

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 12TH DECEMBER 2016 at 7.00pm in the MAIN HALL, GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW, BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Cllr Mrs J Hunt (Mayor) in the Chair.

Councillors: S Upcott, Mrs V Monk, Mrs V Elkins, F Vernon, A Windsor, Mrs S Haywood, I Roome (Deputy Mayor), Mrs E Davies, Mrs J Wilsher, F Jefferies, I Williams, Ms T Haywood, M Chamings, G Langford, and A Rennles.

Also present: Inspector Earl Napier (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary), Sergeant Ewan Seear (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary) and County Councillor J Mathews.

TC72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Haywood, J Phillips, J Carter, M Kennaugh, Miss M Lovering, L Dawson and Mrs A Dawson.

TC73 DISPENSATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllrs Mrs J Hunt, Mrs S Haywood and I Roome, as members of North Devon District Council, declared dispensations under S.O. 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.

TC74 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(14, 2abs)

TC75 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on her attendance at 13 official engagements, including Christmas events, the North Devon Journal Awards evening, and the Council's Christmas Fayre, which had raised over £500 for the Mayor's charities. She thanked Cllr Langford for nominating her charities for the proceeds of a collection at the funeral of his wife, Lynne. She further offered her congratulations to Deputy Town Clerk Mrs Kate Graddock on achieving a Distinction Pass in the Foundation Degree in Community Governance.

The Mayor thanked councillors for their efforts during 2016 and wished them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TC76 REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

Inspector Earl Napier introduced himself as the new Inspector for Barnstaple, and reported that a further temporary Sergeant would be added to the team into the New Year for resilience.

Sergeant Ewan Seear apologised for his recent absence from Full Council meetings, which was as a result of his secondment. He reported that overall crime in Barnstaple was up by 1.3% compared with the previous year, although this increase was lower than the national average and masked some significant improvements in certain areas such as shoplifting. He then summarised the figures shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

Sergeant Seear also reported on:

- Resources. Shift patterns were being changed to allow more than one officer to be on duty at particular times, instead of one officer at all times.
- There was a priority focus on a local youth group perpetrating violence, anti-social behaviour and theft.
- Street drinking. This had reduced since the Town Council installed fencing at the former Heritage Centre. One particular individual who had attracted others had been in hospital, which had contributed to the reduction.
- Staffing. Inspector Napier had joined the team, and PCSO vacancies were not being filled, although it was hoped this would change.

Councillors commented and questioned on the following:

- The youth group reported by Sgt Seear had been a concern in the area of the Co-op, but had since spread to the town centre.
- Whether part-night street lighting had affected burglary figures. Sgt Seear said there was no statistical link and that lighting was more likely to affect the perception of safety.
- The Police response to a break-in at the Co-op in Sticklepath, which was commended and had resulted in the culprits being detained within 24 hours.

RESOLVED: That the report of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary be noted..

(NC)

TC77 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Mathews wished councillors a Merry Christmas and reported on:

- A planning application for the Westacott area, which had been registered and called in for consideration by the County Highways Committee.
- A motion on health provision put by Cllr Greenslade, which had been passed unanimously.
- Residents' parking in Chanters Hill, which would be considered by the HATOC Committee the following Tuesday.
- The retention of a Firearms Unit in Barnstaple with increased staffing.
- The idea of making PCSOs warranted officers, which was under consideration by the Police.
- A letter from Cllr Mathews and Cllr D Brailey that had been sent requesting the retention of RMB Chivenor.

The Mayor reported that she had called the Westacott planning application in for committee consideration, in her capacity as a district councillor. Cllr Mrs Haywood said she was committed to fighting this application.

Cllr Greenslade had sent his apologies and a written report as shown at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

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

(NC)

TC78 REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Roome reported that there had been very positive feedback on the Christmas lights display arranged by Town Centre Management.

Cllr Williams reported that County Council Leader Cllr Hart had said that the motions from Cllrs Greenslade and Biederman in respect of the Success Regime were the most important submitted to Devon County Council for some time. He thanked the Save Our Hospital Services campaign, Cllrs Greenslade and Mathews, the Town Council and the Town Clerk for their efforts and support. He said that the County and District Councils had now recognised the dangers of the Success Regime and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

TC79 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning and Transportation Committee of 24th November 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 24th November 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Environment Committee of 28th November 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28th November 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(14, 2abs)

Finance & General Purposes Committee of 5th December 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 5th December 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(15, 1 abs)

Staff Committee of 6th December 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staff Committee held on 6th December 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Buildings Review Committee of 5th December 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Buildings Review Committee meeting held on 5th December 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Heritage, Culture & Community Committee of 6th December 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Heritage, Culture & Community Committee meeting held on 6th December 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

TC80 NALC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

The Town Clerk advised that feedback from councillors on the conference had not been very positive. Cllr Upcott said that the complimentary diaries and pens had probably been the best things coming from the conference

RESOLVED: That feedback from the NALC Annual Conference 2016 be noted.

