

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of HERITAGE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY, 28TH JULY 2016 at 7.00pm in the GUILDHALL, BARNSTAPLE

Present: Councillor Mrs E Davies (Chairman)
Councillors I Roome, Mrs J Hunt (Deputy Mayor Ex Officio), C Haywood, M Chamings, Ms N Haywood, F Jefferies, G Langford, L Dawson, and Mrs A Dawson.

Also present: Will Austin (Town Clerk), Mrs M Sanders (Administration Manager), Cllr Mrs V Monk, and 15 members of the public.

HCC07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Councillor Mrs V Elkins (indisposed), F Vernon (indisposed), I Williams, A Rennles, and Miss M Lovering.

HCC08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

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

HCC09 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(8, 2abs)

RESOLVED: That agenda item 6, Pokémon GO, be brought forward as the next item of business.

(NC)

HCC10 POKEMON GO

Cllr L Dawson presented to the committee on the potential benefits to Barnstaple of the new mobile game, Pokémon GO. A video introduced the nature of the game, which encourages the user to visit geographical locations to find and capture 'virtual' Pokémon characters.

Cllr Dawson identified approximately 20 such locations across Barnstaple with a link to the town's heritage, and highlighted the game's benefits in terms of encouraging users to see and take in local history. A group numbering 197 members had been established, and this was good for socialising and for the environment, as the group had taken to litter picking as they tour locations.

Councillors considered the potential benefits for the town's heritage and the local economy.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 84 be suspended to allow public participation in this item only.

(NC)

Members of the group spoke regarding:

- Working with the Town Council to form a Pokémon trail of significant locations.
- The group's efforts to minimise any adverse impact, such as efforts to avoid forming large groups in any one place, and helping others when out playing the game.
- The social and educational benefits of the game.
- The health benefits of being encouraged by the game to walk.

RESOLVED: That a media release be drafted welcoming Pokémon GO to Barnstaple as a positive endorsement of the game and its users, and highlighting the need for responsible behaviour and sensitivity towards sites of interest.

(NC)

HCC11 BARNSTAPLE GUILDHALL

Members considered the success to date of opening the Guildhall to public view every Wednesday, and whether a different weekday might generate more interest

RESOLVED: That the Guildhall open house days should in future be from 10am to 12pm on Fridays, to include the Mayor's Parlour. Publicity options including use of mannequins, cutouts, posters, leaflets and media advertising should be investigated.

(NC)

Members also considered the committee's future aspirations for the Guildhall, and

RESOLVED: That the following changes to the Guildhall be submitted to the Buildings Review Sub-Committee for consideration, and for inclusion in any future funding bid:

- A revised colour scheme with natural wood
- Moving portraits
- A virtual reality guide to the Guildhall for use in particular by people with disabilities
- A café, gift shop and Tourist Information Centre
- An improved passenger lift to the first floor only
- Conference facilities
- A Barnstaple-focused museum

- More interpretation of artefacts in guide book form
- Regular dramatic court re-enactments
- Community coffee mornings
- A professionally produced DVD of the building

(NC)

HCC12 WEDDINGS

Members considered the current fee structure for Guildhall weddings, and in particular the arrangements for out of hours support. They also considered whether there should be investment in additional marketing activity.

RESOLVED: That the fee for a wedding hire be increased to £200 for weddings on or after 1st April 2017, with a fee for out of hours support of £150.

(NC)

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be allocated for additional market, subject to available revenue funding.

(NC)

HCC13 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that:

- There had been very pleasing outcomes to date from the agreement with North Devon Theatres to run St Anne's Arts & Community Centre. The variety and number of events had been even better than envisaged at this stage of the agreement.
- The previously advised Heritage Open Day events were all coming together. Volunteers were needed for a jury for the court re-enactments.
- The Barnstaple heritage timeline had been redesigned to feature on the wall beyond the checkouts at the new Asda store. Images of Barnstaple past were also to appear on temporary hoardings around the store. This was an excellent opportunity for temporary and permanent showcasing of the town's history.
- The clearance of the Heritage Centre had been arranged and would be completed by 26th September. It was anticipated that North Devon Council would ask for return of the building by the end of September.
- Councillors were asked to consider a leaflet drop of the Summer Fun and Tours leaflets in their areas.

Cllrs Mrs Hunt, Ms N Haywood, C Haywood, Mrs Davies (tentative), Langford, Mrs S Haywood, and L Dawson (tentative) volunteered to be members of a re-enactment jury.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be noted.

(NC)

HCC14 BUDGET REPORT

RESOLVED: That the budget report be received and noted.

(NC)

Meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Signed:

Dated: