

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2016** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor M Hocking (Chairman)

Councillors	Mrs C Bunday	M Joyce
	Mrs J Cleave	C N Parker (Vice Chairman)
	C Coyle-Moore	K Purchase
	R Hayes	Ms L Roberts (Mayor)
	D Howe	M Ryan
	Mrs J A Jones	T Ward
	(Dep Mayor)	

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

By Invitation: Inspector Adrian Woon Devon & Cornwall Police

274. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Adrian Woon, from Devon and Cornwall Police to the meeting and thanked him in advance of his update to Members.

275. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R Hayes and R Jenks.

276. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 14th September 2016 were received and signed as a correct record.

277. INTERESTS

None declared.

278. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

279. UPDATE FROM INSPECTOR ADRIAN WOON

The Chairman invited Inspector Adrian Woon, of Devon and Cornwall Police to update Members on policing matters within Newton Abbot.

Inspector Woon initially gave an overview of changes in crime figures since his last report to the Council in September 2015. He highlighted the following key indicators based on the last 12 months:

- Where previously, reported crime had declined the trend had reversed resulting in a 2% rise in reported crime (an increase of 42 incidents).
- Burglary relating to dwellings had increased by 6%
- Burglary relating to non-dwellings (sheds, garages and commercial premises) had also increased by 6%
- Offences relating to vehicles had risen by 22%
- Criminal Damage had increased by 9%
- Violence with injury had gone down by 3% but that
- Violence without injury had risen by 8%

The Inspector summarised his update and stated that many of these incidents were difficult to combat as it was hard to trace the perpetrator with limited resources available but that recent events were being looked into and he encouraged victims of crime to report and log incidents to ensure the Police had a full picture of the scale of repeated crime within a local area.

Inspector Woon reported on the impact of the notable events in the region which had directly involved Newton Abbot Police; for example, the recent counter-terrorism incident in Tudor Road; the extensive searches in Exminster and the major fire in central Exeter which were extremely labour intensive and pulled resources from across the region. Given the limitations of resources, Inspector Woon acknowledged that he was only able to manage the demand for services and this resulted in clear priorities to different incidents. He also noted that the extent of crime had expanded to beyond local theft and vandalism and encompassed increased numbers of cyber theft and sexual exploitation. This was a huge challenge to the force. He praised the work and support from NAST in preventing local crime in the town. He noted that the force awaited the publication of the report from the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner and commended her work to engage with the force and her support for the police.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Woon for his informative update and invited questions from Members.

Comments and questions from Councillors were noted:

- Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators would arrange for a copy of their newsletter to be forwarded to Police and they welcomed an update from the Police to be included in future issues.
- Queried the availability of mobile CCTV unit for use in priority areas.
- Commended the way in which Newton Abbot Police handled the recent Counter-terrorism incident.
- Reported the potential vulnerability of lone females walking in Newton Abbot and encouraged those involved to log incidents.
- Assessed the balance between managing limited resources for lower priority crime and the perception of the community of the way in which the police handled these incidents.
- Encouraged the reporting of crime via '101' email as the preferred method and assured that an incident log reference would be sent by return.
- Noted that CCTV was no longer funded by the Police, due to cuts in resources, but costs were met by local businesses to ensure adequate coverage.
- Aimed to discourage anti-social behaviour among young people within the town for example by reintroduction of patrols by teaching staff from senior schools.

- In response to requests to give clear consequences for vandalism by young offenders the Police were only able to work within guidance set by the Home Office but alternative methods of working with schools and parents may alleviate some issues.
- Local Police operation aimed to reduce begging and homelessness within Newton Abbot community.
- Recognised the importance of the reassurance for communities of seeing Officers on the 'Beat'
- Potential opportunities for collaboration between the Council and the Police explored, particularly with relocation to Newton's Place given its central location and proximity to the police station.
- Offered opportunity for Inspector Woon to liaise with the Deputy Town Clerk to include an article in the next issue of the Newton Flyer.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Woon for his time in taking questions and for his detailed responses and noted he was particularly encouraged about the opportunities for the Town Council and the local police to work closer together. Inspector Woon was invited to leave the meeting.

280. **PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW**

The Chairman reminded Members of the Minute 16/10(BR5) whereupon the Clerk responded to the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC). Members had received a response from the LGBC (previously circulated) in respect of the anomaly raised regarding Twelve Oaks Farm, Teigngrace. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Members noted the response from the Local Government Boundary Commission to the Council's submission.

281. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES/FORUMS**

A. The Notes of the Meeting of **Newton's Place Project Board** held on 27th October 2016 as presented by the Chairman, Councillor M Ryan, were received and noted.

B. The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to update Members on progress regarding Newton's Place. The Town Clerk reported to Members that following the submission of the Grant Enquiry form to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) they had met with the Grants Officer in preparation of their proposed submission in November. The response from the HLF was that they were over subscribed for competing applications for the next round of bids and that an application from the Council would have to go beyond the standard requirements of the application process in order to be successful. However, they noted that given the oversubscription to funds the Council may be unsuccessful on that occasion, regardless of the quality of the application, as priority may be given to applications where premises were in need of urgent repair. Following discussion with the Chairman of the Project Board it was decided to delay the application until the next round at the end of February 2017 and whilst it would result in a delay in application the ongoing work would not necessarily result in a delay to the project's delivery overall.

The Clerk informed Members that in the meantime Officers together with Lorna Turner of the Fruit Tree, had prepared a detailed pre-development activity list and noted the impact on the Museum staff in allocation of time to prepare a successful bid. The Deputy Town Clerk had undertaken key administrative tasks on behalf of

the Museum with the support of staff in the General Office to alleviate time to allow the Curator to concentrate on the application.

Remedial works had been undertaken this week to protect the premises and prevent further water ingress. The interior had been cleared and the 'For Sale' notice had been removed. The Clerk had arranged to meet with Insurance broker to secure insurance for the building and for potential use for events prior to formal opening. He finished that leaflets would be printed in time for distribution at the Victorian Evening and a new website for Newton's Place would be developed.

Following discussion, the Members highlighted opportunities to promote the project within the community and potential volunteers to help with tasks in the pre-delivery stage. Councillors offered their sincere thanks and gratitude to staff for the work undertake to date. They offered their support in assisting where needed and if staff identified tasks to assist then Members would help and support.

282. **INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

A. The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement (previously circulated) for the Policy and Resources Committee. Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for Policy and Resources Committee be hereby approved and adopted.

B. The Committee gave consideration to the budget requirements for the Policy and Resources Committee for 2017/18. The Chairman emphasised the Council's commitment to retain a stand-still budget for next year but noted that the budget would have to include items which it would be obliged to increase such as pension contributions and staff salaries. Full consideration of the budget, including the reinstatement of the Council's reserves, would be given at the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Forum to be held Wednesday 16th November 2016. Accordingly, in was

RECOMMENDED that the 2017/18 budget for the Policy and Resources be a stand-still budget with the exception that it will allow the Council to meet its obligations under staff costs and the Council's reserves.

283. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 22nd February 2017.

CHAIRMAN