

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee

Monday 11th October 2021 at 7.00pm

The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple

Present: Councillors:

J Phillips (Chair), V Monk, I Roome, J Hunt, J Carter, J Wilsher, L York, A Shah, J Coates, V Nel & J Orange.

In attendance:

Robert Ward (Town Clerk),

Members of the Public:0

31. Apologies for absence

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved from Councillors V Elkins (family) and A Rennles (health) (NC).

32. Dispensations and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs I Roome, J Hunt, J Phillips, L York and 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.

Cllrs I Roome, as a member of Devon County Council, has 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.

33. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2021, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

34. Budget Monitoring Report and Finance Reports

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

35. Proposal by Cllr J Carter to provide more defibrillators across the town.

Cllr Carter explained that there are currently only three publicly available defibrillators in Barnstaple and that some areas of the town are not served at all. He asked the committee to consider adding to the three already managed by the Town Council.

The Town Clerk explained that each device costs in the region of £3,000 to purchase and install and that an electricity supply is needed in order to keep the battery charged. There is also a cost in the region of £200 per year per device for ongoing maintenance.

RESOLVED: To investigate potential locations for additional defibrillators across the town including Newport, Forches, Gorwell, Whiddon Valley and Derby and report back to future meeting (NC).

36. Proposal from the Town Clerk to form a working group to engage with and represent the Town Council through the Future High Street Fund delivery process (Appendix one)

RESOLVED: To approve the setting up of a working group of councillors and staff to support the Town Council’s engagement with the delivery of the Future High Street Fund project.

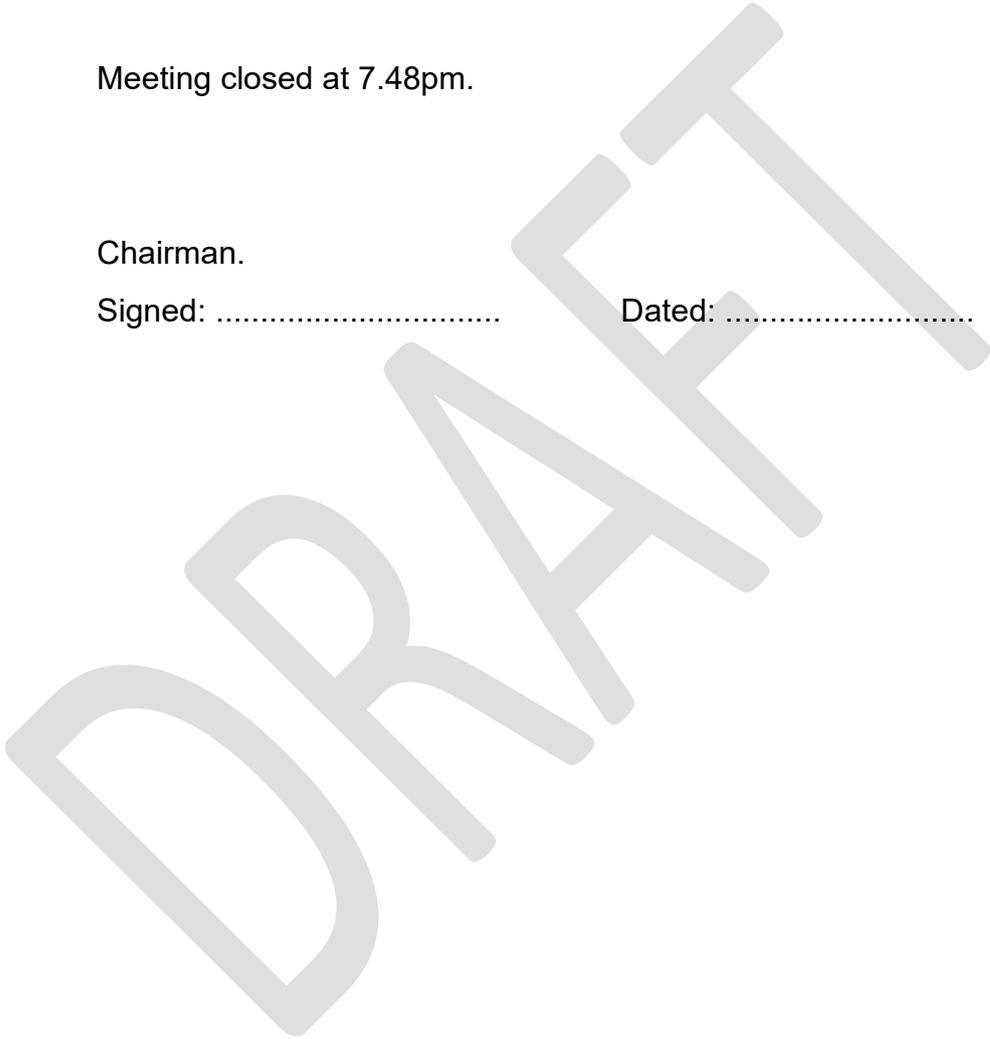
For the working group to work with consultants and other professionals to represent the Town Council and produce reports and proposals for and on behalf of the Town Council (NC).

