

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 24TH JULY 2017 at 7.00pm in the MAIN HALL, GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW, BARNSTAPLE.

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

Councillors: Mrs V Monk, A Windsor, I Roome (Deputy Mayor), J Phillips, J Carter, Mrs J Wilsher, M Chamings, Ms N Haywood, F Jefferies, C Perkins-Beard, I Williams, G Langford, A Rennles, Miss M Lovering, and Mrs L York.

Also present: County Councillors J Mathews and B Greenslade, and two members of the public.

TC29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Upcott, F Vernon, Mrs V Elkins, Mrs S Haywood, C Haywood, Mrs E Davies and M Kennaugh.

TC30 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.

TC31 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman..

(15, 1abs)

TC32 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that she had attended 15 engagements since the last meeting of the Full Council including the opening of the new studios for The Voice FM, and the visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. The royal visit had been a great success and the royal visitors had stayed for 20 minutes longer than scheduled, enjoying local produce at the Pannier Market. The Mayor thanked councillors and staff for their help on the day. She also passed on the thanks of the Chairman of North Devon District Council.

The Mayor reminded councillors of three forthcoming events:

- A leaving celebration for Mrs Claire Parsons at 3pm on 27 July. A card and collection were held at Barum House;
- An audit of Central Town Ward at 5.30pm on 27 July; and

- Town Council Heritage Days from 7 to 13 August, and in particular a Civil War Re-enactment at Rock Park on 13 August. Volunteers were needed and councillors should contact Mrs Graddock or Mrs Sanders with their availability.

TC33 REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

No representative of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary attended the meeting.

TC34 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr J Mathews reported on:

- Complaints about speeding on Landkey Road. Cllr Mathews said he would liaise with Police.
- Complaints about the potentially adverse effect of widening the A361 between the Portmore and Bishops Tawton roundabouts on local residents.
- The completion of white lines in Merrylees.
- The completion of a pedestrian crossing on Sticklepath Hill.
- A missing bin in Summerland Street, which would be reported.
- The clock at the Bus Station, which would be reported as it was not working.
- A number of blocked drains which would be reported to the County Council Highways team.

Councillors commented and questioned on:

- The very poor state of some drains in Barnstaple; and
- Road repairs needed between the new Portmore roundabout and the mini roundabout.

Cllr Mathews said he would report these concerns.

Cllr Greenslade reported on:

- School funding. Cllr Greenslade reported that the County Council had taken £33 per pupil from school budgets, and described the impact on Barnstaple schools. He advised that he and his colleagues had opposed this, and that he had proposed a motion to reinstate reductions of £2.2m. An announcement of Government funding was welcome but was not new money. He said that schools' achievements were amazing despite this, and despite the comparative underfunding across Devon.
- His thanks to the Town Council for its efforts in responding to the consultation on improvements to North Devon Link Road. Further pressure was needed and he had written to the Leader of the District Council urging a response.
- The reduction in Police Officer numbers in Devon, which was below 3,000 for the first time in a long time, whilst the population continued to grow.

- A consultation event on diverting the River Yeo through Pilton Park. Cllr Greenslade said there had not been formal consultation with residents, and he was concerned that the proposal was not the right solution, and that consultation was proceeding when there may not be funding for changes.

Cllrs Roome and Mrs Hunt declared personal interests in the issue of school funding as a school governors.

Councillors commented and questioned on:

- The impact of reductions in school funding, which was said to have made running schools difficult, and had a major impact on vulnerable pupils with special needs. As a result of cuts, the Davie Trust had funded education projects that would previously have been funded by schools;
- Concerns about the impact of proposals for Pilton Park on wildlife, and on flooding, with a greater flow of water being directed into one area;
- The apparent lack of consultation with residents on the Pilton Park proposals;
- Concerns among residents that Pilton Park might be subject to redevelopment;

Cllr Phillips left the meeting at this point

- The impact of education funding reductions on two pupils in Longbridge ward, whom Cllr Rennles advised had been denied the opportunity to attend the same school as a consequence; and

Cllr Phillips returned to the meeting at this point

- The excessive cost of £25,000 of consultants engaged to consider proposals for Pilton Park;

Cllr Mathews added to his earlier report, advising that a court order had been obtained to remove boats from the river bank.

Cllr Roome reported that clarification had been sought regarding cardboard left for kerbside recycling collection. He advised that in pilot areas cardboard must be in the brown bags.

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

(NC)

TC35 REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Rennles reported on his work with the Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum, which he advised was trying to help in respect of the rivers and had heard at a recent meeting from the Harbour Master. The Forum had also discussed their concerns about the Oliver Buildings and the wall by the Leisure Centre, boats on the river bank, and the return of salmon to the river. Cllr Rennles recommended the organisation and said that the fee for their use of Council meeting rooms should be waived.

Cllr Williams reported that the Save Our Hospital Services Devon campaign group had been working on a patient/carer survey to obtain information about the Care Closer to Home initiative. He said this would provide useful facts and data. It was being trialled and would be expanded later.

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

(NC)

TC36 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning and Transportation Committee of 6th July 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 6th July 2017 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Environment Committee of 10th July 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 10th July 2017 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Finance and General Purposes Committee of 17th July 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17th July 2017 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

TC37 ROCK PARK TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Rock Park Trust Management Committee meeting held on 12th July 2017 be received and noted.

(NC)

TC38 REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION AS HEREDITARY FREEMEN OF BARNSTAPLE

The Town Clerk advised that requests from Mr AG Gaydon and Mr GRA Gaydon for admission as hereditary freemen of Barnstaple had been withdrawn.

TC39 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 8.05pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: