

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 20TH MARCH 2017 at 7.00pm in the MAIN HALL, GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW, BARNSTAPLE.

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

Councillors: S Upcott, F Vernon, A Windsor, Mrs S Haywood, I Roome (Deputy Mayor), C Haywood, Mrs J Wilsher, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, I Williams, Ms N Haywood, M Kennaugh, M Chamings, G Langford, and A Rennles.

Also present: Ms K Angell of 'Survival Bags – Home and Away', Sgt Ewan Seear (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary) and two members of the public.

TC107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs V Monk, Mrs V Elkins, J Phillips, Mrs E Davies, and C Perkins-Beard.

TC108 DISPENSATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllrs Mrs J Hunt, Mrs S Haywood 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.

TC109 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(16, 1abs)

TC110 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that she had attended a meeting with the Secretary of State for Defence and the constituency MP regarding the future of RMB Chivenor. She advised that no decision had been made to date, and hoped that the Town Council's comments would affect any such decision.

She reminded members of a memorial service for Alex Munnerley on 27th March 2017, and of the Mayor's Charity Ball on 31st March 2017.

TC111 ACCOMMODATION FOR THE HOMELESS

Ms K Angell of 'Survival Bags – Home and Away' summarised the submission shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes, on proposed accommodation for the homeless. Members spoke in support of the proposal, and commented and questioned on:

- How the use of alcohol and drugs would be policed. Ms Angell said that the initiative would be in part self-policing, but that rules would be enforced by the managing committee and if anyone was under the influence they would be asked to leave.
- How many homeless people could be accommodated. Ms Angell said that there were 16 sleeping pods with weekly bookings
- How the costs of the project would be obtained. Ms Angell said that they would be fundraising.
- Whether there were any preferred locations. Ms Angell said this should be in a non-residential area, with CCTV coverage. An example would be behind the Civic Centre building.

The Mayor thanked Ms Angell for her attendance and presentation and it was

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

(NC)

TC112 REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

Sergeant Ewan Seear summarised the report shown at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Cllr Ms N Haywood reported that there had been disturbances on Saturday nights recently, with no visible Police presence. Sgt Seear said that the support of the District Council Licensing Team was needed to help address this problem but that evening briefings and changes to evening shifts might help.

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

(NC)

TC113 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Written reports from Cllrs B Greenslade and J Mathews, as shown at Appendix 3 to these minutes, had been circulated with the agenda.

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

(NC)

TC114 REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Williams reported on the Save Our Hospital Services campaign:

- He thanked the Town Clerk for chairing a recent meeting organised by the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- He advised that the closure of Holsworthy Hospital had not been handled well by Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust.
- He reported that an update on the Acute Services review had been circulated by the Town Clerk.

- He advised that the campaign was holding two public meetings in Barnstaple, and that all were welcome.

Cllr Miss Lovering reported that she had resigned as a trustee of Pilton House Trust. The Mayor advised that a replacement would be sought at the Annual Town Council meeting.

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

(NC)

TC115 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning and Transportation Committee of 2nd March 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2017 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Heritage, Culture & Community Committee of 9th March 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Heritage, Culture & Community Committee meeting held on 9th March 2017 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

TC116 SELECTION OF MAYOR ELECT

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs J Hunt be selected as Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2017/18.

(NC)

TC117 SELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

RESOLVED: That Cllr I Roome be selected as Deputy Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2017/18.

(NC)

TC118 RAF COMMUNITY PLATE

RESOLVED: That the award of the RAF Community Plate be deferred to the next meeting.

(NC)

TC119 MEETING CYCLE 2017/18

A proposed Town Council meeting schedule for 2017-2018, as shown at Appendix 4 to these minutes, had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the meeting schedule be received and agreed.

(NC)

TC120 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 7.42pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:



Survival Bags - Home and Away

www.survivalbags-homeandaway.org & fb

'Survival Bags - Home and Away' became aware of a new project 'Bus Shelter - Isle of Wight' converting a double decker bus for the homeless to sleep in overnight, with a kitchen and an area for daytime use for different organisations to come in and liaise with those that require support. When the project became public we were offered the donation of our own double decker for North Devon. We discussed the offer with the Bus Shelter organisation who looked into our group and said that they were happy for us to represent them in North Devon. Once our bus has been converted they expect us to support two other groups in South and mid-Devon to convert buses too.

We expect to have the bus during the week beginning 13th March, alongside a support car. The bus will be taxed, MOT'd and insured. We are looking for the right place currently to park it so that we can work on it. The homeless themselves have many skills including carpentry, kitchen fitting, flooring, plumbing and sign writing and will be working on the bus, gaining additional evidence of voluntary work for their C.V's. We need the bus parked near enough the town centre that the homeless will come to it rather than spend time in shop doorways. The area needs to be non-residential and we feel a car park (behind the Civic Centre would be ideal), traveller park or lorry park (I believe there is a height restriction in Seven Brethren car park or that would have been even more suitable) would be a good place.

Due to our growth, 'Survival Bags - Home and Away' and 'Bus Shelter North Devon' will be two individual Charitable Incorporated Organisations (C.I.O's) working together.

The background of Survival Bags - Home and Away

'Survival Bags - Home and Away' was born out of the refugee crisis, when in 2016 we organised over 25 collection points in North Devon for donations of clothing, food and toiletries which we subsequently sorted and packed up for different groups to take to Calais and Greece. Whilst sorting we had a number of items suitable for the homeless and so, we began to take survival bags of clothing, food and sleeping bags out to the homeless in Barnstaple.

We opened a shop in Boutport Street to be able to support the homeless we had met more effectively and to continue with our efforts with the refugee crisis. During this time we also supported a number of other organisations and individuals with survival bags, individually made up to suit the requirements of the recipients.

We gave bags to mothers struggling to provide for new babies, parents needing clothes for their children, to the women's refuge (NDADA), to five wards at the hospital (NDDH) including the SCBU. We especially found ourselves supporting people with poor mental health, whether the homeless, lonely and isolated or other individuals finding us.

Finding the rent on the shop unsustainable along with the growing number of homeless spending time in the shop for something to do in the daytime, meant we needed different premises more suited for our needs and we moved into Barnstaple Youth House for the winter period as it was only used for two youth groups at the time. We had a wonderful Christmas and New Year period there, open all day, 7 days a week for breakfast and supper with the homeless spending their days busy and off the street, playing pool, using the computers for job hunting and completing forms, talking about hopes and futures, contacting family members, discussing difficulties that led to their homelessness and helping the volunteers sort donations. We have 'filled a gap' missing in our local services for the homeless. Other facilities are only open week days and for a few hours a day. The people who attend 'Survival Bags' describe the people there as 'family' and try hard to be respectful and ask for support rather than get involved with anti-social behaviour.

We ran as a small voluntary charitable organisation with a constitution and committee, alongside a large number of supporters and volunteers. A mix of small and larger local business' supported us a great deal, especially the Tesco stores who supplied and cooked Christmas dinner for 28 people, small independent shops and two estate agents, local restaurants and bakeries.

We liaised with the homeless outreach workers who dropped by when they were concerned about a homeless person and couldn't find them vice versa, we accompanied the homeless to appointments if they wished and helped house hunt. We supported some of the homeless into work successfully too. The local police were aware that we supported some of the homeless they were dealing with regularly and dropped by to check on their welfare on occasions. We have also been working with their social workers and support workers.

In the latter weeks in the Youth House we were only able to open restricted hours, however our numbers grew as we supported a lady and her children after her husband committed suicide, an elderly lonely lady who had trained her dog to be a Pet Therapy dog and wanted a safe place to start and also we also had some local youngsters come in to eat and chat who attend local 'out of school education'.

We are currently meeting at 4.30pm each night in the Pannier Market, until we receive the bus, to feed the homeless and stay in contact with the other people who need our support, volunteers and friends.

