

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of The Town Council Meeting

Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.00pm By Video Conference Call.

Present: Councillors:

Cllr A Rennles (Town Mayor & Chairman), V Elkins (Deputy Mayor & Vice-Chair), V Monk, I Roome, R Knight, J Phillips, J Carter, M Lovering, L York, P Leaver, A Shah, S Yusef, V Nel, R Mack, J Coates, J Orange, G Marchewka & E George

Also in attendance:

Mr Robert Ward (Town Clerk),

Inspector A Wills (Devon and Cornwall Police)

S Petters (Assistant Town Clerk)

L Clarke (ND Journal)

Members of the Public:0

81. Apologies for absence

were received from Councillor J Wilsher (IT Issues), T Clarkson (health) and J Slee (work), reasons were considered and approved by councillors. (NC)

Apologies also received from Devon County Council - Cllr J Mathews

82. Dispensations and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs I Roome, J Phillips, M Lovering, L York, R Mack & J Orange as members of North Devon District Council, have a dispensation under SO66 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.

83. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

84. Mayor's Announcements

All mayoral duties for the last month have been cancelled, because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rock Park maintenance now fully under the responsibility of the Town Council, following the ending of the grounds maintenance contract.

The Mayor's Cadet is 18 soon, we will be sending our greetings to acknowledge the impact of the current lockdown.

North Devon Council are hosting a video conference meeting tomorrow to update councillors about progress on the Cultural Assets Review and Future High Streets Fund, Barnstaple has been awarded £6.5M from the FHSF to support development of the Pannier Market, Butcher's Row and Cross St.

The Mayor wanted to send a "thank you" to show appreciation to the Town Council staff for their efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic and their work to keep the Town Council operating. **ACTION:** a letter to be sent to all staff. (NC)

85. Report from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

A Police report was circulated to Councillors following the meeting (Appendix one).

Inspector A Wills reported on the following:

- Tap for North Devon, a scheme to support funding for street attached people.
- The new Public Space Protection Order for Barnstaple has been approved by North Devon Council and is awaiting the installation of signage.

RESOLVED: That the reports from Devon & Cornwall Police be received and noted (Appendix One). (NC)

86. Reports from Devon County and North Devon District Councillors.

Devon County Council

Cllr J Mathews

- Report provided in advance of the meeting (Appendix Two).

North Devon Council

Cllr Mack

- Two sleeping pods have been provided near the town centre to support rough sleepers, more locations are being sought.
- Nearly thirty staff have been required to isolate as a result of Covid-19 infections. This has had a significant impact on the ability to carry refuse collections.

Cllr I Roome

- North Devon Council still has discretionary business grants available.
- Waste and recycling is being promoted over the Christmas period to encourage residents to reduce black bin waste, there is normally a spike in black bin waste at Christmas.
- There will be a consultation for the Devon Carbon Plan in January.

RESOLVED: That the reports from the County and District Councillors be noted. (NC)

87. Committee Minutes

Committee	Date	Page Numbers
Heritage, Culture & Community	10 th December 2020	053 to 053
Planning & Transportation	17 th December 2020	058 to 060
Finance & General Purposes	11 th January 2021	061

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Committee meetings and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted in accordance Standing Order 24.

88. To consider reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies and determine any actions arising.

Cllr R Knight reported

The Bridge Trust – the latest meeting has been postponed.

Cllr I Roome reported

Devon Association of Local Councils – has a climate change survey that we will be responding to.

The census for England and Wales will be undertaken on 21st March this year.

RESOLVED: To note the Councillor reports. (NC)

89. Committee Membership

To note that Cllr Slee has stood down from the membership of all committees due to work commitments (NC)

90. Budget 2021-2022

RESOLVED: That the proposed budget and precept for 2021 - 2022 be set at £938,364, an increase in the Council Tax on a Band D property of £4.89 per annum (9p per week).

91. Lampard Community School is proposed increase capacity from 120 to 180 day places TC078

Cllr Leaver stated that the work of the school is highly regarded and appreciated but wanted to raise concern about the potential impact of traffic and parking on St John's Lane and the surrounding area. He asked that it be noted that provision be made for the additional staff and visitor parking.

PROPOSED: to note the changes at the school. (NC)

92. Motion from Cllr Mack re the sale of sale cheap, polystyrene bodyboards.

Cllr Mack provided a written motion highlighting that over 300 abandoned polystyrene boards were collected on Croyde beach last year. This is a particular issue for North Devon due to the nature of our beaches.

The motion is asking local retailers not purchase and stock the boards and for the Town Council to put its name to the campaign being promoted by Plastic Free North Devon and to provide support through our website and social media.

RESOLVED: To provide support to the campaign through means identified and to also support the forthcoming policy by North Devon Council. (NC)

93. Relaunch of Barnstaple in Bloom

A new group has formed to relaunch Barnstaple in Bloom. The new group have been in contact with the Royal Horticultural Society and are will be working in line with sustainable practices with planting, the types of plant used to ensure that pollinators are supported, and water use minimised.

RESOLVED: to make a recommendation to the Environment Committee for practical and financial support to the group. (NC)

94. Motion from Cllr Phillips in support of the newly elected Georgia, USA senators.

Cllr Phillips provided a motion to council.

RESOLVED: to write to the senators in Georgia and our twinned town of Barnstable USA offering the support of the Town Council. (16 for : 2 against)

95. Motion from Cllr York giving recognition and thanks to frontline and critical workers during the Covid-19 pandemic

Cllr York provided a motion to the council.

RESOLVED: To support the motion giving recognition to all frontline and critical workers who have been supporting the community through the pandemic to make sure that services continue to function and ensure that vulnerable people are supported. (NC)

96. Questions – Standing Orders 25 and 85

No questions had been received from members of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 25, or from public registered electors in the town in accordance with Standing Order 85.

Meeting closed at 8.32pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:

APPENDIX ONE

Police Report for Barnstaple Town Council

Meeting Monday 18th January 2021 at 7pm

The Neighbourhood Team continue to focus patrols in and around the town centre areas, providing a visible and reassuring presence to the public and local businesses, whilst also addressing reports of ASB whilst interacting with our street attached cohort to provide guidance and ensure compliance with social distancing and Covid-19 considerations.

This is a very challenging time, especially for our ingrained street attached individuals who don't have the privilege of a fixed abode with which to self-isolate and rely on local hand outs and support for survival. This can also cause complexities for us as a police service seeking to balance individuals' circumstances whilst applying government legislation to keep our local population safe. Our officers therefore will continue to work in partnership with our local rough sleeper outreach teams and support services to assist each individual according their specific needs and circumstances.

Tap for North Devon

As included in the last report, but we're keen to ensure this aspect is promoted locally for the purposes of assisting our local street attached and homeless individuals.

The two pay points are:

- The window of Boston Tea party (junction of Tuly Street and Holland Walk)
- Tesco Express, High Street

There is a further planned machine to be placed in the window of Banbury's and a podium style machine in Green Lanes shopping Centre and we await the timeframe and confirmed dates for these installations. As a further reminder, these machines will see donated funds split between charities, Freedom Centre and Encompass both of whom work with members of the street attached community.

PSPO

There is no real change in terms of progress around the re-instatement of the local PSPO at present and as previously communicated, we now await the erection of appropriate signage from NDC in order to assist our ability to enforce the conditions. Once this is in place the intention will be to re-communicate this PSPO with a local media release, stipulating the conditions so that local residents, businesses and visitors can be aware and assist in reporting any concerns or breaches for us to respond appropriately to and take the necessary action.

APPENDIX TWO

Devon County Council

Councillor John Mathews has sent his apologies for the meeting. His report for the meeting is as follows:

1. Gould Road Flooding

I believe Cllr John Carter may have given a Committee an update on this but here goes. I actually attend 4 times over the Christmas period and saw the flooding for myself. DCC have always said that it was not their responsibility. I did ask DCC could they do anything to help, as it seemed nothing was being done. Steve Short attended and on lifting the chambers for the new pipes etc, they found these chambers were full of silt. I have since received an E Mail from Pearce Construction saying they would be dealing with this and would be contacting Hi Tech or similar to deal with it. I sent a copy of this to the Town Clerk for information. It is my honest opinion that Pearce's and North Devon Homes should have responded quicker. Hopefully this will not occur again, and the safety of the residents is not in jeopardy

2. Dangerous Driving

On talking to the Mayor, many people are driving over the pavement by the bus lay by at Halfords into the new development. A bollard will be put in place to stop this . The Town Clerk has ordered the bollard from an approved contractor North Devon Homes will fix it and I will pay for it from my Locality Budget. Good co-operation all round

3. Handrail

Complaints from the Public that the handrail at the end of Rumsam Road that leads up the steps towards the Hospice is breaking up. Highways have attended and it will be replaced, by a metal one. I again will pay from my Locality Budget as I did for Cllr Mrs Monk when she raised a similar matter in the Westacott area. I also used this Fund for similar in Landkey Rd from the Newport School down the steps on to the Tarka Trail. This fund is very useful for getting minor Highway works done quicker.