

## BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE meeting held on MONDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 at 7.00pm in THE GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW, BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Cllrs A Windsor (Chairman)  
Cllrs I Roome, Mrs J Hunt, M Chamings, I Williams and Miss M Lovering.

Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock, Deputy Town Clerk and Mr P Rogers, 361 Energy.

### EN60 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Cllr Mrs V Elkins (Indisposed), Cllr E Davies, F Jefferies, Mrs A Dawson (Indisposed) and L Dawson.

### EN61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED

Councillor Mrs J Hunt and Cllr Roome declared an interest as members of North Devon Council but have been granted a dispensation to discuss all items on the agenda, in accordance with SO66.

### EN62 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(NC)

### EN63 PRESENTATION FROM 361 ENERGY

Members welcomed Mr Paul Rogers from 361 Energy who gave a presentation on the community based organisation that is working with schools and communities in northern Devon to reduce energy and carbon emissions. The organisation was set up by a group of like-minded sustainability and renewable energy consultants.

361 Energy's first project was to engage with 40 households in Braunton and Ilfracombe in collaboration with local schools. Pupils and households will be supported to learn about reducing gas and electricity consumption through behavioral changes and technical solutions. The group have also received funding to set up a project advising those in fuel poverty in Ilfracombe thanks to a grant from the Devon Funding Network.

Further projects being developed include a buyers' club to enable local residents to join a bulk buying discount scheme for products ranging from LED light bulbs to solar panels. 361 Energy are also investigating the potential for setting up community energy projects.

Members were excited by the organisation and felt that the Town Council should support the organisation.

RESOLVED:

1. That a vote of thanks be given to Mr Rogers for his interesting and informative presentation.
  2. That the Deputy Town Clerk investigate possibilities for the Council to work with 361 Energy and that support is given for any of their events.
- (NC)

\*\*\* Mr P Rogers left the meeting. \*\*\*

#### EN64 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE TOWN

Members were reported that the insurance company had paid out for the benches that were set alight too in Castle Green. Members considered locations for the replacement benches and

RESOLVED:

1. To allow the remaining bench to be donated to Yeo Valley Woodland.
2. That the Council purchase two seated benches to replace two benches in bad repair.

(NC)

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that a quote had been received to place lawn artificial grass on an area that will be taken over by the Council. This would be a pilot project and the Town Clerk has applied for grant funding. Members thought the idea was great in principle but wanted to wait until a decision had been made on the grant before agreeing to allocating funds.

The following items were discussed:

- The ivy growing on the offices at Mermaid Walk
- Drains in the High Street being smelly and full of debris
- Bike parking
- Pot holes in Pilton

RESOLVED:

1. That the Deputy Town Clerk report the growth of ivy to Devon County Council.
2. That the Deputy Town Clerk investigate the drains issue and report back to a future meeting.
3. That bike parking in the High Street is investigated and reported back to a future meeting.
4. That the Deputy Town Clerk ask Devon County Council for a programme of resurfacing works for Pilton and send to members.

(NC)

#### EN65 PLANTED AREAS

Members were reported that the Council previously felt weed spraying should be investigated. Further to this, the Deputy Town Clerk has found

a local contractor that would do a 12-month trial of weed spraying based on the snow warden routes.

Members were keen to give this a try and felt that as more spraying took place, the more information we could gain as to what areas require spraying in the future.

Cllr Chamings questioned what spray the company would use.

RESOLVED: That a budget of £3000 be allocated towards weed spraying and that Dan Perrin Landscapes is appointed to carry out the work.

(NC)

\*\*\* Cllr Miss M Lovering left the meeting and did not return, therefore, the meeting became inquorate however, members had an informal discussion on the following items. \*\*\*

Meeting ended at 8.20pm.

Members discussed grass cutting for the year 2016-17, following on from the takeover of public highway grassed areas and verges by Barnstaple Town Council. After some discussion it was thought that the Deputy Town Clerk should approach ISS to carry on cutting the grass for 2016-17 to allow the Clerk adequate time to produce a tender document, however this item would be brought to the next committee meeting.

(NC)

EN66      ALLOTMENTS

Members discussed whether there should be an Allotments Sub-Committee following on from the staffing review and Corporate Plan objectives.

Informal discussion ended at 8.30pm.

Chairman

Signed .....

Dated .....