

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

**PRESENT** Councillors Mrs J Cleave (Chairman) Presiding  
Mrs L Sheffield (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Corney-Walker Mrs S Kingdom  
D Howe C N Parker  
M Pilkington K Purchase (Dep Mayor)  
R Jenks Ms L Roberts  
Mrs A Jones (Mayor) M E Ryan  
M Joyce T Ward

In attendance: Mr Derek Fishpool, Devon County Council  
Mr Eric Collar

Officers in attendance: Natalie Hicks – Events Co-ordinator  
Sam Scott -Deputy Town Clerk

204. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Carol Bunday, Chris Coyle-Moore and Mike Hocking and Mrs Alex Robinson, Committee Administrator.

205. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 were received and signed as a correct record.

206. **INTERESTS**

None.

207. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman welcomed one member of the public, who attended for the presentation in Minute 208 below.

208. **PRESENTATION FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL - PUBLIC TRANSPORT POLICY**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Derek Fishpool, Manager of the Transport Co-ordination Service at Devon County Council to provide an update to Members on the DCC Public Transport Policy for Newton Abbot. Mr Fishpool relayed a brief update on Transport Policy for the area, highlighting key points of interest:

- ❖ Devon County Council budget constraints had led to a £3m loss within the area of public transport;
- ❖ There were no further planned cuts for the current financial year;
- ❖ As public transport was a non-statutory service, reductions in other budgets may have adversely affected services;

- ❖ Bus companies within Devon were operating in a financially challenging climate, which had resulted in a number of DCC school contracts being replaced at very short notice;
- ❖ Developers were now not prepared to fund bus services for new developments, which put further strain on the DCC transportation services;
- ❖ There were no outstanding Section 106 monies for Newton Abbot. Newton Abbot had benefited from previous Section 106 funds, with new services from Bovey Tracey and Ashburton into Newton Abbot being provided;
- ❖ DCC are continually seeking new funding sources in order to improve services provided.

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

- ✚ Recent developments had provided funds for a bus service for a 3 year period and reassurance was sought that this service would continue once the 3 year period had elapsed;
- ✚ Clarity was sought on the hierarchy of the Public Transport Services department;
- ✚ The length of DCC tender contracts was queried, in order to seek reassurance of the continuity of particular subsidised services;
- ✚ The possibility of a bus pass renewal fee being introduced in order to raise much needed, additional funding, together with the social benefits of the subsidised bus pass scheme.
- ✚ The negative implications of local community transport operators fulfilling public service contracts; requirements of those organisations should mirror those sought of commercial operators.

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

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

### **A(i). COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

### **A(ii). EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

The Chairman, (at the request of the Events Co-ordinator) drew minute E20 – Beating of the Bounds 2017 to the attention of members. The Events Co-ordinator reported that external pressures had been placed on the Town Council in connection with the future of this event. It was reported that no budget had been provided for this event, it had not appeared in any of the Town Council publications and no resources were available to assist in its organisation, due to ongoing commitments to the Newton's Place project.

Concerns were raised by members regarding the future of this event and sought reassurance that the circumstances would be reviewed again once the Newton's Place project had been completed.

Despite this, members supported the resolution stated under minute E20. In the event that external organisations wished to organise the event it was to be encouraged.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

#### **A(iii). COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 be hereby approved and adopted.

#### **210. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2017**

The Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to provide an update on the Christmas Lights 2017. Mrs Hicks informed Members that all lights had been erected and tested ahead of the switch-on event on 25<sup>th</sup> November. The plugs and sockets in Courtenay Street had been upgraded and were now at ground level and easier to maintain. The Catenary wires had been checked and part of a large gap in Queen Street had been filled with a larger motif.

An image of the new Christmas tree display on St Leonard's Tower was displayed, (via a projector).

Mrs Hicks circulated a map, (prepared by the new contractors), detailing the locations of each individual display. It was confirmed that the electrical works were to be undertaken by a local contactor which was more practical in the event of any maintenance issues arising.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hicks for her detailed update.

#### **211. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**A.** The Committee received and noted the proposed budgets (previously circulated) for the following Sub-Committees and Working Groups for the period 2018/19:

- a) Community Engagement Group – Newton In Bloom budget of **£18,800, (reduction of £3,000);**
- b) Community Engagement Group – Museum budget of **£32,800, (standstill)** and
- c) Events Sub-Committee budget of **£19,000, (increase of £3,000).**

Arising from the discussion it was;

**RESOLVED** that the proposed 2018/19 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, (for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017) and considered the proposed budget (both documents previously circulated) for 2018/19. Members noted that the budget had been exceeded by £7,000 in the last two years and a discussion followed about a more realistic budget for future years. Following a discussion

among Members regarding future anticipated expenditure they emphasised their commitment to providing and maintaining a portfolio of high-quality assets for the community. 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 **£25,000** for 2018/19.

212. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee would be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018



Chairman