

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of The Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.00pm in The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple.

Present: J Phillips (Chairman)  
V Monk, V Elkins, A Windsor, J Hunt, J Carter J Wilsher, L York, A Shah,  
J Slee, V Nel, J Orange & G Marchewka.

Three representatives from Age Concern Barnstaple & District.

Cllr R Mack

In attendance: Mr R Ward Town Clerk.

FG054 Apologies, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from I Roome & A Rennles.

FG055 Declarations and Dispensations  
Councillors J, Hunt, J Phillips, L York & J Orange as members of North Devon Council, declared a dispensation under SO65 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.

FG056 The committee resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

FG057 Financial Reports (11:1abs)

a) RESOLVED: That the Budget Variance Report be received and noted.  
(NC)

b) RESOLVED: That the Bank Transactions report be received and noted.  
(NC)

c) RESOLVED: That the Business Direct Reserve Account and petty cash account for Barum House be received and noted.  
(NC)

d) RESOLVED: That the Aged Debtors and Aged Creditors Analysis and Nominal Balances reports be received and noted.  
(NC)

e) RESOLVED: That the Direct Debits and Credit Card reports be received and noted.  
(NC)

FG058 The Committee resolved to receive and note Internal Audit Report dated 23rd October 2019 and to congratulate the Finance Officer for her diligent work.

(NC)

FG059 Budget 2020-2021

The committee received a presentation from representatives of Age Concern Barnstaple & District trustees explaining the services they deliver and their current financial position.

The service is mostly delivered through volunteers and is dependent on funding through donations and a grant from Devon County Council. This still leaves a shortfall and support from the Town Council would help to ensure that the service can be delivered in the future.

The committee reviewed the Proposed Budget for 2020-2021 as presented in the report from the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Finance and General Purposes Committee should recommend to Full Council a precept of £917,935 an increase of £21.47 per year for a Band D Property.

(NC)

Councillors expressed their thanks for the work in preparing the budget.

FG060 RESOLVED: That the following matter shall be taken in the absence of the press and public, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, as the item contains exempt information as defined by Standing Order 82a.

(NC)

FG061 The Future of The Delivery of Landscape Services.

The Committee considered the options appraisal report as presented by the Town Clerk.

The report suggested that the Town Council could consider taking on the self delivery of landscape services in Rock Park in 2021, when the current contract reaches its 8 year review.

The report also recommended that the current arrangements for the management of the highway verges and shrub beds continue to be managed through contractors.


The committee was very supportive of the proposal, expressing the view that the staff team are very capable of taking on this work, it will help to restore pride in the park, give more opportunities for volunteers to get involved and to consider the option to use Green Flag Parks criteria to set the standards for the park.

RESOLVED: To bring the delivery of landscape services in Rock Park in house from April 2021.

(NC)

Meeting ended at 7.50pm

Chairman.

Signed .....  .....

Dated .....  .....