

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council meeting held on Monday 24th February 2020 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple.

Present: Cllr A Rennles (Town Mayor) in the Chair.

Councillors: V Monk, V Elkins, A Windsor, I Roome, J Hunt, R Knight, J Phillips, J Carter, , M Lovering, L York, P Leaver, A Shah, V Nel, J Slee, R Mack, J Coates, J Orange, G Marchewka, M Fowler & E George.

In attendance: Devon & Cornwall Police: PS Paul McWhinnie
Devon County Council: Councillors: J Mathews & B Greenslade
Robert Ward (Town Clerk).

TC073 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Wilsher & T Clarkson.
Councillor S Jusef apologies received after the meeting.

TC074 Dispensations and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
Cllrs I Roome, J Hunt, J Phillips, M Lovering, L York, R Mack & J Orange as members of North Devon District Council, have a dispensation under SO 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.

TC075 Minutes
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(NC)

TC076 Mayor's Report
The Mayor made the following announcements

- Mayor's Concert, Friday 20th March at Christ Church, Bear Street.
- Mayor's Concert, Sunday 29th March at St Peter's Church, will be attended by The Lord Mayor of Plymouth and Deputy Lieutenant. All Councillors are encouraged to attend.
- The Mayor of Suza, Italy is planning to visit in March, date to be confirmed a Civic Reception is proposed, details to follow.
- Town Council is today adopting the "General Power of Competence" following the Town Clerk's completion of his Certificate in Local Council Administration.
- VE Day Celebration - May 9th & 10th is a major event, organised by the Veteran's Charity, the Town Council will be contributing, all are encouraged to attend.

TC077 Report from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
Police Sergeant Paul McWhinnie.
Gave a report to the meeting covering rough sleeping, street drinking and town centre begging (appendix one)

TC078

Report from District and County Councillors.

Devon County Council:

Cllr J Mathews

The drains on the Halfords roundabout appear to now be working.

Hollowtree Road has had resurfacing works.

The access road to Park School from Bishops Tawton Road has also been repaired.

The legal notices have gone up for the new Puffin crossing on Landkey Road, Newport.

The suicide prevention works the Taw Bridge barriers are continuing and appear to be effective.

Cllr B Greenslade

Devon County Council Band D council tax for 2020-2021 will be £1439.46.

Representations have been made for an extra £2M investment in highways from the current earmarked reserves

DCC are working with Government to secure a new owner for the Appledore shipyard.

Have funded two new grit bins on Westaway Plain

Cllr P Leaver – What is the cost of the new Landkey Rd crossing?

Cllr Mathews - £75-£80,000

Cllr M Lovering – Derby Rd still closed, was due to reopen at the end of December 2019.

Cllr Greenslade – This is due to weather delays that have prevented the utility company completing their works.

Cllr M Fowler – The Derby Rd closure has diverted the traffic on to Bickton St, it has become a rat run and the surface is becoming badly damaged.

Cllr I Roome – Please ensure that any additional funds for highways are shared with the North Devon area.

Cllr V Monk – Eastern Ave always appears to be in better condition than the estate roads, why is this?

Cllr Mathews – it is a strategic road so is maintained to a higher standard.

Cllr A Rennles – Please can an officer from DCC be invited to explain the strategy for highway maintenance.

Proposed: To invite an officer from DCC to explain the highway maintenance strategy.

(NC)

North Devon Council:

Cllr L York

The Climate Action team will have a week of activities 21st to 28th March.

Cllr J Orange

Cllr J Coates has been lobbying NDC for new dog waste bins in Pilton Park and Rotary Gardens, two have been installed.

Cllr I Roome

The Silverwood Heights play area is being reinstated.

Thank you to the Town Council for the efforts made to get the North Road railings repaired.

NDC Councillors meeting with the Mannings Pits organisers.

Extra funding is being sought for North Devon Against Domestic Abuse NDADA

Cllr J Hunt

Attending a course in London with the LGA looking at local government funding including the potential impact in changes in business rates and the need to generate more income.

Cllr J Philips

It is expected that there will be further reductions in funding from central government that will have an impact on NDC funding.

NDC have an LGA peer inspection of the council happening for three days this week.

