

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Environment Committee

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.00pm By Video Conference Call.

Present: Councillors:

Cllr L York (Chair), V Elkins, R Knight, A Rennles, R Mack & J Coates (Vice-Chair).

Also in attendance:

Mr Robert Ward (Town Clerk),

S Petters (Assistant Town Clerk)

R Richardson (Events & Communications Officer)

F Bell (Barnstaple in Bloom)

Cllr V Monk

Cllr J Hunt

Members of the Public:0

**30. Apologies for absence**

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved from Councillors I Roome (election duties), M Lovering (work) and J Orange (IT Issues) (NC).

**31. Dispensations and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllrs L York & R Mack 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.

**32. Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

**33. Presentation from Barnstaple in Bloom**

Frances Bell, representing Barnstaple in Bloom, explained the plans of the newly reformed committee and outlined activities to date and for the future:

- To clean up the town and make a more pleasant environment.
- To enter for the Britain In Bloom competition and have been allocated a mentor by the Royal Horticultural Society.
- A route for the judges is being planned and is the primary focus for initial improvement including moving trade waste bins and graffiti.
- Today a river clean took place with the help of the fire service, coastguard, Petroc College and the Barnstaple Pilot Gig Club. Over 30 shopping trolleys and 100 vehicle tyres were recovered from the river.

- Local shops have been approached and several have In Bloom displays in their windows.
- The group has already been working in partnership with Town Council staff.

**RESOLVED:** To thank Frances Bell, note her presentation and agree to support the Barnstaple in Bloom group (NC).

**34. River Clean of the River Taw between the Long Bridge and Quay undertaken by Barnstaple in Bloom and Blue Watch from Barnstaple Fire Station.**

**RESOLVED:** To note the activity and approve the expenditure of £348.00 for a skip to enable the disposal of some of the items removed from the river (NC).

**35. A proposal for Ward Walks, litter picking and estate clear ups.**

This activity happened previously and enabled councillors and staff to be more familiar with the town and issues that face the local residents.

Cllr J Hunt – councillors previously joined walks in other wards which helped with an understanding of the town, it was a shame it stopped.

Cllr R Knight – it would be good to reinstate.

The Assistant Town Clerk offered to co-ordinate and join councillors on walks.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the decision to reinstate councillor ward walks (NC).

**36. Allotment Report**

- Security issues at Mill Road have been improved following repairs to the boundary fences.
- Most vacant plots have now been let.
- Terms of reference for the Allotments Working Group need to be agreed, the group has not yet met.
- Councillors asked to be able to join the inspection of plots in June.

**RESOLVED:** To note the Allotment Report (NC)

**37. Update from the Climate Emergency Working Group.**

- The next meeting will be on 26<sup>th</sup> May at 10am by video conference.
- The action plan is being updated at each meeting and will soon be available through the Town Council website.
- 361 Energy is working to get more retrofit programmes running to reduce household carbon emissions.
- The group is in discussion with 361 Energy to look at benchmarking the Town Council's carbon emissions and to get advice on how we make improvements.

- The Town Council has moved most of its energy suppliers to renewables and this continues as each contract is reviewed.

**RESOLVED:** To note the Report (NC)

Meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Chairman.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

DRAFT