

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of The Annual Town Council Meeting

Monday 4th May 2021 at 7.00pm By Video Conference Call.

Present: Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

Mr Robert Ward (Town Clerk),

S Petters (Assistant Town Clerk)

R Richardson (Events & Communications Officer)

L Clarke (ND Journal)

Members of the Public:0

1. Election of Chairman of Council and Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021-2022

Cllr J Phillips proposed, that Cllr A Rennles be elected. This proposal was seconded by Cllr V Monk

(19 For: 2 Against)

Cllr R Mack proposed that Cllr R Knight be elected. This proposal was seconded by Cllr M Lovering.

(2 For: 19 Against)

RESOLVED: That Cllr A Rennles be elected Chairman of Council and Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021-2022.

Cllr A Rennles read the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and will sign it at a later date, and this will be witnessed by the Town Clerk.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman of Council and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021-2022

Cllr I Roome proposed that Cllr L York be elected. This proposal was seconded by Cllr J Coates

(19 For: 2 Against)

Cllr R Knight proposed that Cllr R Mack be elected. This proposal was seconded by Cllr J Wilsher

(2 For: 19 Against)

RESOLVED: That Cllr L York be elected Vice Chairman of Council and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021-2022.

3. Review of the current committee membership.

RESOLVED: To note that no proposals for any changes to committee membership were proposed (NC)

4. Apologies for absence

None received.

Apologies received from Cllr J Mathews (Devon County Council)

5. Dispensations and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs I Roome, J Hunt, 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.

6. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2021, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

7. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor undertook a walkabout talking to people in the town centre, he felt that there was a positive response and that people felt good that the first stages of lockdown were being released.

This is the last meeting, under the current regulations that allow the Town Council to meet by video conference. The next meeting, which will be Planning & Transportation on Thursday 13th May will be in-person in The Guildhall.

The Mayor encouraged people to maintain vigilance as we start the process of unlocking from the restrictions on the Government's Roadmap.

Thanks was given to the two Barnstaple town Devon County Councillors, both of whom are standing down at the election this week after many years of service.

8. Report from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

None received.

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

Devon County Council

Cllr B Greenslade

- Expressed his gratitude to the Town Council for its support over the last 36 years.

North Devon Council

- None received.

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

10. Committee Minutes

Committee	Date	Page Numbers
Planning & Transportation	25 th March 2021	095 to 097

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

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

Cllr L York reported

North Devon Voluntary Services – Have produced their latest newsletter that will be circulated to Councillors.

Cllr I Roome reported

Barnstaple Town Centre Management – supporting the opening up of non-essential retail the town centre from 17th May and advice and grants to small businesses.

RESOLVED: To note the Councillor reports. (NC)

12. Town Council Bankers

RESOLVED: That NatWest and CCLA be confirmed as the Town Council bankers for the coming year (NC).

13. To Re-Adopt the Town Council's Publication Scheme and Confirm the Town Council's Qualified Persons Under Section 36 Of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Be the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: To re-adopt the Town Council's publication scheme and confirm the Town Council's qualified persons under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 be the Town Clerk for the coming year. (NC)

14. Annual Review and Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: To adopt the current Standing Orders and Financial Regulations (as amended at the Finance & General Purposes Meeting 28th April 2021). (NC)

15. Annual Town Meeting

RESOLVED: To move the date of the Annual Town Meeting to Thursday 20th May 2021 (NC).

16. Proposal to consider the commissioning of a mural to go on the blank wall on the side of the Bike Shed building, on The Square, opposite Barum House.

Cllr R Knight explained that the proposal had previously come to the Town Council but did not proceed.

He felt that it would be a great feature for the town in a prominent location and the concept would be to show some of the features of the town.

He had spoken to the proprietors of the shop and building owner, both of whom are in favour and was asking if the Town Council would consider underwriting the project, the expected cost would be in the region of £8,000.

Councillors discussed the idea and made the following points:

- Feasibility of the project needs to be established, particularly the condition of the render on the wall.
- How the design is decided is very important and the views of the community of Barnstaple should be sought on whether this is wanted and if so, what the design should be.
- Grant funding for the project should be sought.
- Clarity is needed on how the artist would access the wall and what health and safety measures would need to be put in place.
- Would there be the opportunity for local people to be involved?

RESOLVED: To pass the proposal to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration (20 For: 1 Abs)

17. 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 8.04pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: