

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on MONDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.00pm in the MAIN CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Councillors Mrs V Elkins (Chairman), Mrs V Monk, F Vernon, A Windsor, Mrs S Haywood, I Roome, Mrs J Hunt (Vice-Chairman), C Haywood, J Phillips, Mrs E Davies, J Carter, Mrs J Wilsher, M Chamings, Ms N Haywood, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, C Perkins-Beard, I Williams, Mrs A Dawson, L Dawson, G Langford, and A Rennles.

Also in attendance, Mr W Austin (Town Clerk), County Councillor J Mathews, and County Councillor B Greenslade.

TC65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Cllrs S Upcott, M Kennaugh and A Rennles.

TC66 DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Mrs S Haywood, I Roome and Mrs J Hunt, as members of North Devon Council, declared dispensations under Standing Order 64 to discuss and vote on any item on the agenda unless the item refers to the financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

Cllrs Roome and Miss M Lovering declared personal interests in item 5 on the agenda as an employee of the NHS.

Cllr Windsor declared a personal interest in item 10 on the agenda (minutes of Finance & General Purposes), as a relative of a supplier to whom payment had been made. Cllr Phillips declared a personal interest in the same item due to a connection with a supplier of heating installation services.

Cllrs Mrs S Haywood, Mrs J Hunt and Ms N Haywood declared personal interests in item 10 (minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee), as relatives of an honorary member of the Showmen's Guild. Cllr C Haywood declared a personal interest in the same item, as an honorary member of the Showmen's Guild.

TC67 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2015 be received and approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

(15, 5abs)

TC68 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs V Elkins, thanked Cllr Windsor for chairing the last Full Council meeting in her absence, and thanked those councillors who had provided volunteer help at the recent Wellbeing Day and Charity Concert events.

She reminded members of forthcoming events: The Children's Remembrance Service, Remembrance Sunday, Charity Quiz Night, and the Christmas Fayre and Carol Service.

The Mayor reported on her attendance at a recent Soroptimists event highlighting concerns about modern slavery.

After a discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk should undertake an awareness campaign on behalf of the Council, and that a presentation to a future Full Council meeting be arranged.

(NC)

TC69 MOTION RECEIVED FROM CLLR MRS E DAVIES

Cllrs Mrs J Hunt, Mrs V Monk, Miss M Lovering, F Vernon and I Roome declared personal interests in this item as relatives of NHS employees.

****Cllrs Mrs J Hunt, Mrs V Monk, Miss M Lovering, F Vernon and I Roome left the meeting at this point****

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council confirms its full support for the campaign by Great Torrington Town Council, local GPs and others against the loss of community hospital beds in North Devon. The proposals by Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust will result in an unacceptable risk to the health of local residents, and they place an unacceptable additional burden on the already under-resourced facilities at North Devon District Hospital. The Council calls on the Trust to reverse its decision, and instructs the Town Clerk to write to the Prime Minister, the Health Secretary, the Chairman of the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board, and the local MP, urging them to intervene in this unwarranted attack on the community of North Devon.

(NC)

****Cllrs Mrs J Hunt, Mrs V Monk, Miss M Lovering, F Vernon and I Roome returned to the meeting****

Apologies were received from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. The Town Clerk reported that the Police advised that this may be an ongoing matter; reductions in funding meant that operational policing may have to take priority at times over attendance at meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council recognises the constraints within which Devon & Cornwall Constabulary are working, and request that a written report be provided at least quarterly.

(NC)

TC71 REPORTS FROM DEVON COUNTY AND NORTH DEVON
COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mathews reported on:

- Revised traffic calming proposals in the Willowtree/Chichester Road area
- Parking problems in the vicinity of the college
- A decision by HATOC to speed up the process for implementing traffic orders
- Part night lighting
- Concerns about the legality of possible Police redundancies
- The effect of Government cuts on rural areas. He reported that rural areas receive £153 less per person and pay £79 more in Council Tax than in urban areas. In schools pupils received £300m less than the average. In public health Devon received £29 per head compared with £43 in Plymouth, £138 in Kensington and Chelsea, and an average of £51. In relation to road and rail infrastructure, for every £100 spent in the South East, £7.50 is spent in the South West. There had been a 48% cut in Government grants.
- Ongoing talks regarding devolution

Councillors expressed concerns about parking near the college and on the Forches estate, part night lighting, and Police spending cuts.

Cllr Greenslade reported on:

- Residents parking in Chanters Hill; despite delays, he was hopeful of progress
- New bus shelters due for installation in November
- Retention of some bus services that had been proposed for withdrawal, and concerns that some were not running to timetable
- Dementia-friendly communities, which he considered the Town Council might want to consider
- A proposed traffic order for Youings Drive
- His efforts to have further investigation of flood risk from simultaneous water run-off and high tide

- Concerns about the impact of right to buy proposals on North Devon

Councillors expressed concern about the right to buy and the potential for flooding, and support for dementia-friendly communities.

RESOLVED: That the issue of dementia-friendly communities be considered by the Environment Committee.

(NC)

RESOLVED: That the reports be received and noted.

(NC)

TC72 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Phillips reported on a recent meeting of the Athenaeum, which occupied part of North Devon Records Office. He had shared the proposals for the Records Office, and the Athenaeum had expressed their thanks for the Town Council's support.

Cllr Mrs Hunt advised that Founder's Day would be on 17th November.

Cllr Mrs Monk thanked councillors for attending the recent tour of the Records Office. Cllr Mrs S Haywood said that she was pleased to have seen the town charters and would pursue copies that could be displayed in the Guildhall.

Cllr Roome reported that he had attended the DALC AGM in October, which had considered:

- Affordable housing
- Rural issues
- Neighbourhood Planning
- The forthcoming regional conference in Tiverton
- DALC representation for emergency services

RESOLVED: That the reports be received and noted.

(NC)

TC73 REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Planning and Transportation Committee of 8th October 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 8th October 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Allotments Sub-Committee of 12th October 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee meeting held on 12th October_2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Environment Committee of 12th October 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 12th October_2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

Finance and General Purposes Committee of 19th October 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19th October 2015 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 22nd October 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 22nd October 2015 be received and the resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted.

(NC)

TC74 ROCK PARK TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Rock Park Trust Management Committee held on 7th October 2015 be received and noted.

(NC)

TC75 NALC LARGER COUNCILS CONFERENCE

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Upcott, Mrs S Haywood, Roome and Dawson attend and represent the Town Council at the NALC Larger Councils Conference on 2nd December 2015.

(NC)

TC76 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.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm.

Chairman.

Signed

Dated