

## BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on MONDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 at 7.00pm in the MAIN CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Councillors Mrs V Elkins (Chairman), S Upcott, 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, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, I Williams, Ms N Haywood, M Kennaugh, M Chamings, and G Langford.

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

### TC88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence, as recorded on the attendance sheet were received from Cllrs Mrs J Wilsher, Mrs A Dawson, L Dawson and A Rennles.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs A Dawson be granted a leave of absence for a period of three months

### TC89 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 Mrs S Haywood, Mrs J Hunt and Ms N Haywood declared personal interests in item 9 (minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee), as relatives of an honorary member of the Showmen's Guild.

Cllrs C Haywood declared a personal interest in item 9 (minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee), as an honorary member of the Showmen's Guild.

### TC90 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be received and approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

(16, 3abs)

## TC91 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs V Elkins, reminded councillors of the importance of the 'Dementia-Friendly Towns initiative, and that the Barnstaple Dementia Action Alliance was holding its Annual General Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016..

The Mayor reminded councillors that the Mayor's Party was to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Portmore Golf Club, with money raised to be donated to the Mayor's charities.

## TC92 6<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION THE RIFLES

6<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifles had been due to attend to give a presentation on their work and activities in Barnstaple, but had sent their apologies.

## TC93 REPORT FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

Apologies were received from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

## TC94 REPORTS FROM DEVON COUNTY AND NORTH DEVON COUNCILLORS

County Councillor J Mathews had offered his apologies to the meeting. A written report from Cllr D Brailey had been circulated prior to the meeting. A copy is shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes

Cllr Greenslade's reported on:

- His gratitude to those emergency services and others who helped deal with the recent storms locally. This was a reminder of the need for flood protection, and the closure of the Taw Bridge showed the value of the Western Bypass
- Consultation by the County Council on improvements to the North Devon Link Road
- Unavoidable increases in Council Tax as a result of the withdrawal of the freeze grant
- Proposals to withdraw the School Crossing Patrol service
- A rise in parking charges that would be equivalent to a 4.6% rise in Council Tax in North Devon
- The removal of traffic cones and signs on the Link Road following a query from Cllr Mrs Davies
- The local government settlement, which he hoped would provide a fair deal for rural areas

Councillors expressed concern about the withdrawal of school crossing patrols, and Cllr Williams reported that he had started a campaign and petition against the change.

In relation to traffic and flooding, councillors expressed concerns about the arrangements in the Anchorwood Bank and the proposed Seven Brethren development, and whether the ending of dredging had had an adverse effect. Cllr Greenslade said he would report back as he heard more and that the Environment Agency was the responsible organisation.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council supports the petition launched by Cllr I Williams against the withdrawal of the School Crossing Patrol service by Devon County Council.  
(NC)

\*\*\*Cllr Ms N Haywood left the meeting at this point\*\*\*

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council extends its thanks to those emergency services, utility companies and members of the local community who helped to deal with the effects of today's dreadful storms.

(NC)

\*\*\*Cllr Ms N Haywood returned to the meeting at this point\*\*\*

RESOLVED: That the Environment Agency be invited to a future meeting of the Council to explain the factors affecting flooding in the area.

(NC)

RESOLVED: That the reports be received and noted.

(NC)

TC95      REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO  
OUTSIDE BODIES

No written or verbal reports were tabled.

TC96      REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Heritage, Culture and Community Committee of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Heritage, Culture and Community Committee held on 14th January 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(18, 1 against)

Environment Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Finance and General Purposes Committee of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

Planning and Transportation Committee of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and the resolutions contained therein be received and noted.

(NC)

TC97      ROCK PARK TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

(NC)

TC98      HONORARY FREEMEN – HEREDITY ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk reported that he had received a query from a hereditary Freeman of Barnstaple recently, questioning whether the rule that provided for inheritance of the title only by male heirs remained in place. Investigation had found that the legislation had been amended in 2009 to allow female inheritance, but that the Council may want to consider confirming this.

A further query had been about eligibility for inheritance from the correspondent's father, but it had not been possible to date to demonstrate that the father had been made a Freeman.

Cllr Phillips said he would be happy to investigate.

RESOLVED: That applications for hereditary Freeman status be accepted from female applicants, and that further research be carried out in relation to the query about eligibility.

(NC)

TC99      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 8.10pm.

Chairman.

Signed .....

Dated .....

## **District Council Brief**

**FOR**

### **Barnstaple Town Council**

First Let me first apologise for sending you incorrect figures for the 2016/17 grant which I stated was £58,000, in fact it should have read £47,603 for this year which is in line with what was agreed by our previous administration, who in fairness were making cuts in line with what the government were cutting back. This council has continued to agree to offer this grant, many councils have decided to cut the grant considerably and some councils have cut it completely. We have as you may know continued to offer the grant for this year 2016/17.

The Anchor Bank development is moving apace and currently while just 3 weeks behind schedule the ASDA store is scheduled to open in October this year. To help the traffic issues I am working with DCC to try to have the Severn Brethren site road system changed to a one way route. There is still some way to go at this point. The detailed planning application for Anchor bank has been submitted and is likely to be determined within the next month. With regard to the Oliver Buildings the developer has had his building inspector review the situation and currently it is difficult to secure the building, however, they continue to review the best way to accomplish this. The developer is also hoping to come forward with more detailed plans for the Oliver Building within the next month.

The Pannier Market, we are still looking at ways to try to close off the road that runs through the middle of the market. If we can do that it will ultimately save around £26,000 a year which would hopefully put the pannier market into a credit situation. Currently the market runs at a loss of about £14,000 a year, however, this council believes it is a very important part of the ethos of Barnstaple and will continue to support this very important building.

**Des Brailey MBE**  
**Leader North Devon Council**