

## BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 at 7.00pm in the GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW BARNSTAPLE.

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

Cllrs: S Upcott, Mrs V Monk, F Vernon, Mrs V Elkins, A Windsor, Mrs S Haywood, I Roome, J Phillips, Mrs E Davies, J Carter, Mrs J Wilsher, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, I Williams, Ms T Haywood, M Kennaugh, M Chamings, Mrs A Dawson, L Dawson, G Langford, and A Rennles.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a minute's silence was observed in memory of Jo Cox MP and former Town Councillor Jim Bartlett, both of whom recently lost their lives.

### TC12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Haywood and C Perkins-Beard.

### TC13 DISPENSATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllrs Mrs S Haywood, I Roome, and Mrs J Hunt, as members of North Devon 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 12 on the agenda (Healthcare Services at North Devon District Hospital) as employees of the NHS.

Cllrs Mrs V Monk and F Vernon declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in item 12 on the agenda (Healthcare Services at North Devon District Hospital) as relatives of employees of the NHS.

### TC14 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>TH</sup> May 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(NC)

### TC15 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that since May she had attended 19 official engagements, and that the Deputy Mayor had attended one. She had enjoyed all that she had attended, and made particular mention of the talented children at Pathfield School in their performance of The Firebird.

The Mayor further reported that she had arranged Mayoral Surgeries at the Guildhall with dates up to September 2016. She asked councillors to volunteer in support of the surgeries.

The Mayor reminded councillors that the Mayor's Civic Service would be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Grosvenor Church, and that there would be an Armed Forces Exhibition at Pilton Community College on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016. She also reminded councillors to contact the Deputy Town Clerk to volunteer to assist with Heritage Open Days in September 2016.

TC16 REPORT FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY.

No Police officer was available to attend, but a written report had been submitted and circulated prior to the meeting, as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes. The Town Clerk summarised its contents.

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

(NC)

TC17 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Mathews reported that:

- Difficulties with the Police 101 service had been highlighted by the Police & Crime Commissioner, with the average time for transfer to the Inquiry Centre being 8 minutes, and one in three calls waiting more than 10 minutes. £0.25m was to be spent improving the service.
- Park and ride services at Roundswell, Westacott, Braunton Road and the hospital were under consideration. The former park and ride car park at Park School would remain open as a car park with the possibility of charges, and the school would be expanding onto the site.
- A car abandoned in Whiddon Valley for two years had now been removed.
- The Town Council's Amenities Operative had carried out a first class job in clearing weeds in the Whiddon Valley area, and was to be thanked.
- No date had been set for road surfacing in Whiddon Valley
- A complaint about lorries shaking a house in Clifton Street was being investigated.
- A planning application had been received for Seven Brethren.
- Land ownership was being looked at in relation to the scheme to improve the North Devon Link Road.
- Cllr Mathews had contacted the relevant officers regarding concerns about part-night light and the increase in crime since its introduction in the Forches, Whiddon Valley and Gorwell areas, and

the County Council would be contacting the Police to consider their request for restoration of night lighting.

- Speed checks in Whiddon Valley had been completed and the results were under evaluation.

Councillors expressed concern and made comment regarding:

- The effect of part-night lighting on crime levels and Police response activity.
- The timescale for re-introduction of park and ride. Cllr Mathews estimated that this could be 3 to 4 years, dependent on funding being available.
- Whether an additional school was required to cope with increasing pupil numbers at Park School. Cllr Mathews said he was unsure that there was a site or funding for this.
- The building of a bridge at Roundswell with access at only one end, at a cost of £2.75m. Cllr Mathews said that it would eventually service an industrial park and park and ride service in the area.

Cllr Greenslade submitted a written report as shown at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Cllr Mrs Haywood reported that she had been advised that the Local Plan was with the Inspector, and a positive outcome was hoped for.

Cllr Roome reported that devolution proposals were under consideration, and that a regional Mayor looked unlikely. The proposals were now with the Minister.

*\*\*\*Cllr Mrs Davies left the meeting at this point and did not return\*\*\**

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

(NC)

## TC18      REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Chamings reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the North Devon Archaeological Service (NDAS) as the Council's representative. Mr Terry Green of the NDAS had advised that he was looking into old town centre leases, and that this might lead to publication of a book. Mr Green wanted to carry out survey work at town centre properties and had asked whether the Town Council would provide a letter of support. Cllr Chamings proposed that such a letter be provided.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council provides a letter of support in respect of the survey work being carried out by Mr Terry Green on behalf of the NDAS.

(NC)

Cllr Windsor advised that he and Cllr Mrs Elkins had recently attended a Davey Trust grants meeting. He would report the recipients when this information was available.

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

(NC)

## TC19 COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Staff Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staff Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(21, 1abs)

### Finance and General Purposes Committee of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

### Planning and Transportation Committee of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

### Planning and Transportation Committee of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

### Environment Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

### Heritage, Culture & Community Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Heritage, Culture & Community Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Finance and General Purposes Committee of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Staff Committee of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staff Committee of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(21, 1abs)

Heritage, Culture & Community Committee of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Heritage, Culture & Community Committee of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Environment Committee of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

TC20      ROCK PARK TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Rock Park Trust Management Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 be received and noted.  
(NC)

TC21      END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN

The Council's End of Year Accounts and Annual Return for 2015-2016, for submission to external auditors, had been circulated prior to the meeting with supporting papers. The Town Clerk summarised the contents.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Section 1 item 1 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- b) That Section 1 item 2 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- c) That Section 1 item 3 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- d) That Section 1 item 4 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- e) That Section 1 item 5 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- f) That Section 1 item 6 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- g) That Section 1 item 7 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- h) That Section 1 item 8 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- i) That Section 1 item 9 of the Annual Return had been satisfied and could be completed accordingly;
- j) That Section 1 of the Annual Return be approved;
- k) That Section 2 of the Annual Return incorporating the Accounting Statements for 2015-2016, including Total Balances and Reserves at the end of the year of £354,955 be approved; and
- l) That the Mayor be authorised to sign the Annual Return on behalf of the Town Council.

