

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs C Bunday (Chairman)  
M E Ryan (Vice-Chairman) Presiding

Councillors Mrs J Cleave K Purchase  
M Hocking (Mayor) Mrs E Roberts  
D Howe Mrs M Voaden  
J Gadie  
C Parker

By Invitation: Mr Lewis Ward, Transport Planning Officer, Devon County Council.

In attendance: Miss S Scott – Deputy Town Clerk

74. **CHAIRMAN OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the year 2014/2015.

Accordingly it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs C Bunday be elected Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the year 2014/2015.

75. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Mrs L. Cooke and Mrs D. Watts.

76. **VICE-CHAIRMAN OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the year 2014/2015.

Accordingly it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor M Ryan be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the year 2014/2015.

77. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 were received and signed as a correct record.

78. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

79. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

80. **RIVIERA LINE COMMUNITY GROUP – PROPOSED RAILWAY BRIDGE EXTENSION**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Lewis Ward, (Transport Planning Officer, Devon County Council) and invited him to begin his presentation.

Mr Ward began his presentation by explaining that he was part of a 'virtual rail team' based at DCC and had been working on projects such as:

- ⊕ Cranbrook Station;
- ⊕ Exeter Central Station forecourt;
- ⊕ Newport Station;
- ⊕ Feasibility assessment surrounding the viaduct between Biltor and Tavistock.

The main purpose of the rail team was to increase more capacity via the railways, access to stations and educating the public as to the routes available.

He went on to explicate the following:

- ❖ The Brunel Industrial Estate (IE) employed approximately 3500 people (obtained from census data);
- ❖ There was currently no direct access from Brunel IE to the Railway Station - all existing routes were lengthy or unattractive to pedestrians and cyclists;
- ❖ The current distance between Brunel IE and the station was 950m;
- ❖ During 2013, Newton Abbot Railway Station had received 1,100,000 passengers; an increase from 70,000 in 2004.

The project had arisen via access problems raised by various community groups and businesses, which had led to the following stages being undertaken (to date):

- ✓ A successful Local Sustainable Transport bid for funding made via the 'Access to Stations' sector;
- ✓ A brief was issued to engineering consultants to establish the feasibility of the bridge extension;
- ✓ A nomination for funding via the LEP Local Transport Board was supported by economic analysis and the likely benefits, which demonstrated good value for money;
- ✓ Engagement with Network Rail (NR) and First Great Western (FGW) had begun and the design options were drafted.

Mr Ward informed members that this was not a typical railway bridge scheme, as it required modifications to be made to the existing railway infrastructure and, although it was a Devon County Council led rail scheme, it was subject to rail industry governance. NR were responsible for the infrastructure, (effectively acting landlord) and FGW was the operator that managed the train station (the tenant); both were to be liaised with during the process.

There was an 8 stage process used by Network Rail, entitled Governance Rail Investment Projects (GRIP) and this project was currently at stage 3.

The following had been completed to date:

- ▲ Feasibility study;
- ▲ Technical appraisal of the 'preferred scheme';

▲ The document was currently being reviewed by NR who had relayed suggested changes. These had to be addressed prior to 'approval in principle' being granted.

Images were shared of the preferred option scheme, which was (considered to be) least disruptive, the most cost-effective and used the least amount of land.

Once the 'agreement in principle' had been granted a wider public consultation was to be undertaken. The necessary documents were then to be prepared to support the submission of a planning application.

Members asked questions around the following:

- ◆ The use of the bridge as a public right of way, versus station access only, together with any possible future restrictions that;
- ◆ Funding sources;
- ◆ Cycle rack locations;
- ◆ Land acquisition;
- ◆ Design;
- ◆ Ticketing barriers at the station;
- ◆ Pricing.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ward for his informative presentation, whereupon he left the meeting.

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

### i. **MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE – 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014**

Arising from the consideration of the minutes it was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Museum Sub-Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 be approved and adopted.

### ii. **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

Arising from the consideration of the minutes it was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 be approved and adopted.

## 82. **COMMONWEALTH DAY 2015 – FLY A FLAG FOR COMMONWEALTH**

The Committee noted the report (previously circulated). The Mayor explained that the privilege of flying the Commonwealth had previously been limited to District and County Councils; however, this invitation had now been extended to Town and Parish Councils.

Arising from the discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that Newton Abbot Town Council was to fly a flag for Commonwealth day and accordingly, the Town Clerk be authorised to purchase the Commonwealth flag.

83. **PAVEMENT CAFÉ LICENSES**

The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee informed members that during their meeting (preceding this meeting) they had approved a new Pavement Café Licence for Coffee#1, (46 Courtenay Street). The Town Clerk was commended for his extensive knowledge in advising the Sub-Committee. This was the first meeting of the Sub-Committee and it had been decided that a meeting was to be held annually, unless another new application arose in the interim.

Arising from the report of the Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee it was

**RESOLVED** that the Amenities Committee noted and approved the decision (of the Licensing Sub-Committee) to approve the Pavement Café License application for Coffee#1.

84. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

The Committee noted the Income and Expenditure statement from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014 (previously circulated).

85. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

86. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Amenities Committee would be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014.

Chairman

