

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE meeting held on MONDAY, 26th MAY 2015 at 7.00pm in the GUILDHALL, BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Councillors Mrs V Elkins (Mayor Ex Officio), A Windsor, I Roome, Mrs J Hunt (Deputy Mayor Ex Officio), M Chamings, F Jefferies, I Williams, Miss M Lovering and Mrs A Dawson.

Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock (Assistant Town Clerk) and Cllr L Dawson.

*** The Mayor took the Chair. ***

EN01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr I Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Hunt and it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr A Windsor be elected Chairman for the municipal year 2015-16.

(NC)

Cllr A Windsor took the Chair.

EN02 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mrs V Elkins proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Hunt and it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs E Davies be elected as Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2015-16.

(NC)

EN03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Councillor Mrs E Davies.

EN04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Mrs J Hunt and I 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.

EN05 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 20th April 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(4.7abs)

EN06 BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT

Members were circulated the budget monitoring statement, prior to the meeting. A Brief description of the headings was given to members.

RESOLVED: That the statement be received and noted.

(NC)

EN07 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE TOWN

Members were informed that the form attached to the agenda was for concerns to be reported to other agencies regarding environmental issues in the town, these could include, blocked drains, fly tipping, recycling and waste collection services or street furniture.

There were four concerns raised, these were:

1. Overflowing litter bins at the end of Coronation Street towards the Urban Relief Road.
2. Small trees overgrowing out of footpaths near 6 Martin Road adjacent to Goodleigh Road.
3. Hedges need cutting back outside 11 and 12 Westaway Close.
4. Footpath access from North Road to Westaway Close has overhanging branches which could catch peoples head.

RESOLVED: That the concerns above be reported to the relevant authority or actioned in house.

(NC)

EN08 PLANTED AREAS

a) To receive update report from the Assistant Town Clerk and consider any actions therefrom.

Members were given a brief outline of the green and planted areas scheme and the progress to date, which included 13 sponsored locations and 4 signs being erected.

Cllr Williams suggested that the Probation Service could be used to help tackle specific areas, however, he was shocked to learn prior to the meeting that the costs related to them where relatively high. A number of members suggested that the Town Council could perhaps run an initiative to help weed spray areas and provide volunteer groups with equipment and perhaps man power to improve areas within the parish. After much discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Clerk investigate what resources including staff time and equipment the Town Council has available and any costs that might be associated with the proposed project.

(NC)

Members were asked to consider whether the TAP funding cut should be completed within the next two weeks. The Town Clerk had wished members to decide whether they wished the cut to take place or the money used on other green and planted areas projects. Members asked what areas would be cut, the Clerk replied that it would be the same as the previous cuts paid for by Barnstaple Town Council TAP funding.

A number of councillors suggested that the money may be better spent on other projects that would also enhance the area, however, some felt the grassed areas were unattractive and in some places, dangerous. After some discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Hunt and seconded by Cllr J Phillips and

RESOLVED: That the scheduled TAP funding grass cut be authorised.
(3.2.5abs)

b) To receive and consider a maintenance cut and future maintenance of Alexandra Road, Barnstaple.

Members were circulated a quote to cut the areas next to St John Ambulance Station, both sides of the Ring Road and the flower beds and hedge alongside the inner relief road towards Pilton. The Assistant Town Clerk reported that more reasonable quotes might be able to be maintained however, members may wish to consider the quote attached and whether in principle they wish the work to be carried out.

Cllr Windsor suggested that the work is carried out, however, the hedgerow is submitted to Devon County Council to cut back as it is a Health and Safety issue.

After further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Assistant Town Clerk is authorised to agree the works up to the value of £3305.00 after further quotes are obtained.
(NC)

c) To receive and consider request from North Devon against Domestic Abuse for a white flower installation on the Square.

Members were circulated a report and pictures detailing information relating to a request to use the grass area to the front on the square for a white flower installation. Members were in full support of the proposals and agreed that the installation would bring great awareness of the charity.

The Assistant Town Clerk informed members that Town Centre Management were in support of the project also, however, they require a 6m stretch of the grassed area for the light switch on.

After further discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

1. That the project is authorised to take place on the square, subject to agreement by Devon County Council and that the area used for the Switch on is not affected.
2. That any plants or grass damaged in the setting up, during the installation and removal of the installation is restored by the organisation.

(NC)

EN09 BUS SHELTER

Members received a request from Cllr Adam Bradford, North Devon Council regarding the maintenance and cleaning of a proposed bus shelter at Bicton Street. Members were concerned with future maintenance but were in agreement to place the shelter on the cleaning rota.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council agrees to carry out the cleaning of the bus shelter if sited, as per other shelters and that no maintenance is carried out by the Town Council.

(8.1abs)

EN10 ALLOTMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

a) To approve remit for the Allotment Sub-committee

Members were circulated the draft remit, as appended to these minutes, prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the remit is approved and that the Sub-committee is delegated to spend up to £1,000.00 on any one item.

(NC)

b) To appoint members of the Allotment Sub-committee

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Mrs V Elkins, J Phillips, Mrs E Davies, Mrs A Dawson, L Dawson and A Windsor be appointed as members of the Allotment Sub-committee.

(NC)

c) To appoint a Chairman of the Allotment Sub-committee

Cllr I Roome proposed, seconded by Cllr A Windsor and it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs V Elkins be elected as Chairman for the municipal year 2015-16.

(NC)

D) To appoint a Vice Chairman for the Allotment Sub-committee

Cllr F Jefferies proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Hunt and it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs A Dawson be elected Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2015-16.

The meeting ended at 8.01pm.

Chairman.

Signed.....

Dated.....