

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MONDAY 24 APRIL 2017 AT THE
GUILDHALL, BARNSTAPLE AT 7.00PM**

Present: Cllr Mrs J Hunt (Town Mayor) in the Chair
46 members of the public and Will Austin, Barnstaple Town Clerk

TM01 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24 April 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

TM02 ANNUAL REPORT OF BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL AND MATTERS ARISING

The Mayor presented the Annual Report, which included reports of the Environment, Finance & General Purposes, Heritage Culture & Community, Planning & Transportation, and Staff Committees. There followed a short video summarising the Mayoral year 2016-2017.

No matters were raised by members of the public.

TM03 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor J Phillips reported on his role as the Town Council's representative to the Barnstaple Municipal Charities, the Barnstaple Bridge Trust, and the Athenaeum Trust. He explained that these organisations fulfil important roles within the community such as managing almshouses, and that this extended his and other councillors' roles as well as being enjoyable.

Councillor I Williams reported on his role as the Town Council's representative to the Save Our Hospital Services campaign group. He advised that the Town Council had hosted both the constituency MP and the Chief Executive of Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust at its meetings, and the Council had provided administrative support. He thanked the public for their support and said that there was still more work to be done on the campaign.

TM04 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

No reports were received.

TM05 RAF COMMUNITY PLATE

The awarding of the RAF Community Plate was deferred. The Mayor advised that this would be presented at the annual Mayor Making ceremony.

TM06 PRESENTATION OF GRANT AWARDS

The Mayor presented cheques to local groups and organisations who had been given grant awards from Barnstaple Town Council. Recipient organisations offered a brief summary of their work and the benefits that would accrue from the grant award.

TM07 QUESTIONS RAISED BY LOCAL ELECTORS

An elector asked about the future of Queen Anne's Walk, the building which had previously housed Barnstaple Heritage Centre. The Town Clerk explained that the building was being

marketed by the owner, North Devon District Council, and that as yet no information had been provided by the District Council on possible future uses.

Another elector asked what the Town Council was doing with the additional funds it now raised through Council Tax. Councillor I Roome said that the Council was increasingly involved in protecting and providing services that had been reduced or removed by Devon County Council and other organisations. He said a good example was the Town Council's new responsibility for highway verge maintenance, and the additional grass cutting involved.

Meeting closed at 7.56pm

Chairman.

Signed: Dated: