

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the HERITAGE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on 2 June 2015 at 7.00 pm in the Guildhall, Barnstaple.

Present: Councillors: Mrs V Elkins (Mayor), I Roome, Mrs J Hunt, C Haywood, Mrs E Davies, M Chamings, Ms T Haywood, F Jefferies, I Williams, G Langford, A Rennles, and Ms M Lovering

Also Present: W Austin (Town Clerk), Mrs C Parsons (Corporate Services Manager/Committee Clerk and Cllr L Dawson

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs V Elkins took the Chair for the first two items on the agenda.

HCC01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Councillors Vernon and Mrs Dawson.

HCC02 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE FOR 2015/2016

Cllr Mrs Elkins, as Mayor, called for nominations for Chairman.

Cllr I Roome proposed, Seconded by Cllr I Jefferies and it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs E Davies be elected Chairman of committee for the ensuing municipal year.

(NC)

Councillor Mrs E Davies then took the Chair.

HCC03 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR COMMITTEE FOR 2015/2016

Cllr Mrs Davies called for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Cllr Ms Haywood proposed, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Hunt and it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr C Haywood be elected Vice Chairman of the committee for the ensuing municipal year

(NC)

HCC04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

Declarations of Interest as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Cllrs Roome and Mrs Hunt as members of North Devon Council.

HCC05 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(3.9abs)

HCC06 BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT

The Budget Monitoring Statement was circulated prior to the meeting with the agenda papers.

Cllr Mrs Hunt asked for clarification of the “2” and the “E” in the note column of the budget monitoring statement.

The Town Clerk explained that these should not be present and that the “2” related to expenditure to be offset against grant funding. Again, the “E” was possibly a note from the past, but the Town Clerk would check with the Finance Officer to confirm.

It was proposed by Cllr Roome and seconded by Cllr Mrs Davies and

RESOLVED: That the Budget monitoring statement be noted, subject to the Town Clerk checking for clarification with the Finance Officer.

(NC)

HCC07 REPORT BY CULTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Clerk explained to committee the structure of how the committee at present operates, whereby a member of staff clerked the meeting with the Culture and Community Development Manager, along with the Heritage Centre Manager delivered and produced the reports for committee. The Design Manager’s role was seen as a wider role with the Town Council and not just the committee. Extra staff could be provided at meetings but this would incur extra costs for staff hours.

Cllr Haywood stated that he thought it would be an advantage to have a member of staff at meetings who was more involved in the delivering of projects.

Cllr Roome explained that there was a time when three heads of service attended committee meetings but this incurred costs in staff overtime, and that there was a need to balance resources. He reminded members that questions could be put to the Clerk before the meetings, on receipt of agendas.

The Town Clerk were reminded that the committee only met quarterly, but if members wanted to be more active in their role as committee members then it would be good if they were able to visit the Heritage Centre and speak with the staff involved and offer their support, thus supporting the

Heritage Centre and St Anne's Arts and Community Centre in their roles as committee members through community engagement.

Councillor Rennles also reminded members that volunteers were needed at the Heritage Centre and for members to support this if they had spare time.

Councillor Mrs Davies suggested that members should volunteer for the Craft Market in the Guildhall on 14 June in order that the Dodderidge Room could be opened for members of the public who would not normally get access to the room. The Town Clerk explained that although the Guildhall and Dodderidge Room were open to the public as part of the Town and Guildhall tours, it was felt that the building should be opened more and if grant funding was sought for refurbishment, then HLF would want to see the building open more.

Cllr Haywood brought to the committee's attention the imminent closure of the Devon Records Office and Local Studies Centre and how the Charters of Barnstaple Fair would be lost to Exeter. He explained that the Rotary Club of Barnstaple were offering to support to keep the Charters in Barnstaple and that the Town Council should be considered as holders of these artefacts.

Cllr M Chamings declared an interest at this point

Cllr Chamings did however explain to committee that the Charters were part of a large collection and however good the intentions of the Rotary Club of Barnstaple were, unfortunately, large collections are not often split and costs would be too exorbitant for the Rotary Club, and that also the Guildhall would not meet storage requirements needed as the Charters and other artefacts needed to be kept in a secure, temperature controlled environment and conserved by an archivist if they were to be preserved for the town forever. He felt that a campaign to keep the Devon Records Office in Barnstaple would be more viable.

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Roome and seconded by Cllr Mrs Hunt and

RESOLVED That

- a) A Motion be formulated and taken to Full Council
- b) The motion to instruct the Town Clerk to effectively approach the media expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the proposed closure of the Devon Records Office and to take this to Devon County Council, and via the media so the existing petition reaches the wider community
- c) Cllr Haywood to put forward the motion at Full Council
- d) That the report from the Culture and Community Manager be received and noted

(NC)

HCC08 REPORT FROM HERITAGE CENTRE MANAGER

The report was circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Haywood and seconded by Cllr Rennles that the report be received and noted.

(NC)

HCC09 REPORT BY DESIGN MANAGER

The report from the Design Manager was circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed and

RESOLVED: That the report from Design Manager be received and noted.

(NC)

The meeting ended at 8.00pm.

Chairman.

Signed.....

Dated