Police Update For Barnstaple Town Council - March 2017

Crime Summary

Offence Group	Year To 20 th March Compared To Same Period Last Year	Last 28 Day Comparison till 20 th March Previous Year
Violence Leading To Injury	Up +16.3 % (271)	Down -11.1 % (24)
Violence Without Injury	Up +8.9 % (305)	Up + 18.5 % (32)
Burglary Dwelling	Up + 56.0% (78)	Up +700 % (8)
Burglary Non Dwelling	Down - 1.2 % (81)	Up + 125 % (18)
Vehicle Offences	Down - 31.1% (84)	Nil + 00 % (7)
Shop Lifting	Down - 0.9 % (352)	Up + 83.3 % (33)
Criminal Damage	Up +13.3 % (376)	Up +51.9 % (41)
Other Theft	Up +7.6 % (352)	Up +57.98 % (30)

Comments & Trends

Overall for the year victim based crime minus domestic violence incidents is **up 3.9 %** over the same period last year.

There has been a noticeable rise in burglary both domestic and dwelling. We are looking closely at this series and there appears to be activity local to the town relating to commercial and non-dwelling offences and a second more displaced series affecting out of town villages and properties.

We have identified a number of offences in Bideford and we are keeping an open mind regarding any links between the offences. We obviously advise people to think about their home security especially out building s and sheds where high value tool and machinery may be kept.

We have also had an increase locally in retail theft – but only a minor increase but we will again watch this closely.

Community Matters

Street Drinking and Begging

We continue to focus very much on a small number of individuals who are causing disorder and nuisance about the town centre. They all have very different needs and lead very chaotic life styles. One individual is of particular concern and we have recently issued him with a community protection notice and are actively seeking a criminal behaviour order in regard to his continued offending.

A housing solution has also been found for one of our most entrenched rough sleepers but it remains to be seen if this will prove viable for any given length of time.

We are working closely with our partners in health and social care to address the underlying causes behind the behaviour of this small group.

Bike Ride Out in aid of Aiden PLATT – between 800-1000 bikes took part in the event = we are pleased to report that there were no reported incidents or concerns. We worked closely with those planning the event and we will have a further meeting in due course to de-brief the event more fully as they have expressed a desire to make it an annual event.

Operational Concerns:

None

Reports of County and District Councillors to Barnstaple Town Council – March 2017

Report of Councillor B Greenslade

Monies from my invest in Devon pot and community councillor funds approved for the traffic calming scheme for St Georges Rd. Meeting DCC officer at Chanters Hill later this week to complete the detail for the residents parking scheme already approved for the area.

Secondly NDC matters. Amazed that the developer for land behind Youings Drive, who had his previous scheme reduced from 43 to 30 dwellings, is making another application for 43 dwellings. Hopefully the planning committee will stick to its guns.

Have called in for scrutiny the plans by the NDC Executive to remove the pay on exit barriers from two Barnstaple Car Parks without proper consultation with the Town Council or TCM. This meeting takes place this Thursday.

Finally as we come to the end of this four year DCC period my thanks to members and officers for the co-operation received in working for Barnstaple.

Brian Greenslade
County Councillor for Barnstaple North
District Councillor for Pilton.

Report of Councillor J Mathews

2 items to mention. At last after many years traffic calming is now in situ in the Willowtree Raod, Styles Close area of Chichester Estate. White centre lines in position at a couple of locations , and the main junction with Bishops Tawton Road is now defined and no-one really knew who had right of way. Cllr Chris Haywood worked hard on this but encountered many problems as I have. But after a couple of Public meetings and a vote on 4 options by the residents we have resolved the matter. Hope it works,have had good reports so far.

Also like to, place on record my thanks to Deputy Town Clerk and Fred for their work in relation to roadside shrub beds in Cater Road. The area has been cleared and once replanted a resident will do the maintainance.

End of my report

John



2017-18 Calendar of Meetings

May						
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May						
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Annual Town Council Meeting

Heritage Culture and Community

Finance & GP/Corp Governance

Staff/Heritage Culture and Community

Planning & Transportation

Barnstaple Fair 2017

Mayor Making

Christmas Fayre

Environment

Annual Grants Meeting

Full Council

Annual Town Meeting

Rock Park

Buildings Review