RESOLVED: That the reports from the County and District Councillors be received and noted.

(NC)

TC079

Committee Minutes

Committee	Date	Page Numbers
Planning & Transportation	23 rd January 2020	111 to 113
Environment Committee	27 th January 2020	114 to 115
Staff Committee	6 th February 2020	116 to 117
Planning & Transportation	6 th February 2020	118 to 120

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Committee meetings and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted in accordance Standing Order 24.

(NC)

TC080

Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies

Cllr R Knight

Taw & Torridge Estuary Forum AGM was on 20th January, it was well attended. Concerns were raised about the flood plain around the Civic Centre and the live-aboards on the estuary bank.

The Bridge Trust AGM is on 10th March, The Charitable Incorporated Organisation, The Bridge Trust (Registered Charity Number 1184834) became active on 1st January 2020.

RESOLVED: To note the reports.

(NC)

- TC081 The Council resolved to the note the first report from the Branstaple Twinning Association (NC)
- TC082 The General Power of Competence
RESOLVED: To note that the Town Clerk has completed the course of studies and passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). (NC)

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council from 24th February 2020, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence. (NC)
- TC083 Devon Climate Declaration
RESOLVED: To adopt the Devon Climate Declaration (appendix 2) in support of the Climate Emergency Declaration as adopted at the Full Council meeting of 22nd July 2019. (NC)
- TC084 RESOLVED: To note and adopt the Town Council meetings calendar for the period May 2020 to May 2021 (Appendix 3). (NC)
- TC085 Nominations to Outside Bodies
Pilton House Trust – Cllr A Shah was nominated to represent the Town Council. (NC)

Barnstaple Almshouses (ex Barnstaple Municipal Charities) – no nomination made at this meeting, Councillors are asked to contact the Town Clerk if they are interested in becoming a Trustee.
- TC086 Questions – Standing Orders 25 and 85
No questions had been received from members of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 25, or from public registered electors in the town in accordance with Standing Order 85.

Meeting closed at 8.18pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix One

Devon & Cornwall Report for the FCM meeting 24/02/2020.

The Rough Sleepers / ASB Enquiry

The current Safe Sleep service provision at the Salvation Army continues to be well utilised with on average 8-12 persons using this facility each night. This has provided a vital local support service to many homeless people and there is ongoing work with the frequent attendees who are engaged with the local housing authority and seeking ways to find them long-term accommodation. The funding provision runs until the end of March at which point this service will cease and therefore it is imperative to work with those currently engaged to assist accommodation for them or face an increase in overnight homelessness in the town at the beginning of April.

The neighbourhood policing team are continuing to work with partners in engaging with these individuals to assist them off the streets and away from doorways as well as providing support and resilience against occasional incidents of ASB being reported at Safe Sleep. The plan over the forthcoming weeks will be to have focused discussions with our partners and local housing support services around those likely to be homeless after safe sleep closes and work towards finding housing solutions for them, thereby reducing the impact of increased homelessness in the town centre overnight come the beginning of April.

Street Drinking & Town Centre Begging

The neighbourhood policing team are acutely aware of the growing issue centred around street drinking and breaches of the current PSPO, which invariably develops into other reported ASB such as drunkenness, fighting, etc. The plan moving into the spring time is to increase our visible presence in the town centre with regular foot patrols, in collaboration with staff from the community safety partnership, in tackling this issue and escalating individuals who are repeatedly breaching the PSPO and committing ASB. This approach last spring was successful in reducing the impact of this issue across the summer period and therefore it is important to provide a robust stance on this issue to reduce the impact of their behaviour as the better weather approaches and more people visit the town.

There has been a notable and steady rise of begging within the town centre which, whilst a social issue nationally, is reportedly having a detrimental impact on peoples' perception of safety within Barnstaple town centre. This is always a difficult social issue to tackle effectively, as it is widely publicised that the Vagrancy Act of 1824 which outlaws the acts of begging and sleeping rough, is somewhat outdated. As such, the police focus on this issue has increasingly centred around the associated ASB that often develops from begging such as aggressiveness and street drinking, and therefore the increased patrols to address PSPO breaches and ASB associated begging will hopefully seek ways to reduce the impact of these issues with the ultimate aim of increasing peoples' perception of safety as well as the visiting experience of everyone coming into the town centre.

Appendix 2

In addition to the Climate Emergency declared at Full Council on 22nd July 2019, Barnstaple Town Council resolves to sign and endorse the Devon Climate Declaration.

Members of The Environment Committee's Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG) agreed at its last meeting held on 21st January 2020, that they would like Barnstaple Town Council to sign the Devon Climate Declaration.

This resolution will allow us to work collectively with our County Council and other local councils, led by the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG).

The Devon Climate Declaration recognises that we are aware of the significant implications of climate change for Devon's communities and commits the signatories to work together on developing a Devon Carbon Plan, which is being developed by the Net-Zero Task Force.

The Devon Climate Declaration states:

1. This Declaration has been prepared by a consortium of public, private and voluntary organisations collaborating through a Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.
2. We are aware of the significant implications of climate change for Devon's communities; it is already affecting our environment, infrastructure, economy and health & wellbeing. If not addressed, the impact on future generations will be profound and the ability to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals will be severely compromised.
3. We understand that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach net-zero by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees.
4. We will lead in the global response to climate change through our collective action, innovation and influence.
5. Individually, we will review (within 6 months) our plans to reduce our organisation's carbon emissions to meet or exceed these targets, including ensuring the people we do business with are doing the same. We will publicly report our carbon emissions annually in accessible formats.
6. In collaboration, we will engage Devon's residents, businesses and visitors to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the reduction of Devon's production and consumption emissions to meet IPCC recommendations at the latest. We will openly report progress on its delivery. We know this transformational change will be challenging and will include:
 - Deploying more renewable, decentralised and smart energy systems
 - Retrofitting energy-efficiency measures into our existing buildings
 - Constructing zero-carbon new buildings
 - Travelling less and using improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure more often, and using electric and hydrogen vehicles
 - Changing our consumption to use less, re-use more and choose low-carbon options

- Challenging all economic sectors to review their practices and the values of those they do business with
 - Divesting from fossil fuels
 - Changing our dietary patterns and reducing food waste
 - Changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions associated with farming operations, manage soils sustainably and replenish soil carbon
 - Encouraging carbon storage such as through tree planting, the use of wood in construction and peatland restoration
 - Empowering the people of Devon with the knowledge and skills to act collectively.
7. Additionally, we will work to understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for Devon to plan for how our infrastructure, public services and communities will have to adapt for a 1.5-degree warmer world.
 8. Local organisations and communities cannot do this alone as the national government plays a key role in many of the policy areas that are vital to reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. We call on the government to prioritise decarbonisation and adaptation within decision making and work with us by using its powers to provide the resources and funding necessary to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and society.
 9. We challenge every organisation, business, community and individual to do the same.

The Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) is made up of senior officers of about 25 organisations including councils, emergency services, businesses and voluntary organisations and has been established to provide the strategic coordination of a collaborative response to the Devon Climate Emergency.

The Net-ZeroTask Force members have expertise in topics relevant to carbon reduction and are drawn from economic, environmental, health and academic organisations, and is chaired by a leading climate expert.

Appendix 3



**BARNSTAPLE
TOWN COUNCIL**

Barum House, The Square, Barnstaple, EX32 8LS
 Tel: 01271 373311
 Email: admin@barnstapletowncouncil.gov.uk
 Web: <https://barnstapletowncouncil.gov.uk>

2020-21 Calendar of Meetings

Please check the individual Agendas for start times of the meeting

May						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January						
M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February						
M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March						
M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April						
M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- Annual Town Council Meeting
- Mayor Making
- Full Council
- Annual Town Meeting
- Finance & GP/Corp Governance
- Heritage Week (Nursing)- 06 to 12 July 2020
- Staff/Heritage Culture and Community
- VJ Day Comemoration - 15 August 2020
- Environment
- Barnstaple Fair - 16 September 2020
- Planning & Transportation
- Civic Service - 11 October 2020
- Rock Park
- Remembrance - 08 November 2020
- Annual Grants Meeting
- Christmas Fayre - 03 December 2020
- Public Holidays
- Mayors Ball - 12 March 2021