Meeting closed at 7.48pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:



APPENDIX ONE

Report to: Finance & General Purposes Committee

Date: 13th October 2021

Subject: Proposal to form a working group to engage with and represent the town council through the future high street fund delivery process.

Report by: Town Clerk

1. Introduction:

1.1. North Devon Council have been awarded £6.5M through the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) which is led by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

1.2. The national fund is £1billion and will be used to renew and reshape town centres and high streets through transformational schemes to improve experience, drive growth and ensure future sustainability.

1.3. The project for Barnstaple includes:

1.3.1. Pannier Market & Guildhall renovation and redevelopment.

1.3.2. Boutport Street building developments.

1.3.3. Queen Street car park access to the town centre.

1.3.4. Butchers' Row and Cross Street pedestrianisation.

1.4. A funding allocation within the (FHSF) has been made for exterior decoration and collections management for the Guildhall.

1.5. At the February 2021 Finance & General Purposes Committee it was resolved:

To agree to engage with North Devon Council to appoint a specialist market consultant to carry out a detailed review and provide a report on the operational opportunities available for the Pannier Market and Guildhall with the findings to be reported back to members.

2. Recommendation

2.1. To approve the setting up of a working group of councillors and staff to support the Town Council's engagement with the delivery of the Future High Street Fund project.

2.2. For the working group to work with consultants and other professionals to represent the Town Council and produce reports and proposals for and on behalf of the Town Council.

3. Reason for Recommendation:

3.1. The Town Council needs to make a decision about its level of engagement in the FHSF project, a working group of councillors and officers would support the process of making this decision.

3.2. North Devon District Council will need to make a decision within the next 3 to 6 months on the future management model for the Pannier Market.

- 3.3. If the Town Council wants to be considered as a viable option for the management and or ownership of the Pannier Market it will have to produce a business and investment case to present to North Devon Council.
 - 3.4. Whatever the outcome of the decision as to who runs and or owns the Pannier Market there will need to be discussions about the future management of the Town Council premises in the Arches and the relationship to the Pannier Market.
4. Report
- 4.1. The Guildhall is included in the FHSF project and funds have been allocated for external decoration and collections management on the basis that the Town Council will be making a financial contribution.
 - 4.2. The Town Council may choose to add to the works included in the scheme to benefit from the project such as renovations of the roof. These costs would need to be met in full by the Town Council.
 - 4.3. The café in the Guildhall Arches is currently vacant and officers in both councils have had discussions about it's future use and whether it could be used for Heritage, Community and public engagement activities, rather than reletting as a café.
 - 4.4. North Devon Council have appointed their Project Managers and Design Team and the Town Council will need to be engaging with them to ensure that our needs are fully accounted for in the project.
5. Implications of recommendation
- 5.1. **Resources** – Councillor and Officer time to engage with the working group and Consultant led processes
 - 5.2. **Finance** – Up to £5,000 already allocated at the February 2021 committee meeting that could be used to support this process.
 - 5.3. **Legal** – N/A
 - 5.4. **Environmental / Climate** – N/A
 - 5.5. **Resident / Access / Equalities** – Future communications and engagement will be needed to support the process.
 - 5.6. **Background Information**
[North Devon Council Future High Street Fund webpages](#)
[North Devon Council Barnstaple Vision webpages](#)