

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the HERITAGE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on 7th July 2015 at 7.00pm in the Guildhall, Barnstaple.

Present: Councillors: Mrs J Hunt (Deputy Mayor ex-officio), M Chamings, Ms N Haywood, F Jefferies, G Langford, L Dawson, A Rennles, Miss M Lovering, and Mrs A Dawson.

Also Present: W Austin (Town Clerk), Mrs M Sanders (Administration and Planning Support Officer).

HCC10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Councillors C Haywood, I Roome and Mrs V Elkins.

HCC11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED

Cllr Mrs J Hunt as a member of North Devon Council declared a dispensation under S.O 66 to discuss and vote on all items on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial, legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

HCC12 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(9.1abs)

HCC13 CORPORATE PLAN – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES AND PRORITIES

The Town Clerk informed members that the committee needed to consider their future objectives and input towards the Corporate Plan. He further reported that staff directly responsible for delivering Heritage, Culture and Community work were consulted regarding the objectives and as a result draft aims were circulated to members at the meeting.

Cllr Jefferies suggested holding an annual music festival. This would utilise Town Council buildings.

Cllr Miss Lovering suggested that a programme for all ages is set up to educate about the heritage of the Town. Also, that the committee is engaged in Heritage Open days. Cllr Mrs Davies replied that links have already been set up with the local schools, which the committee could expand on for future projects.

The lease of the Queen Anne's building (Barnstaple Heritage Centre) was discussed, as this is due to expire in 2019. Members asked whether the shop currently makes a profit. The Town Clerk informed members that he would report back to a future meeting regarding this request as he does not hold definite figures since the new management of the Heritage Centre was put in place.

Members who volunteered to open the Dodderidge Room at the recent Craft Market expressed concern regarding the items in the building, which are not currently on display to the general public. The Town Clerk was asked whether an inventory is kept and if the monetary and historical value was known. Cllr Chamings suggested that if anything was valuable then it would need to be stored correctly and that it would be beneficial for an expert to be approached. It was agreed that this would be investigated by the Town Clerk.

After further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the following objectives be accepted and recommended for approval by Full Council for the Town Council's Corporate Plan.

1. To preserve and protect Barnstaple's heritage for the benefit of the community.
2. To increase and improve the availability, usage, promotion and community benefit of our heritage buildings, including the refurbishment of The Guildhall.
3. To review the services and activities provided by the Committee, including the future of the Queen Anne Building, achieving an appropriate balance of community and commercial benefit.
4. To develop partnership working and social enterprise to maximise the town's heritage and cultural offer.
5. To support creative activities to develop the cultural offer in Barnstaple.

(NC)

HCC14 GUIDED TOURS – TO CONSIDER THE ARRANGMENTS FOR INCLUSION OF PENROSE ALMSHOUSES IN GUIDED TOURS, AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS ARISING

The Town Clerk informed Members that a letter had been received from Penrose Almshouses, which requested the Council to pay a 50p per person donation, if the Almshouses are included in the Town Tours. The Heritage Centre Manager had responded verbally stating that this had not been budgeted for, however, Penrose Almshouses asked that their request be taken to members.

***The Chairman Cllr Mrs Davies declared an interest at this point but remained in the meeting. ***

The committee discussed the request and felt that the 50p requested could not be part of the £4.00 charged for the Town Tours. Cllr Ms N Haywood suggested that the admission fee could be raised to £4.50 to incorporate the Almshouses into the tour. Members expressed concerns that this would jeopardise interest in the tours as it may be deemed too expensive. The Town Clerk asked the committee to be aware of the added cost implications of administrating the 50p charge.

The Town Clerk informed members that the tour doesn't currently include going inside the Almshouses and that attendees are now shown the outside colonnade.

The Chairman stated that the Almshouses are currently fundraising to repair and maintain the colonnade. After further discussion, members felt that the inclusion of the Almshouses and an added cost to the admission fee was not at present an option. The committee wished to make the board of trustees aware of their grant scheme, open to applications in October.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Clerk writes to the Penrose Almshouses to inform them that at present the Town Council are unable to provide a donation for entrance into the Almshouses and that the Almshouses would not be included within the Tour.
2. That Penrose Almshouses are made aware of the Town Council's grant scheme to help with the regeneration of the colonnade.

(NC)

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

Chairman

Signed.....

Dated.....