

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Monday 24th May 2021 at 7.00pm
The Pannier Market, Butcher Row, Barnstaple

Present: Councillors:

Cllr J Phillips (Chair), V Monk, I Roome, J Hunt, J Carter, A Rennles, L York, A Shah, J Coates, V Nel & G Marchewka.

In attendance:

Mr Robert Ward (Town Clerk),

S Petters (Assistant Town Clerk)

R Richardson (Events & Communications Officer)

Members of the Public:0

1. Election of Chair

Cllr J Phillips was nominated by Cllr V Monk seconded by Cllr V Nel
Approved: 9 For: 1 Abs

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr V Nel was nominated by Cllr J Phillips seconded by Cllr L York
Approved 9 For: 1 Abs

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved from Councillors V Elkins (Health), A Windsor, (Transport), J Wilsher (health), and J Orange (Health) (NC).

4. Dispensations and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs J Hunt, J Phillips and L York 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.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2021, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

6. Budget Monitoring Report and Finance Reports

RESOLVED: To approve and note the Budget Monitoring and Finance Reports (NC).

7. Town Council Insurance Policies.

The Town Clerk presented a report detailing the outcome of the procurement process for the Town Council main and motor insurance policies.

RESOLVED: To agree to the purchase of the main and motor insurance policies as detailed in the report, to approve entering in to a three year

agreement with WPS Hallam Insurance Brokers and to agree to the sum of £17,850.68 from the allocated budget for 2021-22 of £18,000 (Nominal Code 9013) (NC).

8. The deployment of security officers in Rock Park on the weekend of 1st May 2021

Due to problems of anti-social behaviour in Rock Park in the week leading up to the May bank holiday weekend the Town Clerk made the decision to deploy security officers in the park over the weekend, at a cost of £800.

As a result of the deployment the problem of anti-social behaviour has almost completely stopped and positive feedback has been received from members of the public and the tenant of the kiosk, over the last three weeks instances of anti-social behaviour have almost completely stopped.

Councillors discussed the matter and felt that this should be funded from the Town Council budget and that a longer-term solution is needed.

The Assistant Town Clerk explained that work alongside other agencies is taking place to try and find solutions to the problem.

RESOLVED: To approve a budget of up to £1,000 from reserves for this forthcoming bank holiday weekend, if needed (NC).

9. Request for funds towards the proposed mural on the side wall of the Bike Shed building on The Square facing Barum House.

Cllr Knight proposed this project at the Town Council meeting on 4th May 2021. The artist, who is originally from Barnstaple, has presented a proposal for the project with a draft budget of £8,000 including all the projected costs. He has also has offered to loan a Banksy artwork to the North Devon Museum.

Councillors discussed the project and raised the following:

- Support of town residents is needed with a consultation process to decide on the design of the mural.
- Crowdfunding needs to be explored as an option to raise the funds for the project.
- Need to be certain that the wall is in good enough condition.
- Need to be clear what would happen if the owner of the wall decided to sell the building?
- Need to understand who would be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the mural if it is damaged?
- The Town Council could consider paying for the planning application, Temporary Traffic Order for the closure of the footway and a surveyor to assess condition of wall.

RESOLVED: To approve the above process. (6 For: 1 Against: 2 Abs)

10. Update on the repairs to the chimney at Barum House

The repairs as notified to the committee at the last meeting are taking longer than previously stated because once work started the condition of the chimney was found to be far worse than previously thought. It is now

taking in the region of three to four weeks to complete. A cost estimate has been sought.

RESOLVED: To the note the verbal report (NC).

11. Verbal update on the hire of an electric van for the Estates Team.

The Town Clerk reported that it is expected that the electric van will be arriving first week of June, details of the contract are being finalised.

RESOLVED: To the note the verbal report (NC).

12. RESOLVED: To approve the expenditure of up to £200 to repaint two lamp columns at the Rolle Street end of the High Street. The chosen colour is British Racing Green and the works will be undertaken by Devon County Council's contractor (NC).

13. RESOLVED: To agree the following signatories to the Town Council Nat West bank account, as per Financial Regulations (Schedule Two) (NC).

Councillors: Alan Rennles, Louisa York, Jeremy Phillips, Victoria Nel, Ian Roome & Mel Lovering.

Staff: Robert Ward, Sue Petters & Natasha Lewis

Meeting closed at 7.36pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: