

## BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL Meeting held on 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015 at 7.00pm in the GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Cllr Mrs V Elkins took the Chair.

Cllrs: Mrs V Monk, F Vernon, A Windsor, Mrs S Haywood, I Roome, Mrs J Hunt (Deputy Mayor), C Haywood, Mrs E Davies, J Carter, Mrs J Wilsher, M Chamings, Ms T Haywood, F Jefferies, M Kennaugh, C Perkins-Beard, I Williams, G Langford, Miss M Lovering, and Mrs A Dawson.

### TC21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Phillips and A Rennles.

### TC22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS GIVEN

Cllrs Mrs S Haywood, I Roome, and Mrs J Hunt, as members of North Devon Council, declared dispensations under S.O. 64 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.

### TC23 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RESOLVED: That Cllr L Dawson be appointed as a member of the Heritage, Culture & Community, Environment, Planning & Transportation and Rock Park Trust Management Committees.

(NC)

### TC24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(20, 1abs)

### TC25 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor offered her thanks for a successful Mayor Making ceremony, and hoped that it had been an interesting evening for new councillors. She also reminded councillors of the importance of attending one of the councillor training days organised for 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015

The Mayor asked for volunteers to assist with supervision of an open day in the Dodderidge Room which would run alongside the Craft Market on 14<sup>th</sup> June. Councillors L Dawson, Ms N Haywood, and F Jefferies indicated that they would be available to attend.

The Mayor reported that the Mayor's Civic Service would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at Christ Church, and that more details would follow. She asked that councillors make every effort to attend.

TC26      REPORT FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY.

Sgt Ewan Seear had sent his apologies prior to the meeting, and had submitted a written report as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes. The Town Clerk summarised the report verbally.

Cllr Kennaugh asked whether future reports could include numbers of reported crimes as well as percentage changes, and the Town Clerk agree to pursue this.

RESOLVED: That the Police report be received and noted.

(NC)

TC27      REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Mathews reported that:

- He had pursued three cases relating to proposed reductions in bus services, and had been successful in retaining two. He regretted that the Sunday hospital bus service would be lost, but services 8E and 9 had been saved. A survey had shown 200 services carrying some 4.5m passengers. 175,000 senior citizen bus passes were issued at a cost of £9m per annum. Many people were prepared to pay for their passes but the law prevented this.
- A planning application for a change of use to offices at Barnstaple Library had been withdrawn for further consultation, and was expected to be considered again in September.
- A pothole at Victoria Road had now been repaired
- The footpath at West Avenue had now re-opened

Cllr Mrs Monk thanked Cllr Mathews for his efforts in relation to bus services.

Cllr Greenslade reported that:

- There was little new information about the proposed closure of North Devon Records Office. The Trust formed by Devon County Council had decided to move the records away to Exeter, which was unsatisfactory but seemingly inevitable.
- It was good news that two bus services had been saved, although the reduction in the town service from 3 to 2 per hours was undesirable. It was very bad news that Bicton Street and Sunset Heights would no longer be served, as the hill made it very difficult for older residents to get to bus stops further away. He would be pursuing this at the forthcoming Place Scrutiny Committee meeting.

He understood the financial pressures on the County Council, which were likely to worsen this year.

- He noted the rise in shoplifting reported by the Police, and had seen a PCSO dealing with an incident today.
- He was receiving complaints about the withdrawal of grass cutting.

Cllr C Haywood said that he wanted to see historical records retained in Barnstaple, and proposed the following motion:

The historic records currently held in Barnstaple Library building are of huge importance and value to the town of Barnstaple and wider North Devon Area. The Barnstaple Borough Records alone contain not only our town charters but thousands of other documents tracing our history from 1150-1950. They are part of the unique character of our town and belong to us. Barnstaple Town Council believes that the documents must be preserved and cared for by professionals in secure and environmentally controlled facilities, and that they must also continue to be kept here in Barnstaple for the people of the town to enjoy. We are outraged at the current proposals that these documents and thousands of others relating to the history of North Devon be taken from their current location and moved to Exeter or even possibly Taunton. Barnstaple Town Council therefore demands that the records that formerly formed the North Devon Record Office, now under the care of South West Heritage Trust, be kept in their current location. We instruct the Town Clerk to engage with Devon County Council and South West Heritage Trust in the most robust manner to campaign for this. We also authorise the Town Clerk to represent us in this in the press as widely as possible. We further lend our support to the existing campaign Save North Devon Record Office and Local Studies Centre which can be found on Facebook and the 38 Degrees website.

The motion was seconded and it was

RESOLVED: That the motion be agreed.

