

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 25TH JULY 2016 at 7.00pm in the GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Cllr Mrs J Hunt (Chairman), S Upcott, Mrs V Monk, F Vernon, Mrs V Elkins, A Windsor, Mrs S Haywood, I Roome, J Phillips, Mrs E Davies, J Carter, Mrs J Wilsher, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, I Williams, Ms T Haywood, M Kennaugh, M Chamings, Mrs A Dawson, L Dawson, G Langford, and A Rennles.

TC24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs V Elkins, F Vernon, J Phillips, Ms N Haywood, Mrs A Dawson and L Dawson.

TC25 DISPENSATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllrs Mrs S Haywood, I Roome, and Mrs J Hunt, as members of North Devon 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.

TC26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH JUNE 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(15, 2abs)

TC27 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that since May she had attended 20 official engagements. She thanked councillors for their attendance at the Civic Service, and for the gratitude and encouragement she had received from councillors after the event.

The Mayor further reported that Cllr Mrs Elkins remained unwell, and that her husband was gradually improving.

She advised that she and two other councillors would be participating in a sponsored slim.

TC28 BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

Jon Wilkes and David Pack of the British Humanist Association presented to councillors on a potential alternative order of service for the Act of Remembrance. They advised that many service personnel were of no faith, and they had received many from people who were against the current format of the Act of Remembrance.

They provided a sample alternative order of service as a draft for discussion, which they considered to be as inclusive as possible.

They explained the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 as it applies to public bodies, and their view that a Church of England-led service was discriminatory. They invited councillors to address the issue.

Cllr Chamings asked whether there was precedent for the proposed order of service. Mr Pack said that Oxford involved a range of faiths and humanist input, and Mr Wilkes advised that the same applied in North East London.

RESOLVED: That the presentation by the British Humanist Association be noted.

(NC)

TC29 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Mathews reported on:

- Potential improvements to the quality and amount of rolling stock on the Tarka Line.
- Discussions with Stagecoach on bus services, including improvements to signing at the former Park and Ride car park.
- Progress towards residents' parking in the Sticklepath Hill area.
- A review of waste and recycling in North Devon, which was next due to report in September.

Councillors expressed concern and made comment regarding:

- The need for more notice of future bus surgeries.
- The need for additional rail coaches for sporting events in Exeter.
- The high price of rail tickets, with an example of £275 to Gatwick.
- The potential for public health problems if waste collections are changed to three-weekly.

Cllr Greenslade reported on:

- Proposals to improve the North Devon Link Road. He thanked the Town Council for its consultation response.
- His work to improve rail rolling stock and services.
- Joint work with Cllr Mathews to restore park and ride services.
- Continuing pressure from campaigning to protect health services in North Devon.
- His concerns about proposals to change the frequency of domestic waste collection.

Councillors expressed concern the potential adverse environmental and health consequences of changes to waste collection arrangements, and about the need for improved health services locally.

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

(NC)

TC30 REPORT FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY.

Inspector Shaun Kenneally reported on:

- The reduced threat of further funding reductions for the Force.
- Additional pressures such as anti-terrorism, which could impact on capacity for local policing.
- The possibility of further cuts in future.
- The suspension of plans to close the Pilton office.
- A pilot Reoffending Diversion Scheme.
- The capture of an individual from Plymouth thought to have carried out a spate of burglaries in Forches and Gorwell.
- Work to address street drinking.
- The discovery of a body in Braunton, possibly connected to a suspected suicide.

****Cllr Windsor left the meeting at this point****

Councillors commented on and asked questions about:

- The good work to deal with drunks in Pilton.
- The nature of anti-terrorism work.

****Cllr Windsor returned to the meeting at this point****

- The possibility of greater anti-terrorism surveillance at vulnerable youth sites.
- The need or otherwise for a permanent Police presence in Accident and Emergency.
- The great potential of the Reoffending Diversion Scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary be received and noted.

(NC)

TC31 REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Rennles reported that the Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum had been considering work in the estuary and the lack of dredging. Minutes of the last meeting would be available in due course.

Cllr Roome reported that the Devon Association of Local Councils had met and considered devolution and transparency.

RESOLVED: That the reports of representatives to outside bodies be noted.

(NC)

TC32 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning and Transportation Committee of 23rd June 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Finance and General Purposes Committee of 27th June 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27th June 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 7th July 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 7th July 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 21st July 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 21st July 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

TC33 ROCK PARK TRUSTMANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Rock Park Trust Management Committee held on 13th July 2016 be received and noted.

(NC)

TC34 REQUESTS FOR USE OF THE TOWN CREST

The Town Clerk reported that two requests had been received for use of the Town Crest, although one had been withdrawn prior to the meeting. The other was from a newly established dog walking company, Barum Pups.

Members considered whether it was appropriate to allow the use of the crest for commercial purposes, and whether any use should be dependent on a longstanding contribution to the community.

RESOLVED: That the request for use of the Town Crest by Barum Pups be declined.

(NC)

TC35 NALC NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Upcott, Phillips, Windsor, Roome and Jefferies be nominated to attend the NALC National Conference on 30 November 2016.

(13, 4 against)

TC36 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 8.40pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: