

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held by video conference on Monday 5th October 2020 AT 7.00pm.

Chairman: Cllr L York

Present: Cllrs V Elkins, R Knight, M Lovering, J Slee, R Mack J Orange & J Coates.

In attendance: Mr R Ward Town Clerk

EN010 Apologies, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Cllr I Roome (North Devon Council meeting), J Carter (family), A Rennles (Health) & Marchewka (Work).

Apologies and reasons were considered and approved by councillors.

(NC)

EN011 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr M Lovering, L York, R Mack & J Orange as members of North Devon Council have a dispensation to discuss and vote on all items on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

EN012 The committee resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th August 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

(7 for & 1 abs)

EN013 The committee resolved that the Budget Monitoring Statement be noted and to meet as a working group on 9th November to discuss the 2021-22 budget requirements.

EN014 Allotment Update

Inspections were carried out on 15th & 16th September in advance of renewals at the end of the month. As a result, 57 people were issued notices informing them that the Town Council would not be renewing their tenancy.

Of these 29 people appealed the decision and 21 were approved on the condition they approve the cultivation of their plot in line with the terms of the tenancy agreement.

Cllr Mack raised concerns about the letters and that they appeared to cause upset, officers made it clear that it is important that the terms of the tenancy agreement are upheld and that people on the waiting list are given the opportunity to get a plot

Pilton College has contacted the Town Council informing us that they have had to clear the ditch on the boundary of between Fairview allotments and the school.

It was evident that materials from the allotment had been dumped in the ditch. A letter was sent to tenants informing them of this and asking them to let us know if they witness anyone fly tipping in the ditch.

A few tenants were unhappy with the letter, but the point was reiterated that it is important that fly tipping does not take place and is in breach of the tenancy agreement.

The water supply at the allotment sites is being turned off for the winter period this week.

The local Police have been in touch to offer tenants an alarm for their allotment sheds, these are being offered to Mill Road as there has been an instance of break ins recently. Any left over will be offered to other sites.

The committee resolved to note the report. (NC)

EN015 Complaint re tenants using fires to dispose of waste on allotments.

Mr Rice had written to the Town Council requesting that tenants not be allowed to have fires on their plots for reasons including the environmental impact, the affect it can have on neighbours of allotment sites and that there are other methods of disposing of waste including composting, district council green bins and the local recycling centres.

Cllrs proposed that this needs to be discussed separately to this meeting by the group formed through the outcome of the next agenda item. (NC)

EN016 Councillors resolved to form an Allotments Working Group, reporting to the Environment Committee in order to discuss and plan for allotment developments and issues. Action for the Town Clerk to co-ordinate the first meeting. (NC)

EN017 The Climate Emergency Working Group – next meeting due in October, currently working on having a webpage to promote the activities of the working group. The Climate week has been moved to April 2021. (NC)

EN018 North Devon Council Climate Action Team

Cllr Mack reported on:

- The work of Exeter University with citizen assemblies
- A new Smart Living leaflet
- The Devon Climate Emergency – North Devon Report

EN019 Update on the installation of water fountains. A tap that can be used for handwashing and bottle filling has been installed in Rock Park at the toilet block. There are a few operational issues, relating to vandalism that are currently being resolved. Councillors noted the report. (NC)

EN020 Councillors were asked to consider an updated North Devon Council Public Space Protection Order for Barnstaple.

RESOLVED: to inform North Devon Council that Councillors are happy with the principle of the order but wanted to understand better the area of the town covered and who would be responsible for enforcement? (NC)

Meeting ended at 20.10pm.

Chairman

Signed..... Dated