(NC)

*\*\*\*Cllrs Mrs Monk and Miss Lovering left the meeting at this point\*\*\**

*\*\*\*Cllrs Vernon and Roome left the meeting at this point and did not return\*\*\**

TC22      HEALTHCARE SERVICES AT NORTH DEVON DISTRICT HOSPITAL

The Town Clerk introduced this item, explaining that there had been significant activity in relation to the campaign to protect services at North Devon District Hospital since the Council passed a motion on the issue at its meeting in May 2016. This included a meeting of the Save our Hospital Services group and a public assembly in Barnstaple. There were plans for further activity and the Town Clerk asked the Council for guidance as to the Council's involvement.

Councillors considered the following:

- The activity undertaken by the Save our Hospital Services group to date, and the knowledgeable people involved in the group
- The public engagement carried out by the NHS Success Regime in Devon
- Media coverage of the 'Case for Change' report produced by the Success Regime, and whether this had exaggerated the potential impact on acute services
- The wider national picture in relation to health services, and whether there were plans to replace the NHS with an American-style model and to reduce the number of acute hospitals
- The extent to which the campaign in respect of North Devon District Hospital should link with other campaigns focusing on community hospitals
- Whether the expanding population in North Devon meant that there should be increased rather than reduced healthcare provision at the hospital, and a larger hospital
- A patient liaison session to be held at Litchdon Street Surgery on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorises the Town Clerk to give advice, help and general support to the Save our Hospital Services group, within available capacity

(9, 1 against, 7 abs)

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the MP for North Devon asking him to attend Parliamentary debate on the NHS Reinstatement Bill, and to support the Bill in Parliament.

(15, 1 against)

*\*\*\*Cllrs Mrs Monk and Miss Lovering returned to the meeting at this point\*\*\**

## TC23      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 8.23pm.

Chairman.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....



## REPORT OF DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

### FOR FULL TOWN COUNCIL 20 JUNE 2016

- 1) In terms of the past 28 days, the latest crime stats for Barnstaple indicate dwelling burglaries have increased by 17%. I know that staff and officers are putting plans in place to reduce this issue at present. This may fit in with the conversation that we had regarding street lighting within certain areas of the Town Centre. From speaking to my staff and from analysis of the burglary mapping data we have, the prominent areas where these 'creeper style' opportunistic burglaries are occurring are WHIDDON VALLEY, FORCHES and GORWELL. This has been ongoing now since the beginning of May and it seems that the suspect(s) enter through insecure premises and steal items such as mobile phones, money, cash cards, iPods any jewellery that could be laying around. Many of these burglaries are happening during night time hours. I really feel that the lack of lighting in these areas, are making them vulnerable and I am not sure if there is anything that could be done by the council, to reinstate SOME lighting to make the areas less appealing at night?
- 2) We have all noticed the drastic change in the Heritage Centre. Since we ran the operation a few weeks back, there have been no further reports of 'street drinkers' in the area. I am mindful that the problem has not been solved – it has simply been moved on. The officers have put a lot of time and effort into extra patrols and using their dispersal powers appropriately to tackle the issue. Many of the street drinkers are not willing to engage with homeless services, but it is something that we will keep an eye on.
- 3) We did have reports of youths congregating in the Bus Station in Barnstaple. Lots of ASB and fighting was occurring – mainly students from Park and Pilton Schools. We are aware of who these youths are and we have approached both schools, in order to make our intentions clear of a 'zero tolerance approach' to any youths found committing offences. I pleased to say we have not had any reports for the past 3-4 weeks, but again I am mindful that the summer holidays are approaching and it could be something that may emerge again.
- 4) Lastly, there is an organised peaceful, static protest taking place on the 18<sup>th</sup> July concerning the possible closure of NDH A+E. I have referred the organiser to the Town Centre Manager. I have no concerns regarding this after speaking to the organising person. She has told me that the muster point will be on Castle Mound for approximately 4 hours.

**A/PS 5135 Leanne JONES**

Barnstaple NTL | Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Barnstaple Police Station

14 June 2016

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIAN GEENSLADE**

**REPORT TO BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL**

**JUNE 2016**

Park & Ride for Barnstaple. We put a motion to full County Council in May which was considered by the Cabinet a couple of week's ago. Basically our demand for more park & ride in Barnstaple was accepted and a site in the area of the Hospital was added to sites at Roundswell, and the future extension to Whiddon Valley. We have made it clear that the existing Park School Park & Ride site should be retained for the time being to facilitate people being able to park and catch the No 9 service from Bishops Tawton into town at the top of the access road into Park School. Officers are working on this.

My notice of motion calling for additional investment in flood alleviation by Government was accepted by the County Council. This is a longer term demand with the increasing flood risk to low lying Barnstaple being very much in my mind.

Met the Regional Manager of Great Western Railways last week in pursuit of the ambition to have a direct rail service from Barnstaple to London and back daily. I am pleased to say GWR are seriously taking this forward. Such a development would likely take place with the new rail franchise and new train sets being introduced in 2018.

In terms of the lighting/theft issues at Whiddon Valley and Gorwell have suggested to the DCC lighting Engineer that he comes to Barnstaple and meets with John and I and the Police to discuss.

Additional traffic calming in the form of speed cushions will be installed in July in Bicton St.

Brian