

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on MONDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 2015 at 7.00pm in the MAIN CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Councillor Mrs V Elkins (The Mayor)

Councillors S Upcott, F Vernon, A Windsor, I Roome, Mrs J Hunt, C Haywood, J Phillips, Mrs E Davies, Mrs J Wilsher, J Carter, M Chamings, Ms T Haywood, F Jefferies, M Kennaugh, C Perkins-Beard, I Williams, G Langford, L Dawson, A Rennles, Ms M Lovering and Mrs A Dawson.

Also in attendance, Mr W Austin (Town Clerk), Insp Kenneally and Sgt Seear (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary), County Councillor J Mathews, and two members of the public.

TC43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Cllrs C Perkins-Beard, and L Dawson.

Cllr Roome explained that due to an indisposition, Cllr Mrs Dawson may not be able to attend Council meetings for the time being.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs A Dawson be granted a leave of absence, to be reviewed after three months.

TC44 DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Mrs S Haywood, I Roome and Mrs J Hunt as members of North Devon Council, declared dispensations under Standing Order 64 to discuss and vote on any item on the agenda unless the item refers to the financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

Cllrs Mrs S Haywood, Ms N Haywood and Mrs J Hunt declared personal interests in the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee minutes at agenda item 9, as relatives of an honorary member of the Showmen's Guild. Cllr C Haywood declared a personal interest in the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee minutes at agenda item 9, as an honorary member of the Showmen's Guild.

TC45 MINUTES

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

(NC)

TC46 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs V Elkins reported on her attendance at events since the July Council meeting, including the Lammas Fair in Exeter and the Civic Service. She had received positive feedback regarding the Civic Service and thanked all those who attended.

She further thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk for their work towards improving green and planted areas in Barnstaple, and councillors for volunteering to open the Dodderidge Room to public view. The next viewing would be on 13th September.

The Mayor reminded councillors that surgery volunteers were still required, that they should all respond to an invitation to G Lovering's birthday party on 31st October, and that they should dress appropriately for the Fair Proclamation.

TC47 REPORTS FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

Insp Shaun Kenneally reported on strategic matters. Past funding reductions and further expected cuts of 25-40% had resulted changes in service provision, including Pilton-based officers moving to the main station. Further reductions could affect neighbourhood policing. He asked the Council to give its support to the campaign on the website of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Sgt Ewan Seear attended the meeting and gave a report on operational matters. The report is appended to these minutes as appendix 1.

Councillors raised concerns about funding reductions and a homeless man engaging in anti-social behaviour in the town centre. Sgt Seear and Cllr J Mathews said that action was being taken to address this.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council supports and will promote the campaign of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

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

(NC)

TC48 REPORTS FROM DEVON COUNTY AND NORTH DEVON COUNCILLORS

Cllr B Greenslade had sent his apologies along with a written report as shown at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Cllr J Mathews reported on issues relating to changes in the County Council Highways team, North Devon Records Office, and hedge, verge, tree and road maintenance. He also advised that the developer would appeal the decision to list the Oliver buildings. He offered apologies from Cllr D Brailey and advised that Cllr Brailey had met with Devon County Council to consider changes to traffic circulation in the vicinity of Barnstaple Retail Park.

Cllr I Roome reported that he had attended the Yeo Valley Woodland Green Flag event which had been enjoyed by the community, and he thanked those who helped to look after it.

Cllr Mrs S Haywood reported that NDC councillors had received Data Protection training and that town councillors would benefit from the same training.

Town councillors discussed the reports and expressed concern at DCC signs being left in situ when no longer needed, traffic problems around Anchorwood Bank, problems with willow trees on the Gorwell estate, parking in Chanters Hill and overgrowth on North Road.

RESOLVED: That the reports be received and noted.

(NC)

TC49 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO
OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mrs Hunt reported that she would be attending a meeting of Cruse Bereavement in October.

Cllr Williams reported that he had attended a second meeting of North Devon Voluntary Services, whose future looked brighter. He would be asking for volunteers to assist at the Heritage Centre.

Cllr Chamings reported that he was enjoying his role with the North Devon Archaeological Service, and asked that the Council consider stocking a forthcoming book at the Heritage Centre.

Cllr Roome reported on a recent DALC meeting and the body's importance to the local council sector. He was now a voting representative on NALC. He reminded councillors of the AGM and conference on 15th October at Westpoint.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Rennles, Roome and Phillips attend the AGM and conference at Westpoint on 15th October and the cost of £20 each.

RESOLVED: That the reports be received and noted.

(NC)

TC50 REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Heritage, Culture and Community Committee of 7th July 2015, pages 62-64

RESOLVED: That the adoption of the minutes of the Heritage, Culture and Community Committee meeting held on 7th July 2015 be deferred to the next meeting.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 9th July 2015, pages 65-70.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 9th July 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Allotments Sub-Committee of 13th July 2015, pages 71-72

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Allotments Sub-committee meeting held on 13th July 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Environment Committee of 13th July 2015, pages 73-76 inc. Appendix 1

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 13th July 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Finance and General Purposes Committee of 20th July 2015, pages 77-79 inc. Appendix 1

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20th July 2015 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 23rd July 2015, pages 80-84

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 23rd July 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 13th August 2015, pages 85-90

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 13th August 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 27th August 2015, pages 91-96

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 27th August 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Staff Committee of 3rd September 2015, pages 97-98

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staff Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Heritage, Culture & Community Committee of 3rd September 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the Heritage, Culture & Community Committee of 3rd September 2015 were not available for adoption and would be tabled at the next meeting.

