

## BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016 at 7.00pm in the MAIN HALL, CASTLE CENTRE, 25 CASTLE STREET, 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, from TC52), C Haywood, J Phillips, Mrs E Davies, J Carter, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, I Williams, Ms T Haywood, M Kennaugh, M Chamings, G Langford, and A Rennles.

Also present: County Councillor J Mathews, Alison Mills (Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon), and Hilary Burr (North Devon Voluntary Services).

### TC47 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 29

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 29 be suspended for the duration of the meeting to allow councillors to remain seated when speaking due to the confined space available.

(NC)

### TC48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J Wilsher and Cllr I Roome, who had advised that he would arrive late for the meeting due to a Deputy Mayoral engagement.

### TC49 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.

Cllrs Miss M Lovering declared a personal interest in item 6 on the agenda in respect of the Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon, due to her association with the Museum as a member of the Barnstaple Fair Heritage Society.

### TC50 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(14, 4abs)

### TC51 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on:

- Her attendance at the Sir Francis Chichester Memorial Service in Plymouth, and the subsequent attendance at Barnstaple Fair Proclamation by Sir Francis Chichester's son, Giles Chichester;
- The wide range of Mayoral engagements and entertainment during Fair Week;
- Her visit to the House of Lords for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of Lee Abbey; and
- A visit to the Guildhall by 1<sup>st</sup> Bickington Brownies.

The Mayor thanked councillors that attended the Save Our Hospital Services march on 22 October. It had been a great success and she thanked Cllr Williams for his efforts in organising the event.

The Mayor reminded councillors of the forthcoming Charity Concert on 11<sup>th</sup> November, and the Big Quiz on 16<sup>th</sup> November, and asked for their support and assistance.

## TC52 NORTH DEVON VOLUNTARY SERVICES

*\*\*\*Cllr I Roome joined the meeting during this item\*\*\**

Hilary Burr, Chief Officer of North Devon Voluntary Services, presented to councillors on the work of the organisation, providing wide-ranging support to the community and voluntary sector.

- Councillors commented and questioned on the following:
- The possibility of NDVS involvement in Tesco's 'left over food' scheme
- How the commendable work and wide brief was funded. Ms Burr explained that support was received from North Devon Council and services were provided under contract with Devon County Council, but that no funding was received from the Health Service
- Where information on training courses could be obtained. Ms Burr directed councillors to the organisation's website for information

The Mayor thanked Ms Burr for her presentation.

## TC53 MUSEUM OF BARNSTAPLE AND NORTH DEVON

Alison Mills and Terry Green of the Barnstaple and North Devon Museum Development Trust, presented to councillors on the proposed project to extend the Museum. The project would improve access and the visitor experience, and would include an activities programme, and was estimated to cost £1.18m. Grant funding was progressing well, but an estimated £175,000 would need to be raised locally.

Cllr Jefferies asked about the detailed location of the extension, and Cllr Chamings endorsed the plans.

The Mayor thanked Ms Mills for her presentation.

TC54      REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

Sgt Seear had advised that no officer was available to report to the meeting.

TC55      REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Greenslade had sent his apologies for the meeting.

Cllr Mathews reported on:

- His support for Cllr Greenslade's motions on health care, and the success of the SOHS campaign to date.
- The extension to Petroc College, which he considered wonderful.
- A delay in proposed changes to bus services, which would now commence in January 2017.
- Proposed improvements to the North Devon Link Road.
- A planning application for Venn Quarry, which would affect Barnstaple.
- Development proposals at Westacott, which included an entrance through the play area.
- Flooding in The Square, which he had taken up as an issue.

RESOLVED: That the report of Councillor Mathews be received and noted.

(NC)

TC56      REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Williams reported on his work with the Save Our Hospital Services campaign group, to which he was nominated by the Council. The rally in October had been very successful and the group was now looking to work with other similar groups across Devon to campaign against the Sustainability & Transformation Plan, due for publication in February 2017.

He reported that the group had a Facebook page with over 8,000 members.

*\*\*\*Cllr Carter left the meeting at this point\*\*\**

Cllr Williams said that ongoing support from the Council would be greatly appreciated by the group.

Cllr Mrs Monk said that the £5 return rail fare on the day of the rally was a welcome contribution.

Cllr Rennles reported that the Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum still awaited paperwork on flood defences, and that the mess in the river was their main concern.

Cllr Roome reported on his attendance at the DALC AGM, and on the impact of Brexit in slowing progress on devolution.

Cllr Windsor advised that he had resigned from the Carnival Committee, and that Barnstaple needed to support it if the event was to be retained. Cllr Jefferies advised that he was joining the Committee.

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

(NC)

## TC57 COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Planning and Transportation Committee of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

### Staff Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staff Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

### Heritage, Culture and Community Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Heritage, Culture and Community Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

## TC58 ROCK PARK TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Rock Park Trust Management Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 be received and noted.

(NC)

## TC59 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2017 TO 2018

The Town Clerk introduced a Government technical consultation paper on the Local Government Finance Settlement 2017 to 2018 including relation to questions about referendum principles. The proposals would mean that any increase in the Band D Council Tax of 2% or

more would be subject to a local referendum, except in certain circumstances. A draft response to the consultation, provided by the Devon Association of Local Councils, had been circulated with the meeting agenda.

Cllr Roome reported that he and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting with the Department for Communities & Local Government, organised by NALC, and that strong concerns had been expressed about the proposals and the lack of a rationale for such a change. He considered that the proposals undermined the powers given to Town and Parish Councils in the Localism Act 2011, and that the cost of a referendum would simply add to Council costs.

Councillors expressed their support for Cllr Roome's concerns, and

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to add comments as necessary to the draft response tabled at the meeting.

(17, 1 against)

TC60      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 8.17pm.

Chairman.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....