(NC)

Cllr Roome said that the withdrawal of grass cutting was of real concern to the public and that the town was not looking good.

Cllr Mrs Monk said she had received verbal abuse about the bus cuts and had been asked where the savings would go. Cllr Greenslade said that the subsidy from Government had been reduced, and that the County Council published its spending plans.

Cllr Mrs Monk suggested that the Forches bus could stop at Bicton Street and was how the Forches bus would work with a barrier. Cllr Greenslade said there was no reason given.

Cllr Roome proposed that the Town Council support Cllr Greenslade in his efforts to retain bus services, and this was seconded.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council supports Cllr Greenslade in his efforts to retain bus services.

(NC)

TC28      REPORT FROM NORTH DEVON DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mathews reported that the fountain on The Square was suffering from major problems, losing thousands of gallons of water. The cost of repair was as yet unknown. He also advised that the taxi ranks in Barnstaple would be considered by the Licensing Committee this week.

Cllr Mrs Monk asked whether sponsors could be sought to assist with the cost of repairs. Cllr Mathews advised that a public subscription arrangement had been suggested.

Cllr Greenslade reported that District Council officers had more or less vacated the Civic Centre, and that the Chief Executive would move out on the Thursday following this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

(NC)

TC29      REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Windsor reported that the Davie Trust had given out grants in May totalling approximately £11,000. These were to various youth groups in and around Barnstaple. Two applications had been received from groups in Exmouth and Exeter, indicating the difficulty in obtaining grant funding.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

(NC)

TC30      REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

Planning & Transportation Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

RESOLVED: That the report of the Planning & Transportation Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Environment Committee of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015

RESOLVED: That the report of the Environment Committee of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Finance & General Purposes Committee of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015

RESOLVED: That the report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

Staff Committee of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015

RESOLVED: That the report of the Staff Committee of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted.

(NC)

TC31 CORPORATE PLAN.

The Town Clerk reported that there was a need to set out a plan for the duration of the current Town Council, with a vision and prioritised objectives from which officers could take their lead, and which would give the community a clear indication of the Council's intentions. He suggested that committees be asked to provide their prioritised objectives by July 2015, and that a working party be established to form these into a workable draft plan for consultation. He further advised that the Staff Committee had already approved a review of the Council's staffing, which would form a crucial element in making the Corporate Plan deliverable.

RESOLVED: That committees consider up to six prioritised objectives at the next available meetings.

(NC)

RESOLVED: That a Corporate Plan Working Party be set up to support the production of the Plan, comprising Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of committees.

(NC)

TC32 QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from members of the Council under SO 26, or from public registered electors in the town under SO 83.

Meeting closed at 7.56pm.

Chairman.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

## Police Update For North Devon Town Council - June 2015

### Crime Summary

Offence Group	Year To 07/06/2015 Compared To Same Period Last Year	Last 28 Day Comparison till 07/06/2015 Previous Year
Violence Leading To Injury	Down -11.9%	No Change 0.0%
Violence Without Injury	Down -0.5%	Up +52.9%
Burglary Dwelling	Down -19.7%	Down -50%
Burglary Non Dwelling	Down -13.7%	Down -27.3.6%
Vehicle Offences	Up +48.8%	Up +20%
Shop Lifting	Up +4.4%	Up +42.9
Criminal Damage	Up +4.8%	Down -16.7%
Other Theft	Down -7.4%	Up +10.7%

### Comments & Trends

Figures available until 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – Barnstaple Sector.

Overall crime for Barnstaple shows significant decreases in key crime areas violence with injury, burglary dwelling and burglary non dwelling. Vehicle offences and criminal damage remain a concern.

### Community Matters

The robbery at Coopers in the High Street will obviously be of concern to local residents and those that frequent the Town Centre. I would like to reassure the public that all necessary enquires are being made to identify and arrest the individual concerned. The major crime and investigation team alongside local detectives are leading the enquiries which are moving at pace. It is hoped that further information can be released in due course via the force press office. In the mean time I would ask that any information people receive however small that they feel might be of relevance to the enquiry contact police on 101. An information incident log is running reference 596 28/05/2015.

Shop lifting continues to rise in part due to the recent release from custody of a well known habitual shoplifter. Efforts are underway to continue to try and rehabilitate the individual concerned.

We have received various reports about vagrants in and about the town centre and specifically several calls about an elderly male in a wheel chair. We are working with our colleagues in Safer North Devon to house and support the individuals concerned. Whilst we work to support them we take a zero tolerance approach to any street drinking, begging or other antisocial behaviour from the group.

### Operational Concerns:

None