TC51 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BRIDGE TRUST

RESOLVED: That Cllrs J Phillips and C Haywood be nominated as Barnstaple Town Council representatives to the Bridge Trust.

(NC)

TC52 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.

The meeting ended at 8.04pm.

Chairman.

Signed

Dated

Police Update For North Devon Town Council - September 2015

Crime Summary

Offence Group	Year Compared To Same Period Last Year 06/09/2015	Last 28 Day Comparison till 06/09/2015 Previous Year
Violence Leading To Injury	Down -8.0% (230 recorded)	Up +35.7% (19 recorded)
Violence Without Injury	Up +16.6% (253)	Up +93.3% (29)
Burglary Dwelling	Down -31.5% (50)	Up +300% (4)
Burglary Non Dwelling	Down -18.3% (98)	Down -16.7% (5)
Vehicle Offences	Up +10.6% (157)	Down -57.1% (6)
Shop Lifting	Up +6.4% (315)	Down -5.3% (18)
Criminal Damage	Up +4.5 % (415)	Down -38.7% (19)
Other Theft	Down -11.2% (340)	Up +23.1% (32)

Comments & Trends

Figures available 6th September 2015 – Barnstaple Sector.

It has continued to be a busy summer despite the less than appealing weather during August. Overall the trend for recorded crime continues to decline slightly however non crime safe guarding investigations continue to rise significantly these are often complex time consuming enquires involving the work of multiple agencies alongside the police..

Damage and vehicle offences continue to be a concern. Again we have no identified series and the figures have been looked at closely. We are aware of a number of repeat victims relating to vehicle crime or other damage and these are subject to further crime prevention interventions and support.

Retail crime continues to rise slightly and we will plan a number of initiatives aimed at retail crime as we approach the festive period.

Community Matters

Homeless – We are aware of reports of an increased number of people recently being seen sleeping rough in and about Barnstaple Town Centre. Whilst some of these are known to police some are new to Barnstaple or have arrived from neighbouring towns and areas. We are actively working with our partners in Housing and Support provision with NDDC to identify those new to the area and assess their specific needs. Others are already well known to us and we continue to offer support whilst addressing any antisocial or criminal behaviour.

Begging – Linked to an extent with the above - we are also aware again of increased reports of persons begging in and about the Town Centre – this has been targeted previously and will be actively targeted again with a media message regarding the best means of donating money in order to support (house/feed/care for) these individuals rather than fund potentially life endangering addictions.

Operational Concerns:

Budget constraints continue to be a pressing concern with media reports of significant further cuts to Devon and Cornwall Constabulary imminent. Suffice to say that if the scale of those proposed cuts are implemented then the nature and services provided by the Police will have to be modified in line with that budget. This is likely to have an impact upon the functionality of neighbourhood policing as it currently stands.

County Councillor Report September 2015 - Cllr Brian Greenslade

At the July County Council Meeting I put forward a notice of motion which, if accepted, would exempt bodies like the Town Council from tip charges for grass cuttings etc. where the material to be disposed of resulted from the Town Council undertaking work previously done by the County Council. I tried to get this agreed on the day but the Conservative majority decided to refer this to the DCC Cabinet in September which rendered the spirit of the motion useless as far as this year is concerned. I shall continue to press this matter.

I am pleased that thanks to my approach to Heather Barnes the Director of Place at Devon County Council that a productive meeting took place between a senior Highways Officer and the Mayor and representatives of BTC with the objective of the Town Council taking over the cutting of highways grass etc. within the town with DCC providing a financial contribution towards the cost. I understand that this is proceeding in a positive way and that BTC will be organising a further full cut before the end of the summer. John Mathews and I have agreed to contribute £1,000 each from our community budgets towards the cost of this cut.

There is some evidence of interest by South West Trains to run a through rail service from Barnstaple to London and return but this is hitting the buffers due to the rail franchise arrangements held by First Great Western. I have put pressure on First Great Western by writing to the Chief Executive Mark Hopwood and will be continuing to press this matter. Its time Barnstaple appeared on the destination boards in London.

The Northern Devon Healthcare Trust seem to have got themselves into a fair old mess with their consultation on beds in Community Hospitals with the CCG arguing that the NDHCT would be unable to deliver their requirements for an enhanced care in the community service. I have written to the Chief Executive of the NDHCT urging them to halt their consultation and get together with the CCG and come up with a combined approach including considering establishment within the District Hospital of a Community Hospital unit for the greater Barnstaple area.

Before the summer recess a briefing on the future flood alleviation needs of Barnstaple, especially on the north bank of the Taw, was held. A number of Town Councillors attended. There is nothing I would be critical of arising from this briefing in fact it is good that the Environment Agency are looking so far ahead. However the weakness is that the EA are studying the effects of tidal flooding and flooding caused by run off from the land into the rivers separately. Regrettably as we saw in the last few years it is the combination of high tides, high run off from the land and high winds which put very many low lying parts of Barnstaple at risk. I have written to the EA urging that they study these situations as well which are more likely to be the cause of flooding in Barnstaple in the immediate future than the results of the studies they have done so far have revealed.

I asked a question at the last County Council Meeting about the Records Office position now that DCC are not going to relocate staff from the Civic Centre to the Library. As a result the lead member said he would hold a stakeholders meeting to see if his budget shortfall could be overcome and therefore allow the majority of the records to be retained in North Devon. This stakeholder meeting will be held on Sept 8th.