

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 10TH APRIL 2017 at 7.00pm in the MAIN HALL, GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW, BARNSTAPLE.

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

Councillors: Mrs V Monk, Mrs V Elkins, A Windsor, Mrs S Haywood, I Roome (Deputy Mayor), J Phillips, Mrs J Wilsher, F Jefferies, Miss M Lovering, I Williams, Ms N Haywood, M Kennaugh, M Chamings, and A Rennles.

Also present: Sergeant Ewan Seear of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, and two members of the public.

TC127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Upcott, F Vernon, C Haywood, C Perkins-Beard, L Dawson, and G Langford.

The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Mrs A Dawson had not attended a Council or committee meeting for a period exceeding six months, that no statutory excuse had been given, and that no leave of absence had been agreed by the Council. Town councillors were required to consider resolving that a vacancy now existed on the Council.

RESOLVED: That, due to persistent absence, Cllr Mrs A Dawson ceases to be qualified as a town councillor for the Barnstaple Central Town ward, and that a vacancy now exists.

(NC)

TC128 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.

TC129 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 20TH MARCH 2017 AND 28TH MARCH 2017

The Town Clerk advised that these minutes were not yet available for approval.

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

(NC)

TC130 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor thanked all those councillors and others who had supported the Mayor's Charity Spring Ball, especially those who assisted with the raffle and auction. To date the events had raised £2,299.

TC131 REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

Sergeant Ewan Seear summarised the report shown at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Councillors questioned and commented on:

- Begging in Hollands Walk, which Sgt Seear said was being addressed;
- Whether the increase in theft was in large part to feed drug habits, or due to displacement from other towns. Sgt Seear said that there were elements of both;
- The extent of domestic violence. Sgt Seear said that figures were not usually included as the Police wanted to encourage reporting, but he would provide statistics; and
- The possible benefit of a proposed support 'bus' for homeless people in Barnstaple.

RESOLVED: That the report of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary be noted. (NC)

TC132 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

A written report from Cllr J Mathews, as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes, had been circulated with the agenda.

Cllr B Greenslade had given his apologies.

RESOLVED: That the report of County and District Councillor Mathews be received and noted. (NC)

TC133 REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies were received.

TC134 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Town Clerk advised that committee minutes were not available for adoption.

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting. (NC)

TC135 RAF COMMUNITY PLATE

Cllr Mrs J Hunt proposed that the RAF Community Plate be awarded posthumously to Mr David Butt for the year 2017-2018. Cllr Mrs Hunt said that Mr Butt had been a town councillor, district councillor, local teacher, supporter of the theatres, a lead organiser of the Pilton Green Man Festival, volunteer for Children's Hospice South West, supporter of the charity Amigos, and championed many community causes, campaigns and events. He was also an Honorary Alderman of North Devon, and a strong supporter of the Devon RFU and the Museum.

The nomination having been seconded, it was

RESOLVED: That the RAF Community Plate be awarded posthumously to Mr David Butt.

(NC)

TC136 ROCK PARK TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Town Clerk advised that these minutes were not available for receipt and noting by the Council.

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

(NC)

TC137 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 7.22pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:

Report of County Councillor J Mathews – April 2017

1. Whiddon Drive has now been resurfaced
2. On Wednesday I attended the Development management Committee of DCC, Highways Committee, I tried to get them to object to the Planning Application No 62187 at Westacott. The recommendation was that NDC be advised that DCC as Highway Authority recommend no objection to the application, subject to conditions. Many members spoke and as was said had great sympathy with what I had to say as they had similar problems with the NPPF. The question is what is a severe impact. The voting was 7 for 0 against but 5 abstained. Some good news NDC has told the developers that the land on which the park sits is not for sale nor will they grant access over the playing field. I do not know what the response is from the developers. The planning application will still take place as this is a separate issue. DCC said the primary access should be off the link road. If permission is granted and NDC say the park is not available then another secondary access will have to be sought, I would suggest Castle Park Road ,which is why I got this road put into the local plan in the first place

All the best

John

Police Update For Barnstaple Town Council - April 2017

Crime Summary

Offence Group	Year To 10 th April Compared To Same Period Last Year	Last 28 Day Comparison till 10th April Previous Year
Violence Leading To Injury	Up +14.7 % (266)	Down -31.8 % (15)
Violence Without Injury	Up +15.6 % (319)	Up + 55 % (31)
Burglary Dwelling	Up +66.7 % (80)	Up +600 % (7)
Burglary Non Dwelling	Up +6.3% % (84)	Up + 60 % (8)
Vehicle Offences	Down - 20.7 % (96)	Nil + 00 % (7)
Shop Lifting	Up + 1.1 % (354)	Up + 4.2 % (25)
Criminal Damage	Up + 17.7 % (385)	Up +68.2% (38)
Other Theft	Up +14.7 % (367)	Up +57.98 % (37)

Comments & Trends

Overall for the year victim based crime minus domestic violence incidents is **up 11.2 %** over the same period last year.

The rise in burglary both domestic and dwelling is starting to subside and we have a number of active investigations in which arrests have been made and evidence continues to be gathered.

We have continued to see a small increase in shop lifting offences. We will be specifically targeting this with a proactive response and intend to run a number of plain clothed operations within the town centre in the immediate future.

Community Matters

Street Drinking and Begging

This continues to be an issue concentrated within the town centre. It is made up of three elements. We have a small number of entrenched homeless persons rough sleeping. In addition to this we have a number of individuals who are housed but persistently come into the town centre to beg and give the impression of being homeless. We have had reports of people persistently begging in an aggressive manner.

Associated with these two groups are a further group of street drinkers who congregate in the town centre to drink alcohol and often engage in antisocial behaviour.

On 6th April we ran a targeted operation using both uniformed and plain clothes officers gathering intelligence on the individuals within these three groups. This is part of ongoing multiagency work to seek support for those entrenched as homeless whilst escalating those engaged in ASB and begging.

Operational Concerns:

None