

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on Monday, 18th September 2017 at 7.00pm in the MAIN HALL, GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW, BARNSTAPLE.

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

Councillors: S Upcott, Mrs V Monk, Mrs V Elkins, F Vernon, Mrs S Haywood, I Roome, J Phillips, J Carter, Mrs J Wilsher, M Chamings, F Jefferies, M Kennaugh, I Williams, G Langford, A Rennles, Miss M Lovering, Mrs L York and J Williams.

Also present: County Councillors J Mathews and B Greenslade, Sergeant E. Seear, D Chamings, Mrs K Graddock (Deputy Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

TC40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Windsor (Indisposed), C Haywood and N Haywood.

TC41 DISPENSATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllrs Mrs J Hunt, I Roome and Mrs S Haywood 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.

Cllr Mrs L York, M Kennaugh, Mrs J Hunt, I Roome and Mrs S Haywood declared a Personal interest in item 9 as school governors.

TC42 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2017 be deferred for approval until the next meeting.

(NC)

TC43 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that she had attended the following:

- The Civil War in Barnstaple events
- Jubilee Singers 40th Anniversary celebrations
- Burma Star Memorial Service
- NCS Graduation
- Hosted guests from the twin town of Harstad
- Barnstaple Fair
- Special Fair
- Barnstaple Carnival
- Rotary Lunch
- Opening of The Cupcakery

- Dedication Service at The National Arboretum
- Opening of the Pantomime at The Queens Theatre

The Mayor reminded councillors of the following:

- The Mayor's Civic Service is taking place on Sunday, 8th October. All Councillors are invited to attend.

TC44 REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

Sergeant Ewan Seear gave a verbal report on matters to date.

TC45 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Mathews reported the following:

- There will be some ward boundary changes and it has been proposed that Newport, Central and Longbridge ward consist of approx. 6000 electors with 3 members.
- The Police and Crime Commission has appointed their Executive Officer and Treasurer in August which would enhance a closer relationship between Devon and Dorset.
- The developer at Larkbear would like to defer the application.
- Thanked the Town Council for the grass being cut in areas where he has had some issues.

Cllr Greenslade reported the following:

- Congratulated Cllr Williams on his recent election.
- He informed members he was pushing for a direct train route from Barnstaple to London.
- He has suggested to Mr P Heaton-Jones MP to invite the Secretary of State for Transport to hold open discussions regarding the North Devon Link Road.
- The £2.2 million school budget changes will not be in place until 2019-20.
- The new leisure facility has been looked favourably by the Sports Council, but there is still a long road ahead.

Cllr Des Brailey was unable to attend, however, sent a report, which is appended (1) to these minutes.

TC46 COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of Heritage, Culture and Community (27th July), Finance and General Purposes (4th September) and Planning and Transportation (7th September) be deferred until the next meeting.

(NC)

TC47 QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 26

No questions had been received from members of the Council under Standing Order 26.

TC48 MOTION

Cllr Mrs L York proposed the following motion. “That Barnstaple Town Council supports the ‘Stop Underfunding Devon’s Schools’ (SUDS) Campaign”.

There were some concerns over the motion, as there were already campaigns set up opposing the changes and some members felt support should be given to these instead of establishing a new group, which would cover the same issue. However, it was

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council supports the ‘Stop Underfunding Devon’s Schools’ (SUDS) Campaign.

(14.1.4abs)

TC49 MOTION

Cllr I Roome proposed the following motion. “Barnstaple Town Council requests that North Devon District Council incurs no further expenditure on major development at Pilton Park, including consultancy fees, until and unless a full and proper public consultation on the proposal to divert the River yeo through Pilton Park is undertake and public concerns over flood risk are addressed”.

Cllr M Kennaugh opposed the motion. He explained that the Environment Agency had made recommendations to change the water course and that there are no further plans for any additional consultations. He felt that the consultations were important as it was about protecting the people and businesses in the local area.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That “Barnstaple Town Council requests that North Devon District Council incurs no further expenditure on major development at Pilton Park, including consultancy fees, until and unless a full and proper public consultation on the proposal to divert the River yeo through Pilton Park is undertake and public concerns over flood risk are addressed”.

(16.1.2abs)

TC50 REPORTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

None received.

TC51 BARNSTAPLE MUNICIPAL CHARITIES

Members were asked to consider the nomination of Cllr Mrs V Elkins as the Town Council's Trustee representative to Barnstaple Municipal Charities.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs V Elkins be elected as the Town Council's representative to the Barnstaple Municipal Charities.

(18.1abs)

TC52 QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 83

No questions had been received from public registered electors in the town under Standing Order 83.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:

Report from

Cllr Des Brailey MBE

Leader North Devon Council

11th September 2017

At North Devon Council (NDC) we are pleased to once again welcome the Fair to our current site at Seven Brethren. As you know we have identified another site at Seven Brethren, which we will take up once we move forward with our regeneration proposals for the area.

I note you are discussing the Pilton Park area, and I would like to reassure Councillors and residents that the Park will remain as such. The Environment Agency (EA) is taking a lead on this and will carry out any further consultation on the options available for improving flood defences at the Park. Once again, to reassure, we will not be spending any further money on consultants; we have a result from the previous consultation that the EA are working on. Our priority is to protect Barnstaple from flooding, and I make no apology for this.

One item that is occupying minds currently is the Boundary Commission's request for us to review the ward boundary in each area. Our input into this process must be completed by October. A scheme that does not affect town and parish boundaries has been devised, and Councillors are reviewing this currently. However, if a consensus cannot be reached the Boundary Commission has been very clear they will carry out their own exercise and - whatever the outcome - it will be binding. There is no redress once the final plan is presented, so it is important to get it right from the start. The first item that has been accepted is the reduction of Councillors from 43 to 41. There was a push for this to be reduced further, but the leaders at the council agreed this would not be practical. New boundaries will come into play at the 2019 District Elections.

Appendix 1