follows:

"This Council is dismayed by the decision of the MoD to close RMB Chivenor by 2027. Closure will leave North Devon with no full-time military presence, and the removal of an entire community from the area will have a profound impact on its economic and social wellbeing.

"The decision is short-sighted and misguided. Any savings accruing to the Exchequer from closure of the base will pale into insignificance compared with the knock-on impact on employment locally amongst the many companies that rely on the base for their survival, with an estimated value of £40m per annum to the local economy. Socially, RMB Chivenor has developed strong links with Barnstaple and the surrounding area and is very much part of our community. It would not be acceptable to remove a village of some 2,500 residents from North Devon in any other circumstances, and it is no more acceptable in this case simply to balance the MoD's books.

"We know that the MoD will say that this decision was made by the Royal Marines, but what the MoD will not add is that the Marines were forced into this position with wholly unreasonable and unnecessary demands for cost savings. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Marines, and we know that they would not have proposed closing the base had the MoD not put them in this impossible position.

"The decision to close RMB Chivenor is an insult to the North Devon community which has welcomed and supported the base, and made it part of our community since it was established. We call on the Government to step in to prevent the closure, to show that it has not abandoned the economic and social needs of the area.

The motion having been seconded and discussed, it was

RESOLVED: That the motion be agreed.

(16, 1 against)

TC67      REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

No representative of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary was present, and no written report had been received.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk should contact Devon & Cornwall Constabulary to demand a presence or written report to each meeting.  
(NC)

TC68      REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Mathews reported on:

- New traffic orders in Barnstaple South.
- Expected changes to the traffic order for Ladies Mile next year.
- Residents' parking for Sticklepath Hill, which he hoped would proceed.
- Lines and signs for Orchard Vale School which his councillor fund had paid for.
- Parking in the cycle lane outside Orchard Vale School which was to be made an offence. Speeding was also a problem here.
- Recent flooding, on which Cllr Mathews was making inquiries.
- A visit by surveyors to Whiddon Valley play park on behalf of housing developers. The visit was not communicated to the District Council, who had advised them to contact both the Estates and Planning Departments in future.

Councillors commented and questioned on the traffic orders, play park, and parking in Ladies Mile.

Cllr Greenslade reported on:

- Problems receiving email attachments from the Town Clerk.
- Flooding, and specifically the need for a flood alleviation scheme. He had written to the Chancellor on this matter.
- Flooding at Seven Brethren and Cattle Market Car Parks, in response to a query from Cllr Mrs Davies. These were periodic problems with standing water after heavy rainfall.
- The future of picnic areas on the A39, in response to a query from Cllr Mrs Davies. These had been secured and there was no grounds maintenance, pending the sites being offered to the market.

- Proposals to close the Royal Marines base at Chivenor, which would need careful examination.
- A motion he had submitted to Devon County Council calling for the cancellation of the Success Regime, which had the support of the Health Scrutiny Committee and would go to the Full County Council meeting.
- Police cuts, which were an ongoing problem.
- Residents' parking in Chanters Hill, which would be considered by the HATOC meeting. Youings Drive would be on the same agenda.
- North Devon Link Road, on which he hoped the new Chancellor would be as supportive as his predecessor.

Councillors questioned and commented on flooding, the closure of the A39 toilets, policing in St Georges Road, a recent assault on an autistic child, parking problems in Chanters Hill.

*\*\*\*Cllr Ms N Haywood left the meeting at this point\*\*\**

The Mayor read a report from Cllr Brailey, Leader of North Devon District Council, covering:

- The possibility of opening The Strand to traffic during the daytime, which he was pursuing.
- The announcement that RMB Chivenor was to close, and the need for an early resolution to the intended re-use of the land.
- The need to maintain pressure for local health services to be protected in light of the work of the Success Regime.

RESOLVED: That the reports of County and District Councillors be received and noted.

(NC)

## TC69      REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Williams reported on his work with the Save Our Hospital Services campaign group, to which he was nominated by the Council. The group had achieved a good media presence including an article in The Guardian. The support of the Town Council had prompted other towns and parishes to join the campaign, and the public were still being engaged at public meetings. The CCG would be holding consultation meetings in December but Cllr Williams considered this to be poor timing, and a box-ticking exercise. County Councillors were being engaged by the group.

Cllr Williams proposed that the Town Council offered its continuing support to the group, and that the Clerk write to other towns and parishes asking for their councils' support for the campaign for fairer funding for the NHS in Devon.

Cllrs Roome and Miss Lovering declared interests in this matter as employees of the NHS. Cllrs Mrs Monk, Vernon and Mrs Hunt declared interests as relatives of employees of the NHS. All five councillors left the meeting for the duration of further discussion of this item.

RESOLVED: That in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Elkins be elected Chairman for the duration of this item. (NC)

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council offers its continuing support to the Save Our Hospital Services Devon group, and that the Clerk write to other towns and parishes asking for their councils' support for the campaign for fairer funding for the NHS in Devon. (NC)

Cllrs Mrs Monk, Vernon, Roome, Mrs Hunt and Miss Lovering returned to the meeting and Cllr Mrs Hunt resumed her role as Chairman.

## TC70 COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Finance & General Purposes Committee of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted. (NC)

### Finance & General Purposes Committee of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted. (NC)

### Environment Committee of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted. (NC)

### Planning and Transportation Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted. (NC)

### Planning and Transportation Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

TC71      QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from members of the Council under Standing Order 26, or public registered electors in the town under Standing Order 83.

Meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Chairman.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....