

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of The Town Council Meeting

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm By Video Conference Call.

Present: Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

Mr Robert Ward (Town Clerk),

S Petters (Assistant Town Clerk)

L Clarke (ND Journal)

Two representatives from Airband Community Internet Ltd.

Inspector A Wills (Devon and Cornwall Police)

Members of the Public:0

**109. Apologies for absence**

were received from Councillor J Phillips (Health) reasons were considered and approved by councillors. (NC)

Apologies also received from Cllr J Mathews (Devon County Council)

**110. Dispensations and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllrs I Roome, J Hunt, 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.

**111. Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.  
(NC)

**112. Mayor's Announcements**

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

The Mayor commented that today was a significant date in the steps to unlock from the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. He wanted to emphasise that due to the efforts of the many who had supported us through the lockdown and those who had stayed at home to keep themselves and others safe, we are now in the position where we are able to start on the road to freedom again.

**113. Report from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary**

A Police report was circulated to Councillors as part of the agenda pack (Appendix one).

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

**114. Reports from Devon County and North Devon District Councillors.**

Devon County Council

Cllr J Mathews

- Report provided as part of the agenda pack (Appendix Two).

North Devon Council

Cllr R Mack

- There has been a recent Policy Development Meeting for agriculture post Brexit and Covid, the minutes will be available on the North Devon Council website.

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

**115. Committee Minutes**

Committee	Date	Page Numbers
Finance & General Purposes	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	084
Planning & Transportation	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	085 to 086
Planning & Transportation	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	087 to 088
Staff Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	089 to 090
Heritage, Culture & Community	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	091 to 092
Finance & General Purposes	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021	093 to 094

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

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

Cllr R Knight reported

**Barnstaple Bridge Trust** – The Trust have recently met following a significant break due to the pandemic.

Housing is one of the opportunities being explored, the potential of converting some properties to residential to help with cashflow.

Cllr P Leaver indicated that this is the same situation faced by many commercial landlords.

Cllr I Roome reported

**Barnstaple Town Centre Management** – currently working with local non-essential retail businesses to support their opening on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**RESOLVED:** To note the Councillor reports. (NC)

**117. Town Council Calendar for the year 2021-22**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Town Council Calendar for 2021-22 (Appendix three) (NC).

**118. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan LCWIP.**

Cllr Leaver provided a proposal from Devon County Council (Appendix four).

He explained that this proposal will support the future development of active travel in the town and as far as Bideford and Northam, who along with North Devon & Torrington District Councils are considering contributing funds to the project.

Although contributing to the scheme will not guarantee development it will ensure that the town is ready if funds become available for capital schemes from Central Government.

The proposal was discussed at Planning & Transportation Committee PT092.

**RESOLVED:** To support the proposal and request that Finance & General Purposes Committee allocate funds to the proposal (NC).

**119. Motion from Cllr Knight about the forthcoming Climate and Ecological Bill (CEE) (Appendix five).**

Cllr L York said that she wholeheartedly supported this motion and that it is consistent with the Climate Emergency declaration made by the Town Council 20 months ago.

**RESOLVED:** to support the motion for the Climate and Ecological Bill (CEE) (NC)

**120. Motion from Cllr Knight about the recently announced closure of The Factory, music venue at Petroc College. (Appendix six)**

Cllr Knight explained this is at the Bramham's site and will be a significant loss of an important live music venue and resource for the area.

**RESOLVED:** to support the motion and request that a letter be sent to Petroc College (12 For : 2 Abstentions)

**121. Remote meetings Legislation**

The legislation permitting councils to meet remotely *The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020* will come to an end on 6 May 2021. As it currently stands, all council meetings held on, or after the 7 May, must return to a face-to-face format.

Councillors felt that the regulations had enabled a greater level of participation at council meetings and that attendance had been better than at face-to-face meetings.

There was a concern that this timing did not correspond with the timeline for the relaxing of shielding requirements.

The Town Clerk explained that The Guildhall is not able to accommodate the council, based on the current need for distancing.

The Government has provided further guidance on the safe use of public buildings and opened a call for evidence about experiences of remote meetings. This consultation closes on the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**RESOLVED:** to note the change to the legislation and to move the Annual Town Council Meeting to before 7<sup>th</sup> May to enable it to be held by remote video conference (NC).

**122. 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 9.05pm.

Chairman.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

DRAFT