(NC)

TC81 QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from members of the Council under Standing Order 26, or public registered electors in the town under Standing Order 83.

Meeting closed at 7.38pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:

Police Update For North Devon Town Council - December 2016

Crime Summary

Offence Group	Year To 11 th December Compared To Same Period Last Year	Last 28 Day Comparison till 11 th December Previous Year
Violence Leading To Injury	Up +29.6 % (280)	Up + 11.8 % (19)
Violence Without Injury	Up +17.8 % (311)	Up + 8.7 % (25)
Burglary Dwelling	Up + 56 % (78)	Up + 50% (3)
Burglary Non Dwelling	Down - 31.7% (56)	Up + 40% (2)
Vehicle Offences	Down - 43.0 % (77)	Up + 200% (6)
Shop Lifting	Down - 1.7 % (345)	Down - 48.6 % (9)
Criminal Damage	Down - 6.6% (354)	Up +8.3 % (26)
Other Theft	Down - 0.6% (332)	Up +13.8 % (10)

Comments & Trends

Overall for the year victim based crime minus domestic violence incidents is up 1.3% over the same period last year.

In the last month we have seen a rise across multiple crime types – mostly these are not related and we are assessing the offences and patterns very closely.

We have had an increase in youth gang related disorder and violence and this is accounting for a proportion of the violence with injury and without injury offences.

The new force shoplifting process is well in place and has been adopted by multiple companies and individual premises along with Tesco and Co-Op. Shop lifting is 1.7% down on the same period last year which is a positive.

Community Matters

Gang related disorder

A group of youths calling themselves the Barnstaple Massive have been responsible for a string of minor assaults and numerous incidents of antisocial behaviour along with other offending including theft, drugs possession and drugs supply offences. We are actively targeting the ring leaders of this group and all members are known to the police. We have active primary taskings in place to deal with any incidents involving this group in a robust manner. The ringleaders are all due in court in the coming weeks for multiple offences.

Street Drinking

Continues to be a focus but mostly relates to a single individual who attracts others by supplying alcohol. Better since the Heritage Centre has been fenced off.

Staff Changes Within The Barnstaple Local Policing Team

Insp Shaun Kenneally has moved to Torridge and been replaced by Insp Earl Napier

Positive moves are in place to fill existing NBM vacancies for Barnstaple

Still carrying multiple PCSO vacancies but no plans known yet in force for further PCSO recruitment at this time.

Plans to amend the NBM shift patterns to allow greater flexibility and pro-activity hoped to come into place January.

Operational Concerns:

Barnstaple Custody Centre Re-opens:

There is potentially a planned closure of Barnstaple Custody Unit in the new year

Questions To The Police:

(please note any matters you wish Police feedback upon)

Will Austin

From: Brian Greenslade <marwoodbriangreenslade@gmail.com>
Sent: 12 December 2016 16:45
To: Will Austin
Subject: Fwd: Full Council on Monday

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Greenslade <marwoodbriangreenslade@gmail.com>
Date: 12 December 2016 at 07:40:36 GMT
To: Councillor Brian Greenslade <brian.greenslade@devon.gov.uk>
Cc: Councillor Brian Greenslade <brian.greenslade@devon.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Full Council on Monday

Will apologies for tonight will not be back in time for tonight's meeting. Herewith report.

Firstly very happy Christmas and all best for 2017 to the Mayor and Councillors and staff at the Town Council.

Activities since the last meeting.

Health potential cuts. Got a notice of motion calling for the halting of the Success Regime/STP process through both Devon County Council and North Devon Council. This gives the Council's a strong foundation to resist what ever eventually emerges from this if it still continues.

Chivenor closure. Put a stop to the nonsense "it's a done deal" and NDC supported a notice of motion opposing the closure. The Scrutiny Committee at NDC agreed to investigate the issues. Letter from DCC already gone to the Minister and one will be going from NDC as well. Our former Defence Minister Nick Harvey has launched a petition against closure.

Storm Angus. Household flooding returned to Bradiford as a result. I visited affected properties on the Sunday morning. Westaway Plain was closed for some time due to flooding and the road was flooded at Rolle Bridge for some time. Have followed up these issues with both DCC and the Environment Agency.

Chanters Hill Parking. Special meeting of the Highways Committee on Dec 20th. Hope to get the scheme approved then.

Ashleigh Road. At last a decent resurfacing scheme as been completed.

Brian Greenslade
County Councillor Barnstaple North