

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

**PRESENT** Councillors Mrs C Bunday (Chairman) Presiding  
Mrs J Cleave (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Corney-Walker Mrs S Kingdom  
C Coyle-Moore C N Parker  
R Hayes M Pilkington  
M Hocking M Ryan  
D Howe Mrs L Sheffield  
R Jenks T Ward  
M Joyce

In attendance: Mrs Ros Davies – Devon County Council

Officers in attendance: Natalie Hicks – Events Co-ordinator  
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

**368. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs A Jones (Dep Mayor), K Purchase and Ms L Roberts (Mayor) and Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager.

**369. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were received and signed as a correct record.

**370. INTERESTS**

Councillor D Corney-Walker declared a personal interest in Minute (372) below.

**371. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**372. PRESENTATION FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Ros Davies, of Devon County Council and invited her to make a presentation to Members on the 'Public Rights of Way' and 'P3' scheme, in Newton Abbot. Mrs Davies gave a background to the work of Devon County Council and their involvement in Newton Abbot. She invited Members to raise questions during the presentation. The presentation highlighted key points of interest:

- Devon CC looked after 5,000km Public Rights of Way (PRoW)
- 563km of unsurfaced roads (UCR)
- 224km multi-use trails (including cycle paths)
- Two country parks
- All PRoW are recorded and amended as needed on the Definitive Map which evolves over time
- PRoW are subject to a mixture of common law and statute law to protect the landowners, public access to the countryside and maintain overall standards

- The Highways Authority have a duty to erect signposts, bridge natural water courses, drain PRow, control the growth of surface vegetation and make improvements
- The Highways Authority must keep the Definitive Map under review and make diversion or closure orders where necessary
- By contrast, Landowners have a duty to ensure gates and styles are kept in good order, cut back overhanging vegetation and ensure paths are reinstated following ploughing

Mrs Davies then gave the history of the P3 scheme, namely the Parish Paths Partnership which was established in the early 1990s and to which Newton Abbot Town Council became a member in 1992. She highlighted the following key areas:

- 167 Parishes have subsequently joined the scheme
- Each parish undertakes an annual survey to review maintenance, identify potential projects and organise the essential cutting programme from May onwards
- DCC provide training courses in the use of specialist equipment (strimmers)
- The Council's Handyman looks after 15miles of PRow including 48 footpaths and cycle routes
- The annual survey for Newton Abbot has been undertaken and sincere thanks were offered to Mr Dore, of the Town Council for his continued effort in maintaining the PRow for Newton Abbot

Following considerable discussion among Members, the Chairman thanked Mrs Davies on behalf of the Committee, for a thorough and informative presentation, where upon she left the meeting.

*Councillor D Corney-Walker having previously declared a personal interest took part in the discussion following the presentation.*

### 373. **SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

#### **A(i). EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee – held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

#### **A(ii). COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GROUP – 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was noted that the Group and officers had been working on a draft emergency plan to operate in conjunction with Teignbridge District Council, accordingly it was,

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Resilience Group meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

#### **A(iii). COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 be hereby approved and adopted.

### 374. **CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS**

The Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to provide an update on the Christmas Lights 2016. Mrs Hicks informed Members that following contractual difficulties with the Contractor appointed in 2016 that both parties had mutually agreed not to continue with the contract into 2017. She reported that today, the Chairman, Town Clerk and she had met with two alternative contractors who could potentially provide the service in partnership. Negotiations are in their early stages and once more information became available Members would be updated further. Councillors supported the proposed arrangement for 2017 and highlighted the importance of a reliable contractor supported by a robust contract for future installations.

The Chairman reported the significant reduction in energy costs since the introduction of LED lamps and Members agreed that this was a very positive outcome. Following a lengthy discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Events Co-ordinator conduct a survey of other local town and parish councils to review their experience of Christmas Illumination installations and report back to the Council in due course; and
- b) the Chairman, Town Clerk and Events Coordinator be delegated authority to progress negotiations with potential contractors for Christmas Illuminations for 2017.

**375. WINTER PROMOTIONAL VIDEO**

The Chairman reported that Mrs Henley was unable to attend the meeting due to illness but she invited the Committee Administrator to present the recently released promotional video produced by Blink Back. She reported that they had also produced the tourist information video promoting summer events in Newton Abbot. The latest video was produced to highlight key events during the winter months and had been funded by Product Placement and by Teignbridge District Council.

Following the display, Members requested that their thanks be conveyed to Mrs Henley and commented that it was produced to an excellent standard and they welcomed the way in which it portrayed the town and conveyed the range of events within Newton Abbot. Mrs Robinson noted that Mrs Henley awaited clarification on whether the video would require a Film Certification prior to broadcast but once finalised it would be included on the Council Website and other tourist information sites.

**376. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement for the Community and Heritage Committee for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 (previously circulated). Accordingly, it was

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Income and Expenditure statement for Community and Heritage Committee be hereby approved and adopted; and
- b) should any underspend to the Community of Heritage Committee arise, that it be used in relation to costs associated with the Beating of the Bounds event 2017.

**377. NEWTON'S PLACE**

The Chairman invited the Chairman of Newton's Place Project Board to provide an update to Members on the project. Councillor Mike Ryan thanked the Chairman and noted that the Project Group were in the final stages of preparing the application for the Heritage Lottery

Fund due for submission at the end of February. He reported that the signs had been applied to the front doors and provided enhanced advertising for the project.

378. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

379. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be a Meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017

380. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

381. **NEWTON'S PLACE**

The Chairman updated Members on investigations into the land adjacent to Newton's Place. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Town Clerk be authorised to progress such investigations and to report back to Members in due course.

Chairman