

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE meeting held on MONDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER 2016 at 7.00pm in The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple.

Present: Cllr A Windsor (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs V Elkins, Mrs J Hunt (Mayor Ex Officio), M Chamings, F Jefferies, M Kennaugh and Miss M Lovering.

Also in attendance: W Austin, Town Clerk.

EN25 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Cllrs I Roome, Mrs E Davies (indisposed) and I Williams.

EN26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED

Cllr Mrs J Hunt, as a member of North Devon District Council, declared a dispensation 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.

EN27 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 31st October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(5, 2abs)

EN28 GRASS CUTTING AND HIGHWAY VERGE MAINTENANCE

Members considered a letter from Devon County Council circulated with the agenda, requesting confirmation that the Town Council would continue to provide the verge maintenance service, and allocating funding of £10,000 towards the service.

RESOLVED: That the letter from Devon County Council be received and noted.

(NC)

RESOLVED: That the verge maintenance service for Barnstaple continue to be provided by Barnstaple Town Council in 2017/18.

(NC)

Members went on to consider possible options for grass cutting and verge maintenance in 2017/18. The following were discussed:

- Identification of new companies to quote for grounds maintenance works.
- Engagement with the Tarka Country Trust to promote biodiversity and reduce costs through community support.
- Consideration of fewer cuts in suburban areas.
- Further use of artificial grass.
- Provision of a map of sponsored and un-sponsored green areas to committee members.

RESOLVED: That there be a minimum of four grass cuts in 2017/18, with provision for up to six.

(NC)

RESOLVED: That the procurement of this service be delegated to the Clerk.

(NC)

EN29 MAINTENANCE VEHICLE

Members considered competitive quotes for the procurement of a vehicle to assist with maintenance services, which was circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the quotation for option 1, a Mitsubishi L200, be accepted.

(NC)

RESOLVED: That sponsorship of the vehicle be investigated.

(NC)

EN30 361 ENERGY

Members received correspondence from 361 Energy, circulated with the agenda and requesting support for an energy advice clinic in Barnstaple.

RESOLVED: That the letter from 361 Energy be received and noted.

(NC)

That an energy advice clinic be considered for inclusion in appropriate Barnstaple Town Council events, and that 361 Energy also be signposted to other relevant events in Barnstaple.

(NC)

EN31 ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING SCHOOL 2017

The Clerk requested that members consider possible topics for inclusion in the 2017 Environment/Planning School. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: That consideration be given to the following for inclusion in the 2017 Environment/Planning School:

- (ii) A presentation on flooding, including specific issues for Barnstaple and other parishes present at the School.

- (iii) Biodiversity and the use of pesticides, and their impact on wildlife, especially bees.
- (iv) Recycling.
- (v) Community involvement in environmental services, for example encouraging residents to cut grass verges outside their homes.
- (vi) Grounds maintenance – options and best practice, including wild flower growth.

(NC)

Meeting ended at 7.40pm.

Chairman

Signed

Dated