

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 19TH SEPTEMBER 2016 at 7.00pm in the GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Cllr I Roome (Deputy Mayor) took the chair in the absence of Cllr Mrs J Hunt (Mayor).

Councillors: Mrs V Elkins, A Windsor, Mrs S Haywood, C Haywood, J Phillips, Mrs J Wilsher, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, I Williams, Ms T Haywood, M Kennaugh, C Perkins-Beard, M Chamings, G Langford, and A Rennles.

Also present: County Councillors B Greenslade and J Mathews, Mr and Mrs Wiseman, and 38 members of the public.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Gavin Lane of Barum Boxing Club introduced the club to members, and advised that he expected to seek funding in future. The Deputy Mayor thanked him for his address.

TC37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Upcott, Mrs V Monk, F Vernon, Mrs J Hunt (Mayor), Mrs E Davies, Mrs A Dawson and L Dawson.

TC38 DISPENSATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllrs 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.

Cllrs I Roome and Miss M Lovering declared disclosable pecuniary interests in item 6 on the agenda in respect of North Devon District Hospital, as employees of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust.

TC39 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH JULY 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(NC)

TC40 PARISH PATH INSPECTIONS

The Chairman introduced Mr and Mrs Wiseman, whom he reported had for the last thirteen years supported the work of the Town Council's Environment Committee in maintaining parish paths. They had spent a huge amount of time inspecting the paths so that they are kept in good condition, and had decided that this was the right time to pass on the

role to someone else. The Environment Committee had resolved at their last meeting to honour Mr and Mrs Wiseman's work at the Full Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Wiseman on behalf of the town, and offered the Council's sincere gratitude for their efforts over such a long period.

Cllr Windsor, Chairman of the Environment Committee, offered the thanks of the committee and expressed his personal gratitude.

The Chairman presented Mr and Mrs Wiseman with a gift in recognition of their work. Mrs Wiseman advised the meeting that she and Mr Wiseman were retiring from the role only due to ill-health.

TC41 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Chairman proposed that in the absence of the Mayor, this item be deferred.

RESOLVED: That the Mayor's Report be deferred to the next meeting.
(NC)

TC42 ADDRESS BY PETER HEATON-JONES MP

Peter Heaton-Jones MP addressed the meeting on the matter of health services at North Devon District Hospital, and the work to review services being undertaken by the Devon Success Regime.

Mr Heaton-Jones reported that North Devon would not accept cuts in services, and that he had said this to the Success Regime, the Minister, the Health Secretary and NHS England managers. He reported on his understanding of the work carried out to date by the Success Regime. He expressed concern about draft proposals to locate maternity units in the south of the county, and said this was not acceptable. He and a cross-party group of MPs had discussed this with NHS management and the Chair of the Success Regime the previous week. He and the group had also expressed concern about travel times if services moved to centres in Exeter and Plymouth, and that healthcare in North Devon had been underfunded for decades. He said that we would not put up with services moving. He encouraged the community to come together without making the issue party political to highlight the failings of the planning process for Sustainability and Transformation Plans, which were due for publication in January or February 2017.

Councillors commented and raised questions on the following:

- The impact of insufficient funding for healthcare provision

- The waste and bureaucracy associated with the Success Regime, and flaws in the process it was following
- Concerns about a possible two-tier service
- The possibility that both acute and non-acute services would be taken away from North Devon
- The problems of travelling to centres in Exeter and Plymouth
- The need for provision to match the increasing population of North Devon
- The dangers to life for stroke and other acute patients if acute services are removed from North Devon
- The consequential impact of cuts to hospital services on GP services
- The possibility of babies being born, or worse dying, on the North Devon Link Road

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 84 be suspended for a maximum of 30 minutes to enable public participation in this agenda item.

(NC)

The Chairman read a letter from the doctors of Northam Surgery expressing grave concern over under-funding of services and possible reductions in hospital services in North Devon, particularly given its rural setting.

Cllr Greenslade reported on discussions at the County Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, and raised concerns about funding, the funding distribution formula, NHS staff morale and a threat to the vital 'golden hour' for acute treatment.

Members of the public commented and asked questions of Mr Heaton-Jones for 30 minutes.

****Cllr Phillips left the meeting at this point****

TC43 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Greenslade advised that he had intended to report on health matters but that this had been covered in his input to the previous agenda item.

Cllr Mathews reported on:

- Flooding in Newport, where the surface water had thankfully not been sewage and was due to a collapsed water main.
- The restoration of bus services between Whiddon Valley and the town centre, which would include one via the Newport Litchdon Medical Centre.
- Works to the Iron Bridge in Rock Park were due to be completed by November.

****Cllr Phillips returned to the meeting at this point****

Cllr Roome reported that the closure of Goodleigh Road had been reduced to two weeks.

Cllr Mrs Haywood reported that tree problems in Westacott were being dealt with.

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

(NC)

TC44 REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Roome reported that the Devon Association of Local Councils was considering and providing information on a Government consultation on referenda for Council Tax increases by larger town and parish councils.

Cllr Phillips reported on a meeting of the Record Office, Athenaeum and Library to discuss risks to future service provision arising from possible staffing changes.

Cllr Chamings reported from the North Devon Archaeological Service that North Devon District Council was looking to carry out works in Castle Green, which could provide improvements to the castle.

RESOLVED: That the reports of representatives to outside bodies be noted.

(NC)

TC45 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Heritage, Culture and Community Committee of 28th July 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Heritage, Culture and Community Committee meeting held on 28th July 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 4th August 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 4th August 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 1st September 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 1st September 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Environment Committee of 5th September 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 5th September 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(15, 1abs)

Cllr Phillips asked that his abstention in respect of this resolution be recorded.

TC46 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 8.53pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: