

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 26th OCTOBER 2016** AT 6.30 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillors Mrs C Bunday (Chairman) Presiding

Councillors Mrs J Cleave (Vice-Chairman)
D Corney-Walker M Pilkington
M Hocking K Purchase
D Howe Ms L Roberts (Mayor)
R Jenks M Ryan
M Joyce Mrs L Sheffield
Mrs S Kingdom T Ward
C N Parker

In attendance: Mr Darren Hewings – Sibelco
Two Members of Public for presentation

Officers in attendance: Natalie Hicks – Events Co-ordinator
Felicity Cole – Museum Curator
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

239. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Coyle-Moore, R Hayes and Mrs A Jones (Dep Mayor).

240. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 22nd June 2016 were received and signed as a correct record.

241. **INTERESTS**

Councillor Mike Hocking gave notice of his intention to declare a personal interest in Minute 243 below.

242. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman welcomed two members of the public, who attended for the presentation in Minute 243 below.

243. **PRESENTATION FROM SIBELCO – BALL CLAY HERITAGE**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Darren Hewings the Quarry Manger for the Sibelco's Preston Manor site to make a presentation to Members on Ball Clay Heritage in Newton Abbot. Mr Hewings gave a detailed background to Ball Clay in the area highlighting key points of interest:

- A number of families, including the 'Hewings' had been employed in Ball Clay since the 1880s.
- He described the geographical nature of the Bovey Basin from Dartmoor across to Torquay.
- The high quality of the white ball clay found in Newton Abbot was not mined anywhere else in the world.
- The exceptional strength and the high standard of clay was used in porcelain based toiletry and sanitary ware.

- Photographs from 1867 through to date highlighted significant changes in excavation and the difficulties in the specialist work undertaken by operators throughout the generations.
- Twenty years ago 87 'dumpster' trucks operated on the Preston Manor site where only 9 are used today due to increased efficiency in extraction, selection and transportation.
- Onward transportation to Teignmouth was via barges carrying 30 tonnes per load following the tidal patterns to allow safe passage.
- Today the quarry transported 8,000 tonnes per week by road.
- The difficulties of meeting requirements of the Environment Agency following periods of prolonged rainfall.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hewings and invited questions and comments from Members who raised the following points:

- Considerable effort made with the use of pumps (capable of extracting 1700 gallons of water per minute) to maintain the working quarry and meet the requirements of the Environment Agency.
- Members noted the skill of operators in selecting, excavating and sorting the various grades of clay.
- Acknowledged that increased development in the area may affect long-term ability to extract clay from the region.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hewings on behalf of Members, for a thorough and informative presentation, where upon he left the meeting.

244. **ADJORNMENT OF THE MEETING**

At 7.45 p.m. the meeting adjourned for five minutes.

245. **RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING**

At 7.50 p.m. the meeting resumed.

246. **SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

A(i). COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 7TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group – Newton In Bloom held on 7th September 2016 be hereby approved and adopted;

A(ii). EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 5TH OCTOBER 2016

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on 5th October 2016 be hereby approved and adopted;

A(iii). COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 12TH OCTOBER 2016

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group – Museum on 12th October 2016 be hereby approved and adopted;

247. **NEWTON IN BLOOM – TENDER**

Arising from consideration of the minutes of the Community and Engagement Group, Minute 16/09 (CE20.C) it was

RESOLVED that the extension to the Tender for Newton In Bloom to November 2020 be hereby accepted and approved.

248. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to provide an update on the Christmas Lights 2016. Mrs Hicks informed Members that she and the Town Clerk had met with the contractor and agreement had been reached on the new motifs and associated colour scheme. Installation of the new lights would take place over the course of three nights which commenced 22nd November prior to the Switch-on on Saturday 26th November 2016. Councillors emphasised their concern at the tight schedule for installation but Members noted the considerable effort among Officers to resolve difficulties with the new contractor and they endorsed their support and welcomed the new lights.

249. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

A. The Committee received and noted the proposed budgets (previously circulated) for the following Sub-Committees and Working Groups:

- a) Community Engagement Group – Newton In Bloom budget of **£21,000**;
- b) Community Engagement Group – Museum budget of **£32,800** and
- c) Events Sub-Committee budget of **£16,000**

The Chairman invited the Museum Curator, Mrs Cole to update Members on a request by the Museum Administrator to reduce her working hours. The Town Clerk had previously noted the request and Members were informed that the remaining hours would be met by the recruitment of a second part-time member of staff with no financial or policy implications.

Following consideration, Members noted that all the budgets hereby approved by the Committee were ‘stand-still’ budgets in an effort to reserve costs during the Town Hub Project and Development. Arising from the discussion it was;

RESOLVED that the proposed budgets listed as a) to c) above be hereby approved and adopted.

B. The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement for the Community and Heritage Committee and considered the proposed budget (both documents previously circulated) for 2017/18. Following discussion among Members regarding future anticipated expenditure they emphasised their commitment to maintaining a ‘stand-still’ budget. Arising from the discussion it was

RESOLVED that the proposed budget for Community and Heritage Committee be hereby approved and adopted as a budget of **£18,000** for 2017/18.

250. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

251. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be a Meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee will be held on Wednesday 8th February 2017.



Chairman